

WATCHLIST - Frauds this Week

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2. RAID ON ILLICIT LIQUOR MANUFACTURING UNIT AT KADMA
3. TRANSSTROY FRAUD; CANARA BANK SAYS ITS EXPOSURE IS RS 678.28 CRORE IN HYDERABAD
4. CBI CARRIES OUT SEARCHES IN GUJARAT IN RS 121 CRORE BANK FRAUD CASE
5. 17 ARRESTED IN INSTANT MOBILE LOAN APP FRAUD IN HYDERABAD
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INTERNATIONAL

1. DUBAI POLICE ARREST DUO DEALING IN COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY
2. FEDERAL AGENTS SEE MORE COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS COMING INTO FLORIDA THIS YEAR THAN EVER BEFORE
3. US CUSTOMS JUST SEIZED \$32 MILLION IN COUNTERFEITS, INCLUDING FAKE DIOR SNEAKERS
4. HONG KONG CUSTOMS OFFICIALS SEIZE SUSPECTED COUNTERFEIT GOODS FROM GUANGDONG WORTH HK 5.7 MILLION IN TUEN MUN
5. FIFTY-SIX BOOKED FOR ALLEGEDLY SELLING COUNTERFEIT GOODS IN SEOUL
6. COMPANY AGREES TO SURRENDER A HALF-MILLION COUNTERFEIT N95 MASKS TO THE STATE TO BE DESTROYED IN MINNESOTA
7. NEARLY \$1.3 MILLION IN COUNTERFEIT TOYS, INCLUDING FAKE UNO CARDS, SEIZED IN NY
8. BELARUS CALLS FOR JOINT INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO FIGHT COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS
9. FOUR BUSTED IN \$16G COUNTERFEITING SCHEME AT CASINOS IN PHILADELPHIA
10. PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY CASINOS GET 16K IN COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY, THREE ARRESTS MADE

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INDIA

1. LIQUOR WORTH Rs 2 CRORE SEIZED IN 3 MONTHS IN NASHIK

Link: https://m.timesofindia.com/city/nashik/liquor-worth-rs-2cr-seized-in-3-months/amp_articleshow/79844723.cms

The police of Nashik division, comprising Nashik Rural, Ahmednagar, Dhule, Jalgaon and Nandurbar districts, have cracked down on people involved in illegal manufacture, sale or transport of liquor and seized liquor worth Rs 1.99 crore in three months. In this action, the police have made more than 2,400 arrests. The maximum number of liquor cases were registered in Ahmednagar district with 658 cases. The police seized illicit liquor, chemicals used to prepare it, country liquor and IMFL, all worth Rs 12.83 lakh. As many as 658 people were arrested for sale, transport and manufacture of hooch, country liquor, Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL).

2. RAID ON ILLICIT LIQUOR MANUFACTURING UNIT AT KADMA

Link: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/jharkhand/raid-on-illicit-liquor-manufacturing-unit-at-kadma/cid/1801239>

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Jharkhand Excise Department's Jamshedpur office raided a small illicit liquor manufacturing unit in a densely-populated area in Kadma on Monday morning. The operation was being run from a residential house in Green Park residential area under Kadma thana. The team arrested a 55-year-old woman as part of the racket, but the man who ran the unit managed to escape. Officials seized 40 litres of spirit, different Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) labels, corks, sealing machines and various kinds of colouring materials.

3. TRANSSTROY FRAUD; CANARA BANK SAYS ITS EXPOSURE IS Rs 678.28 CRORE IN HYDERABAD

Link: <https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/transstroy-fraud-canara-bank-says-its-exposure-rs-67828-cr-140016>

A day after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) filed a case against Hyderabad-based company Transstroy (India) Ltd for allegedly cheating a consortium of banks of Rs 7,926 crore, Canara Bank clarified that it has an exposure of Rs 678.28 crore in the accused company. In a statement, the Canara Bank said, "The bank clarifies that it has an exposure of Rs.678.28 crore in the account of Transstroy India Ltd, reported as fraud to RBI on February 10 this year where 100 per cent provision has been made in the account." It said that Transstroy India Ltd (TIL), established in 2001, is in the business of developing roads, bridges, tunnels, highways etc.

4. CBI CARRIES OUT SEARCHES IN GUJARAT IN Rs 121 CRORE BANK FRAUD CASE

Link: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/cbi-carries-out-searches-in-gujarat-in-rs-121-crore-bank-fraud-case-2343217>

The CBI carried out searches at five locations in Surat and Navsari in Gujarat on Thursday after booking Surya Exim Ltd and its directors for alleged bank fraud of ₹ 121 crores during 2017-19, officials said. The agency has charged the company and its directors on a complaint from Canara Bank which is the lead bank in the consortium of four banks, they said. "It was alleged that, during the period 2017 to 2019, the accused entered into a conspiracy to cheat a consortium of banks including Canara Bank to the tune of ₹ 121.05 crores (approx) by way of forgery and diversion of funds," CBI spokesperson RK Gaur said.

5. 17 ARRESTED IN INSTANT MOBILE LOAN APP FRAUD IN HYDERABAD

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/17-arrested-in-instant-mobile-loan-app-fraud/article33397715.ece>

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In a swift action, the police of Hyderabad and Cyberabad on Tuesday arrested 17 people, including several heads of app-based instant loan companies, for their role in lending money at a high-interest rate and harassing the defaulters through coercive methods. Acting on a spate of complaints from debtors, who were allegedly harassed by the lenders, the police during country-wide raids picked up the promoters of several such online-lending firms and their call centres.

6. AGRI GOLD PONZI FRAUD CASE; ED ATTACHES ASSETS WORTH Rs 4,109 CRORE ACROSS VARIOUS STATES

Link: <https://www.indiatvnews.com/business/news-agri-gold-ponzi-fraud-scam-ed-attaches-assets-rs-4109-crore-andhra-pradesh-karnataka-tamil-nadu-673706>

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets worth Rs 4,109 crore under Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) in Agri Gold Ponzi fraud Case. The attached assets include 2,809 landed properties, Haailand Amusement Park of Arka Leisure and Entertainments Private Limited in Andhra Pradesh spread over 48 acres, shares of various companies, plants and machinery. These attached properties are located in the following districts of various states; Andhra Pradesh: Anantpur, Kurnool, Krishna, Chittoor, Guntur, Kadapa, Vizianagaram, East and West Godavari, Visakhapatnam, Nellore, Prakasam, Srikakulam, Kadapa Districts, Karnataka: Bengaluru, Kolar, Yadgir, Mandya Districts, Odisha: Khurda District, Tamil Nadu: Krishnagiri District, Telangana: Mahaboob Nagar, Narayanpet, Khammam, Mahboob Nagar, Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Vikarabad, Medchal, Malkajgiri, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar Districts.

7. INSTITUTE SEALED FOR FRAUD IN DHARAMSALA

Link: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/institute-sealed-for-fraud-in-dharamsala-188631>

The police have raided and sealed GSE institute at Kachehri in Dharamsala for allegedly duping students of the stipend they were entitled to under the Skill India scheme. The police raided the institute on a complaint of a student, who alleged that the owners were not paying her Rs 1,000 stipend given by the Central Government under the scheme. She alleged that teachers of the institute kept her bank passbook in which the amount was transferred by the government. The message that the amount had been credited into her account comes on the phone of institute teachers. They used to call her and withdraw the amount from the bank, she alleged in the police complaint.

8. Rs 7,926 CRORE LOAN FRAUD; EX-TDP MP FLOATS FAKE FIRMS IN NAME OF MAIDS, DRIVERS, SWEEPERS

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/rs-7926-crore-loan-fraud-ex-tdp-mp-floats-fake-firms-in-name-of-maids-drivers-sweepers/articleshow/79837248.cms>

In one of the biggest bank frauds in India worth Rs 7,926 crore, Hyderabad-based Transstroy (India) Limited owned by former TDP MP Rayapati Sambasiva Rao created fictitious companies in the name of maides, sweepers and drivers as directors for diversion of funds. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in an FIR alleged that the accused floated firms like Padmavati Enterprises, Unique Engineers, Balaji Enterprises, Ruthwik Associates, where an amount of Rs 6,643 crore was swindled.

9. PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN HIMACHAL PRADESH SOLD 45,000 FAKE DEGREES, REVEALS SIT PROBE

Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/chandigarh/private-university-in-hp-sold-45-000-fake-degrees-reveals-sit-probe/story-TxIjKVOAHfCnwz5BhqjmYP.html>

A special investigating team (SIT) comprising officials from the income tax department, enforcement directorate, Himachal Police and crime investigation department (CID) have unearthed evidence in an education scam of Solan- based private university, Manav Bharti (MBU), selling more than 45,000 fake degrees. "The number of fake degrees can vary. We presume it's much higher. It's a very well organised racket which was being run for the last one decade," said additional director general (ADG) of police," CID, N Venugopal, on Thursday.

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10. 37 ARRESTED FOR PROVIDING FAKE DOCUMENTS TO CRIMINALS FOR SECURING BAIL IN PUNE

Link: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/37-persons-arrested-for-providing-fake-documents-to-criminals-for-securing-bail-7117380/>

Pune Police have arrested 37 persons from at least five groups that had allegedly been providing various types of fake documents required by criminals to secure bail. Following multiple raids near Shivajinagar court and other spots in the city, police arrested 37 persons, including six women, on Tuesday. The accused were booked in seven separate offences lodged at Shivajinagar police station.

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INTERNATIONAL

1. DUBAI POLICE ARREST DUO DEALING IN COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY

Link: <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/news/dubai-police-arrest-duo-dealing-in-counterfeit-currency>

The Dubai police arrested two Arabs in the emirate for possession of counterfeit currencies. According to Dubai Public Prosecution documents, the case dates back to August 16, 2020, when police received information regarding two Arabs who were in possession of around \$5 million in fake currency and were willing to sell it for Dh50,000. The police prepared a plan to trap the duo after receiving information about them and obtaining the required approvals to apprehend the duo. A police source was sent to deceive the accused. The source was told that if he would pay money, he would be given a chemical liquid to be used on the fake money that would make it look like real currency. An appointment was arranged between the accused and the police source at a villa in Jumeirah, on December 16, 2020. The police then entered the villa and arrested the men red-handed with the fake currencies.

2. FEDERAL AGENTS SEE MORE COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS COMING INTO FLORIDA THIS YEAR THAN EVER BEFORE

Link: <https://www.wftv.com/news/florida/federal-agents-see-more-counterfeit-products-coming-into-florida-this-year-than-ever-before/DOKFA4C3WZH2NEPK6GWN2TKVEI/>

Every day, counterfeit items are coming into Central Florida from across the world. Often, you could be tricked online and end up buying something you thought was the real deal. However, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers are working nonstop to find the fakes. This year, Customs and Border Protection has seen more fake big-ticket items than ever before; More than 26,000 shipments of counterfeit goods that would have been worth nearly \$1.3 billion if they had been genuine.

3. US CUSTOMS JUST SEIZED \$32 MILLION IN COUNTERFEITS, INCLUDING FAKE DIOR SNEAKERS

Link: <https://robbreport.com/style/footwear/u-s-customs-agents-seized-32-million-fake-goods-sneakers-1234587792/>

On Thursday, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency announced it worked with the Los Angeles police department to seize a cache of counterfeit goods worth an estimated \$32 million. Though the array of products consisted of everything from phoney prescription drugs to cosmetics, it also included some lookalikes of choice designer goods. Most notably, it was bursting with batches of high-top sneakers mimicking Air Jordan's collaboration with Dior and others resembling Yeezy's 350 V2.

4. HONG KONG CUSTOMS OFFICIALS SEIZE SUSPECTED COUNTERFEIT GOODS FROM GUANGDONG WORTH HK 5.7 MILLION IN TUEN MUN

Link: <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3115154/hong-kong-customs-officials-seize-suspected>

Hong Kong customs officials last week seized HK\$5.7 million (US\$735,000) worth of contraband products from Guangdong at a local trade terminal, pledging on Wednesday to step up cooperation with the mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to fight cross-border counterfeit goods smuggling. The 63,000 suspected counterfeit items were found in a 40-foot container from Nansha district, in Guangdong province, at the Tuen Mun River Trade Terminal on Friday last week after customs officers conducted an inspection based on a risk assessment.

5. FIFTY-SIX BOOKED FOR ALLEGEDLY SELLING COUNTERFEIT GOODS IN SEOUL

Link: <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20201223005300315>

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Fifty-six people have been booked for allegedly selling counterfeit goods ranging from tumblers to luxury bags, the Seoul city government said Wednesday. The suspects allegedly sold or stored 77,269 fake products, including tumblers emblazoned with logos of popular coffee brands, clothes and jewellery, in violation of the Trademark Act. Their authentic equivalents are valued at some 3.9 billion won (US\$3.5 million). The suspects were booked by the city government's Special Judicial Police Bureau for Public Safety. Only 16 were online sellers, but their fake goods accounted for 95 per cent of the total and 59 per cent of the total value.

6. COMPANY AGREES TO SURRENDER A HALF-MILLION COUNTERFEIT N95 MASKS TO THE STATE TO BE DESTROYED IN MINNESOTA

Link: <https://www.startribune.com/company-agrees-to-surrender-a-half-million-counterfeit-n95-masks-to-the-state-to-be-destroyed/573458191/>

A company that tried to sell 500,000 N95 respirators to the state of Minnesota at prices far above retail has been told instead to surrender the masks because they are counterfeit. Officials with the state Department of Administration, which stockpiles backup supplies for health care workers, announced Tuesday that Supply Link, Inc., of Delaware, Ohio, is complying with a cease-and-desist letter to immediately turn in the counterfeit masks. Maplewood-based 3M Co., a leading manufacturer of N95s, has been working closely with state officials to evaluate the counterfeit respirators. Once received, they'll be given to 3M for destruction.

7. NEARLY \$1.3 MILLION IN COUNTERFEIT TOYS, INCLUDING FAKE UNO CARDS, SEIZED IN NY

Link: <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/nearly-1-3-million-in-counterfeit-toys-including-fake-uno-cards-seized-in-ny/2794436/?amp>

Those looking to make a quick buck from knock-off goods were dealt a reverse card when Customs and Border Protection officers seized nearly \$1.3 million in counterfeit toys, including fake UNO cards, the agency said. Officers inspected a shipment that had arrived at the Port of New York and New Jersey from China in late November, the CBP said in a release, just as the holiday shopping season was set to begin in full. After working with the agency's trade experts, who were in contact with the holders of the trademarks for the toys seized, it was determined that the toys were counterfeit, and the seizure finished on Dec. 9.

8. BELARUS CALLS FOR JOINT INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO FIGHT COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS

Link: <https://eng.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-calls-for-joint-international-effort-to-fight-counterfeit-products-136076-2020/>

Over 500 experts from 15 countries are taking part in the 8th international forum on fighting counterfeit products Anti-Counterfeit 2020. The forum is scheduled to take place in Minsk on 21-22 December in a hybrid format, the press service of the State Science and Technology Committee told BelTA. In his welcome speech the committee's Chairman Aleksandr Shumilin noted that fight against counterfeit products stimulates inventions and enables conditions for entrepreneurship development.

9. FOUR BUSTED IN \$16G COUNTERFEITING SCHEME AT CASINOS IN PHILADELPHIA

Link: https://www.delcotimes.com/news/four-busted-in-16g-counterfeiting-scheme-at-casinos/article_0a0a73d0-40c0-11eb-a12a-e30672d152f3.html

Four Philadelphians have been charged for allegedly passing \$16,000 worth of counterfeit bills at casinos in Pennsylvania and New Jersey in April 2019, including 20 counterfeit \$100 bills circulated at Harrah's Philadelphia Casino and Racetrack in Chester. Mahogany White, 33, of the 500 block of North Felton Street, Marcus Davis, 44, of the 600 block of North 13th Street, Nieem Johnson, 37, of the 4400 block of Leiper Street, and Kiara Kristin Purnell, 31, of the 1700 block of Watkins Street, each face charges of forgery, theft by deception, possessing instruments of crime and conspiracy. The charges were filed in Bucks County by the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General Bureau of Criminal Investigations Gaming Unit and troopers from the Pennsylvania State Police's Bureau of Gaming Enforcement.

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10. PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY CASINOS GET 16K IN COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY, THREE ARRESTS MADE

Link: <https://www.casino.org/news/pennsylvania-new-jersey-casinos-get-16k-in-counterfeit-currency-three-arrests-made/>

In total, \$16,000 worth of 150 fake bills were passed at Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem- now called Wind Creek Bethlehem- as well as Parx Casino, Valley Forge Casino Resort, Harrah's casinos, and SugarHouse Casino- now Rivers Casino Philadelphia, reported Lehigh Valley Live.com, a local online news site. Davis was being held in lieu of \$100,000 bail. White was being held on 10 per cent of \$100,000 bail. Johnson was being held in lieu of 10 per cent of \$65,000 bail in a Philadelphia jail on an unrelated drug case, the report said.

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