

WATCHLIST - Frauds this Week

HIGHLIGHTS

INDIA

1. 7 DEAD, 3 CRITICAL DUE TO ILLICIT LIQUOR IN RAJASTHAN'S BHARATPUR
2. INTER-STATE GANG BUSTED, ILLICIT LIQUOR & RAW MATERIAL WORTH CRORES RECOVERED, 13 ARRESTED IN MUZAFFARNAGAR
3. CBI BOOKS HYDERABAD FIRM IN RS 4,736 CRORE BANK FRAUD CASE
4. RS 2.87 CRORE CHEQUE CLONING FRAUD BUSTES IN ODISHA
5. FAKE ENGINE OIL MANUFACTURING UNIT BUSTED IN JAIPUR OF ODISHA
6. INTER-STATE GANG OF VEHICLE LIFTERS BUSTED IN LUDHIANA, SIX STOLEN CARS RECOVERED
7. TWO FOUND DEAD IN ILLEGAL LIQUOR FACTORY; PROPERTY OWNER, BROKERS ARRESTED IN GREATER NOIDA
8. GST SLEUTHS ARREST 215 FOR FRAUD, RECOVER OVER RS 700 CRORE IN NEW DELHI
9. FIVE AFRICAN NATIONALS NABBED BY TELANGANA COPS FROM DELHI FOR CYBER FRAUD
10. DRY FRUITS SCAM; 'FREEDOM 251' MOBILE PHONE MAKER ARRESTED IN MULTICRORE FRAUD IN NOIDA

INTERNATIONAL

1. CBP, FDA SEIZE COUNTERFEIT, UNAUTHORIZED E-CIGARETTES IN TEXAS
2. COUNTERFEIT JANSSEN HIV DRUG DISCOVERED IN US PHARMACIES
3. CHINESE COUNTERFEIT LEGO MAKERS JAILED AFTER APPEAL FAILS
4. NIKE AND CONVERSE CRACK DOWN ON NEARLY 600 WEBSITES OVER COUNTERFEIT SNEAKERS IN NEW YORK
5. 3 ARRESTED FOR PASSING COUNTERFEIT BILLS; OVER \$45,000 IN FAKE CASH RECOVERED IN NAPA, CALIFORNIA
6. PITTSBURGH CUSTOMS OFFICERS DISCOVER AND SEIZE 60 COUNTERFEIT STEELERS SUPER BOWL RINGS
7. 1,216 PIECES OF COUNTERFEIT JEWELRY WORTH OVER \$700K SEIZED BY CBP IN LOUISVILLE
8. THOUSANDS OF COUNTERFEIT FACE MASKS WORTH \$1.4M FOUND IN LOUISVILLE
9. MORE THAN €200M IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS SEIZED IN FIVE YEARS TO 2020 IN GREECE, GERMANY AND MALTA
10. WOMAN SENTENCED IN FRAUD SCHEME TARGETING ELDERLY IN LAS VEGAS

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INDIA

1.7 DEAD, 3 CRITICAL DUE TO ILLICIT LIQUOR IN RAJASTHAN'S BHARATPUR

Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/jaipur-news/7-dead-3-critical-due-to-illicit-liquor-in-rajasthan-s-bharatpur-probe-on-101610620313535.html>

Seven persons died and three were critical after consuming hoosh in Rajasthan's Bharatpur on Tuesday, officials said on Thursday, Bharatpur collector had formed a committee to investigate the incident. The consumption of illegally brewed liquor by a dozen residents of Chak Samari village was reported late Tuesday evening. Initially, the victims were rushed to Rupwas community health centre, where Pappu Kushwaha, Maangi Kushwaha, Kampotar Kushwaha, Ramjeet Kushwaha, Vasudev Kushwaha, Padam Singh, Mangilal were declared brought dead.

2. INTER-STATE GANG BUSTED, ILLICIT LIQUOR & RAW MATERIAL WORTH CRORES RECOVERED, 13 ARRESTED IN MUZAFFARNAGAR

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/meerut/inter-state-gang-busted-illicit-liquor-raw-material-worth-crores-recovered-13-arrested/articleshow/80176510.cms>

In a major crackdown on illicit liquor trade in the region, 2,400 litres of spurious liquor and a huge cache of packaging material worth crores of rupees, was recovered in a raid from a factory in the district. Thirteen people were arrested in the raid and 28 cases registered. According to police, the gang used to supply illicit liquor across UP and neighbouring states. According to police, 55,000 empty bottles, 82,000 wrappers, 20,000 caps, 45,000 bar codes, 500 boxes and equipment for making illicit liquor and sealing bottles were also recovered in the raid.

3. CBI BOOKS HYDERABAD FIRM IN Rs 4,736 CRORE BANK FRAUD CASE

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cbi-books-hyderabad-firm-in-4736-cr-bank-fraud-case/article33540158.ece>

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted searches in connection with a case against Hyderabad-based Coastal Projects Limited and others, for allegedly cheating a consortium of eight banks to the tune of ₹4,736.57 crore. The company's chairman-cum-managing director, Sabbineni Surendra, managing director Garapati Harihara Rao, whole time directors Sridhar Chandrasekharan Nivarthi and Sharad Kumar, guarantors K. Ramulu and K. Anjamma, and Ravi Kailas Builders Private Limited, represented by Ramesh Pasupuleti and Govind Kumar Inani, have been named as accused.

4. Rs 2.87 CRORE CHEQUE CLONING FRAUD BUSTES IN ODISHA

Link: <https://odishatv.in/odisha-news/rs-2-87-crore-cheque-cloning-fraud-busted-in-odisha-eow-nabs-key-accused-507742>

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) on Friday arrested one person from Rourkela in connection with a cheque cloning fraud to the tune of Rs 2.87 crore. It was earlier alleged that Pillai, a customer of Bank of India, Rourkela Branch by using a cloned cheque as original managed to avail Rs 2.87 crore from the bank and diverted the same for his personal use. During investigation it was found that the accused Pillai, who had a Cash Credit account at Bank of India (BOI), Rourkela Branch, deposited a Bank of India Cheque for Rs.2.87 crore, purportedly issued from the Account of M/s Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited (KSCMFL) on November 3, 2020.

5. FAKE ENGINE OIL MANUFACTURING UNIT BUSTED IN JAIPUR OF ODISHA

Link: <https://kalingatv.com/state/fake-engine-oil-manufacturing-unit-busted-in-jajpur-of-odisha/>

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A fake engine oil manufacturing unit was busted by police at Balichandrapur area of Jajpur district in Odisha on Saturday. According to reports, Jajpur SDPO conducted a raid today and busted the counterfeit engine oil manufacturing unit. However, the workers of the factory fled the premises before the raid. The factory was operating without any license and was allegedly manufacturing fake engine oil by using rejected oils from various companies. The cops have suspected that the manufactured engine oil was not only sold in Odisha but also in other states.

6. INTER-STATE GANG OF VEHICLE LIFTERS BUSTED IN LUDHIANA, SIX STOLEN CARS RECOVERED

Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/inter-state-gang-of-vehicle-lifters-busted-in-ludhiana-six-stolen-cars-recovered/story-8lCgHIRdSFpkLzjRAocmHL.html>

The CIA Staff-2 claim to have busted an inter-state gang of vehicle lifters with the arrest of its kingpin and a member on Thursday. As many as six vehicles, stolen from Delhi, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh, have been recovered from them. These include two Toyota Innovas, two Maruti Suzuki Brezzas, a Maruti Suzuki Baleno and a Mahindra Scorpio. The gang's kingpin has been identified as Loveraj Singh, alias Raju, 40, of Karamwala village of Ferozepur Cantt, and his aide as Ankush Kumar, alias Sonu Bathla, 31, of Mahuana Bodla village, Fazilka.

7. TWO FOUND DEAD IN ILLEGAL LIQUOR FACTORY; PROPERTY OWNER, BROKERS ARRESTED IN GREATER NOIDA

Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/others/greater-noida-two-found-dead-in-illegal-liquor-factory-property-owner-brokers-arrested-101610388396767.html>

Two persons were found dead in a illicit liquor factor in Sit V area on Sunday night, said the police, adding that it appeared they had died of consumption of spurious liquor. Three persons- the owner of the property and the brokers- have been arrested in connection with the incident. The bodies were discovered during a joint search operation by the Bulandshahr police and the Greater Noida police. Explaining the sequence of events, Ranpal Singh, senior sub-inspector, Site V police station, said that Kalu left Greater Noida and came to Bulandshahr on January 8, as allegedly revealed by him.

8. GST SLEUTHS ARREST 215 FOR FRAUD, RECOVER OVER Rs 700 CRORE IN NEW DELHI

Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/others/greater-noida-two-found-dead-in-illegal-liquor-factory-property-owner-brokers-arrested-101610388396767.html>

The government crackdown on those involved in GST frauds has resulted in 215 arrests so far, which includes professionals such as chartered accountants (CAs) and a company secretary. Some 17 arrests have been made in the last two days itself. Data consolidated by the finance ministry showed that the GST intelligence authorities have also booked around 2,200 cases and have unearthed more than 6,600 fake entities based on their identification number.

9. FIVE AFRICAN NATIONALS NABBED BY TELANGANA COPS FROM DELHI FOR CYBER FRAUD

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

Five African nationals were arrested by Rachakonda police from New Delhi Friday for allegedly duping people of money on social media. The accused had arrived in India on tourist, business, and medical visas and possessed passports of Ghana, Liberia, and Nigeria. According to the police, Akpalu Godstime, the prime accused, along with his friends, Adjel Gift Osas, P Ehigiator Daniel, Nkeki Confidence David, and P.Kromah Oyibo N, hatched a plan to cheat gullible social media users.

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10. DRY FRUITS SCAM; 'FREEDOM 251' MOBILE PHONE MAKER ARRESTED IN MULTICRORE FRAUD IN NOIDA

Link: <https://www.theweek.in/news/biz-tech/2021/01/13/dry-fruits-scam-freedom-251-mobile-phone-maker-arrested-in-multicrore-fraud.html>

The Noida Police has arrested two officials of a consumer goods import-export company accused of duping billions of rupees from thousands of people across the country by tricking suppliers, officials said. The police have impounded two cars, including an Audi, from the accused men who were held for fraud on Sunday by officials of Sector 58 police station, the police said. The company, Dubai Dry Fruits and Spices Hub, had a frontal business of import and export of fast moving consumer goods (FMCGs) with a plush corporate office in the industrial hub of Sector 62 in Noida.

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INTERNATIONAL

1. SOUTH CBP, FDA SEIZE COUNTERFEIT, UNAUTHORIZES E-CIGARETTES IN TEXAS

Link: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/cbp-fda-seize-counterfeit-unauthorized-e-cigarettes>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport working in conjunction with agents from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced today that they have seized 33,681 units of e-cigarettes with a Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price of \$719,453. In December 2020, CBP seized 42 separate shipments arriving from China destined to various Texas counties. The shipments included individual disposable flavored e-cigarette cartridges resembling the Puff Bar brand, including Puff XXL and Puff Flow.

2. PIECES

Link: <https://www.outsourcing-pharma.com/Article/2021/01/13/Counterfeit-Janssen-HIV-drug-discovered-in-US-pharmacies>

The Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson recently announced that a counterfeit form of Symtuza has been discovered in three US Pharmacies. According to the company, no adverse events have been reported in connection with the fraudulent drugs. The company continues to work with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate the fraud, and to prevent additional fakes from getting into consumers' hands.

3. CHINESE COUNTERFEIT LEGO MAKERS JAILED AFTER APPEAL FAILS

Link: <https://scandasia.com/chinese-counterfeit-lego-makers-jailed-after-appeal-fails/>

The Shanghai Higher People's Court has rejected the appeal from a group of six people and upheld the verdict of prison for counterfeiting Lego building blocks and selling them under the Chinese brand Lepin. The six defendants have been sentenced to between three to six years in jail and the chief culprit has also been fined close to \$ 14 million for copyright infringement. The Lepin bricks were identified as replicas of authentic LEGO products by the Copyright Protection Center of China. A Shanghai court sentenced in September last year a total of eight people to prison over the counterfeiting and manufacture of Lego building blocks worth \$ 51.1 million. The eight people have since 2015 been replicating Lego toys and selling them without authorization from LEGO, the Danish toy company.

4. NIKE AND CONVERSE CRACK DOWN ON NEARLY 600 WEBSITES OVER COUNTERFEIT SNEAKERS IN NEW YORK

Link: <https://hypebeast.com/2021/1/nike-converse-counterfeit-websites-lawsuit-filing>

Nike and Converse are now cracking down on websites marketing and selling fake versions of its sneakers, filing a lawsuit against a staggering 589 websites. The filing was made in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on January 12 and alleges that the listed websites have "falsely labeled" Nike and Converse's products, infringing on their trademarks through selling counterfeit goods. Aside from the almost 600 websites — which include mybestsneakers.com, muks-store.com, and perfectkicks.org — a whopping 676 social media accounts have also been included.

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5. 3 ARRESTED FOR PASSING COUNTERFEIT BILLS; OVER \$45,000 IN FAKE CASH RECOVERED IN NAMPA, CALIFORNIA

Link: https://www.idahostatejournal.com/news/local/3-arrested-for-passing-counterfeit-bills-over-45-000-in-fake-cash-recovered/article_a39c7469-23aa-5ab2-918f-30d8a98dc3c7.html

Three people were arrested in Nampa on Tuesday for allegedly passing counterfeit bills in Nampa and Boise. Erika Fuller, Grae Fuller and Jocelyn Mitchell were arrested in Nampa on Monday after they attempted to pass counterfeit \$50 bills at a store in the city. Nampa Police learned they had also allegedly passed or attempted to use counterfeit bills in two stores in Boise. When police arrested the three, they found \$7,400 in counterfeit \$50 bills in their vehicle, and a search warrant for their room in Boise turned up another \$38,000 in counterfeit bills.

6. PITTSBURGH CUSTOMS OFFICERS DISCOVER AND SEIZE 60 COUNTERFEIT STEELERS SUPER BOWL RINGS

Link: <https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2021/01/08/customs-seize-60-fake-super-bowl-rings-steelers/>

If you ordered a set of Steelers championship rings online in the last month, you may not have received it for a very good reason: some rings have been proven to be fakes. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in Pittsburgh recently seized 60 fake Steelers Super Bowl rings. Officers say that the counterfeit rings originated from China and were to be distributed to various addresses in Allegheny County.

7. 1,216 PIECES OF COUNTERFEIT JEWELRY WORTH OVER \$700K SEIZED BY CBP IN LOUISVILLE

Link: <https://losspreventionmedia.com/1216-pieces-of-counterfeit-jewelry-worth-over-700k-seized-by-cbp/>

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. The shipment contained 1,216 pieces of designer jewelry, which were reviewed by an import specialist who determined the items were counterfeit. If these items were real, the total MSRP for these would have been \$707,160. "Counterfeiters are focused on making a profit, no matter what the cost may be to consumers," said Thomas Mahn, Port Director-Louisville. "Counterfeits damage the U.S. economy and promote other types of crimes, while strengthening organized crime and terrorism groups."

8. THOUSANDS OF COUNTERFEIT FACE MASKS WORTH \$1.4M FOUND IN LOUISVILLE

Link: <https://www.wymt.com/2021/01/11/thousands-of-counterfeit-face-masks-worth-14m-found-in-louisville/>

A shipment with thousands of counterfeit designer face masks was detained in Louisville. The shipment from Vietnam contained 5,789 masks and was stopped by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers this week before it continued to its destination to a home in North Carolina. The masks were made to look like masks from designers such as Coach, Tory Burch and Chanel. "On a daily basis, criminals try to send fake designer products in hopes of disrupting our economy," Thomas Mahn, Port Director-Louisville, said. "These masks were inspected and found to be counterfeit. Our officers are highly trained by industry experts and will continue to seize these items to protect consumers and other industries."

9. MORE THAN €200M IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS SEIZED IN FIVE YEARS TO 2020 IN GREECE, GERMANY AND MALTA

Link: <https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/more-than-200m-in-counterfeit-goods-seized-in-five-years-to-2020.843648>

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Customs seized €209 million worth of counterfeit goods between 2015 and 2000, it said in a statement. The items ranged from clothing to footwear, wallets, bags, sports items, accessories, mobile phones, electronics, cosmetics, hair products, toothpaste and brushes, washing powder, dog collars, auto parts and accessories, toys, pens, feed additives, face masks, gas cylinder seals, pharmaceuticals, and candy. The single largest seizure over that five-year period was a €64m confiscation of footwear made in 2020.

10. WOMAN SENTENCED IN FRAUD SCHEME TARGETING ELDERLY IN LAS VEGAS

Link: <https://localnews8.com/news/2021/01/14/woman-sentenced-in-fraud-scheme-targeting-elderly/>

A Las Vegas woman has been sentenced to three years in prison and three years of supervised release for allegedly participating in a fraudulent prize-notification scheme that allowed stealing more than \$9 million from hundreds of thousands of victims. Andrea Burrow, 50, from Las Vegas, was sentenced by a federal judge after pleading guilty in August 2020 to conspiracy to commit mail fraud. The judge also ordered Burrow to forfeit \$272,000.

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