

# WATCHLIST - Frauds this Week

## HIGHLIGHTS

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2. TWO DELHI POLICE CONSTABLES AMONG NINE HELD FOR FRAUD IN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS
3. CBI FILES FIR AGAINST RICE EXPORT FIRM FOR OVER RS 1,200 CRORE BANK FRAUD IN DELHI NCR
4. DISTRIBUTOR OF MOBILE SERVICE FIRMS AMONG FIVE HELD FOR SIM FRAUD IN LUDHIANA
5. EX-CHIEF SECRETARY SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT FOR FRAUD IN GOA
6. MAN ARRESTED FOR RS 100 CRORE FAKE GST INVOICE FRAUD IN BENGALURU
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### INTERNATIONAL

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4. POLICE SEIZE OVER US\$6 MILLION IN COUNTERFEIT BILLS AT PERU
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6. UN AGENCY FACES CORRUPTION, FRAUD ALLEGATIONS AT CLIMATE PROJECTS IN RUSSIA
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8. OPERATION LEADS TO 121 ARRESTS, MORE THAN R130,000 IN TRAFFIC FINES IN KAGISO
9. SIX CHARGED WITH DEFRAUDING US OF \$2.1M IN 'BIRTH TOURISM' SCHEME THAT SAW 117 PREGNANT TURKISH WOMEN PAY UP TO \$10K EACH
10. FAKE IPHONES, ROLEX WATCHES AND GIVENCHY CHRISTMAS GIFTS SEIZED BY BORDER FORCE AT MERSEYSIDE MARITIME MUSEUM

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# INDIA

## 1. THE PERTURBED IMPACT OF COUNTERFEIT ALCOHOL IN NAGALAND

**Link:** <https://www.nagalandpost.com/the-perturbed-impact-of-counterfeit-alcohol-in-nagaland/225419.html>

Fake or illegally churn out alcohol that is produced in unlicensed distilleries or people's abode or small cottage units and intended for sale is termed Fake alcohol. Counterfeit alcohol is a related issue where cheap or adulterated alcohol is sold with fake packaging by means of manipulation. Alcohol was perceived to exist for medicinal purposes during the sixteenth century however the transgress misuse of alcohol was witnessed in the eighteenth and nineteenth century which ultimately propelled some significant countries such as US to take proceedings to put an embargo on the manufacture, sale, import and export of the exceeding alcohol. Nevertheless by late 1930s such stoppage on the exceeding alcohol remains discontinued. Alcohol prohibition in India is also in force in states like Bihar, Gujarat, Mizoram, Nagaland as well as in the union territory of Lakshadweep.

## 2. TWO DELHI POLICE CONSTABLES AMONG NINE HELD FOR FRAUD IN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

**Link:** [Two Delhi Police constables among nine held for fraud in competitive examinations - noida - Hindustan Times](#)

Two Delhi Police constables were among the nine people held by the Noida police on Saturday for allegedly operating a gang, which provided scribes for writing competitive examinations in place of real candidates. According to police officials, a call was received on the police helpline number at 8.15am from an examination centre in Sector 62, complaining that the invigilator had caught three people for impersonating candidates for a Delhi police entrance examination.

## 3. CBI FILES FIR AGAINST RICE EXPORT FIRM FOR OVER Rs 1,200 CRORE BANK FRAUD

**Link:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cbi-files-fir-against-rice-export-firm-for-over-rs-1-200-crore-bank-fraud-120112601071\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cbi-files-fir-against-rice-export-firm-for-over-rs-1-200-crore-bank-fraud-120112601071_1.html)

The CBI has booked Delhi-based Amira Pure Foods Pvt Ltd and its top executives including promoter Karan Chanana and Managing Director Rajesh Arora for allegedly cheating a consortium of a dozen banks led by Canara Bank to the tune of over Rs 1,200 crore, officials said Thursday. The CBI after filing the FIR on the basis of a complaint from Canara Bank carried out a search operation at eight locations in Delhi and NCR at the premises of the accused named in the FIR, they said.

## 4. DISTRIBUTOR OF MOBILE SERVICE FIRMS AMONG FIVE HELD FOR SIM FRAUD IN LUDHIANA

**Link:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/distributor-of-mobile-service-firms-among-five-held-for-sim-fraud-in-ludhiana/story-AsbD9qMTDvE3XZyxreMpuL.html>

The police claim to have busted a gang of fraudsters, who procured SIM cards using identity proofs of unwary people and then sold mobile connections for up to Rs 250. Police said the gang comprised retailers and distributors attached with mobile service providers and misused their access to customer information for easy money. Among those arrested, Rahul Manchanda is a distributor, Prince is a retail agent, while Sarabjeet Singh, Jatinder Kumar and Saurav Kumar used to sell the SIM cards to people.

## 5. EX-CHIEF SECRETARY SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT FOR FRAUD IN GOA

**Link:** <https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/ExCS-sentenced-to-imprisonment-for-fraud/168158>

Goa's former Chief Secretary R K Srivastava, who recently resigned as Goa State Election Commissioner, has been sentenced to two years rigorous imprisonment for fraudulently reviving a Cooperative Society in New Delhi. The Special Judge for CBI Cases, New Delhi imposed the penalty on the retired AGMUT cadre IAS officer who committed the offence

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while he held the post of Registrar of Co-operative Societies, New Delhi in 2006. Padam Dutt Sharma, then Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, New Delhi, has also been sentenced to undergo the imprisonment with a fine of Rs 35,000 to be paid to the court by each. Three others Subhash Chander, Mayank Goswami and Ashwani Sharma have been sentenced for undergo four years RI for the scam.

#### **6. MAN ARRESTED FOR Rs 100 CRORE FAKE GST INVOICE FRAUD**

**Link:** <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/man-arrested-for-rs-100-crore-fake-gst-invoice-fraud-6170811.html>

A “seasoned fraudster” who created Rs 100 crore worth fake invoices for business deals over the past three years has been arrested by the Directorate General of GST (Intelligence) – Bengaluru unit, The Times of India reported. Officials identified the accused as Piyush Kumar Kothari (33) aka Piyush Jain, who was “living the high life... expensive cars and fancy homes.” He was arrested from a house in the Binnypet area on November 28 after a six-month long chase and is now in judicial custody, they told the paper. “Piyush’s name came up when we were probing the Rs 230-crore tax fraud case. Scrap dealer Haneef Mohammed of Khwaja Enterprises was nabbed for accepting fake invoices to evade GST. Probe revealed that Piyush was the kingpin in getting fake invoices mainly for scrap dealers and accepting kickbacks worth crores from Bengaluru businessmen,” one officer said.

#### **7. MIRA BHAYANDAR; FOUR HELD FOR MULTI-CRORE INVESTMENT FRAUD IN MIRA ROAD**

**Link:** <https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/mira-bhayandar-four-held-for-multi-crore-investment-fraud-in-mira-road>

Two months after filing an FIR against a multi-state co-operative credit society for duping gullible investors, the Mira Road police arrested four people, including the directors and the chairperson of the financial institution, on Tuesday. According to the police, ten operators of Malaika Multi-State Co-operative Credit Society, including chairperson Gilbert Paustine Baptist, were booked under the relevant sections of the IPC for cheating and criminal breach of trust and relevant sections of the Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors (MPID) Act.

#### **8. NIA SPECIAL COURT SENTENCES THREE PERSONS IN FAKE CURRENCY CIRCULATION CASE**

**Link:** <http://www.businessworld.in/article/Special-NIA-court-sentences-three-Bengaluru-men-in-fake-currency-case/03-12-2020-349574/>

A special NIA court in Bengaluru has sentenced three persons in connection with a case pertaining to the seizure of fake Indian currency notes with the face value of Rs 6.84 lakhs from the city in March 2018. According to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the court on Wednesday sentenced Mohammed Sajjad Ali, MG Raju and Abdul Kadir to six years, five years and two years in prison respectively. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000, Rs 5,000 and Rs 5,000 respectively.

#### **9. RAJASTHAN-BASED RACKET INVOLVED IN FAKE POLICE PROFILES**

**Link:** [Rajasthan-based racket involved in fake police profiles- The New Indian Express](#)

In a world that is increasingly relying on the virtual space, it is no surprise that criminals are always on the lookout for new means of committing fraud using social media platforms. A recent investigation by Kerala Police revealed that a Rajasthan-based racket was into creation of fake social media accounts of police officials from the state to dupe people and extort money. It was found that the racket had created social media profiles of officers right from the junior ranks to the senior level.

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#### 10. 'FAKE' COVID-19 TEST REPORTS SCAM BUSTED IN NAVI MUMBAI; DOCTOR SUSPENDED

**Link:** <https://www.timesnownews.com/mumbai/article/fake-covid-19-test-reports-scam-busted-in-navi-mumbai-doctor-suspended/688233>

In a shocking development, a doctor has been suspended by the municipal commissioner of Navi Mumbai. The doctor, who has been identified as Sachin Nemane was in charge of antigen testing at the municipal corporation testing center. However, complaints regarding fake Covid-19 reports being published on the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) website emerged which led to the suspension of the doctor.

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# INTERNATIONAL

## 1. COUNTERFEIT MONEY DISCOVERED IN VALENTINE

**Link:** <https://rivercountry.newschannelnebraska.com/story/42996080/counterfeit-money-discovered-in-valentine>

Valentine Police are advising local citizens and businesses to keep an eye out for counterfeit money. Someone in town passed a fake \$100 bill at a local business. The imitation money, which is not legal tender, bore the words "For Motion Pictures", while otherwise looking like government-issued money. Valentine Police says citizens should pay close attention to security features on the bills, such as watermarks and the look and feel of the paper. They said other common, but subtle, indicators include alternate wording and foreign languages on the bills.

## 2. FRENCH ADMINISTRATION SUSPECTS WISH OF SELLING COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS

**Link:** [French administration suspects Wish of selling counterfeit products | TechCrunch](#)

A French administration in charge of consumer rights and fraud has investigated Wish the mobile e-commerce platform that recently filed to go public. While the company generated \$1.9 billion in revenue in 2019, the French administration believes Wish could be selling products, such as sneakers and perfumes, with images incorrectly showing the logos of famous brands. In addition to those wrongly labeled products, the administration says Wish pretends products are on sale while they aren't. The platform could be displaying -70%, -80% or -90% on some products even though the original price is completely made up.

## 3. KUWAIT SHUTS 27 STORES SELLING COUNTERFEIT GOODS

**Link:** [Kuwait shuts 27 stores selling counterfeit goods | Kuwait – Gulf News](#)

Kuwaiti authorities have closed down 27 shops after they had been found dealing in counterfeit goods and involved in fraud, a local newspaper reported Friday. The ministry of Commerce and Industry said that its inspection teams had exposed the violations at the stores in a breach of the Kuwaiti and international laws, Al Anba newspaper reported. The fake items were seized in a step to be handed over to the agencies concerned to take the necessary legal procedures against the violators, according to the ministry. The ministry vowed to continue its inspection campaign to stop the sale of any item that could cause harm to consumers, and to enforce anti-fraud laws against fake goods.

## 4. POLICE SEIZE OVER US\$6 MILLION IN COUNTERFEIT BILLS AT PERU

**Link:** [Peru: Police seize over US\\$6 million in counterfeit bills | News | ANDINA - Peru News Agency](#)

The National Police of Peru seized more than US\$6 million in fake bills and arrested an alleged member of the criminal gang "Los Especialistas" (The Specialists) dedicated to counterfeiting foreign currency, Lima Police Region Chief General Jorge Luis Angulo reported on Wednesday. The authority specified that the counterfeit money —mostly in fake US\$10 and US\$20 bills— was going to be sent abroad —across the borders with Ecuador (north) and Bolivia (south)— to be introduced into the commercial markets of various countries around the world.

## 5. COPS DISPOSE OF RM 300,000 IN ILLEGAL BOOZE, FAG IN SIBU LANDFILL

**Link:** <https://www.theborneopost.com/2020/12/03/cops-dispose-of-rm300000-in-illegal-booze-fag-in-sibu-landfill/>

About RM 300,000 worth of illicit contraband were disposed of at Kemuyang Dumping site. Sibul District police chief ACP Stanley Jonathan Ringgit said the items included

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5,835 cartons of cigarettes and 3,636 boxes of liquor of various brands. "The items were exhibits (in court) after investigation were completed under the Customs Act 1967," he added.

#### **6. UN AGENCY FACES CORRUPTION, FRAUD ALLEGATIONS AT CLIMATE PROJECTS IN RUSSIA**

**Link:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/un-agency-faces-corruption-fraud-allegations-at-climate-projects-report-120120100064\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/un-agency-faces-corruption-fraud-allegations-at-climate-projects-report-120120100064_1.html)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is facing several allegations of fraud and corruption linked to the multibillion-dollar Global Environment Facility, according to documents seen by the Financial Times (FT). A copy of a draft report by UNDP's office of audit and investigations, dated November 2020, described "financial misstatements" worth millions of dollars across UNDP's portfolio of GEF-funded projects around the world. The report highlighted problems including signs of "fraudulent activities" at two country offices and "suspicions of collusion among the various project managers" at another, without naming the countries.

#### **7. FAMILY EMPLOYED BY PROVINCE PERPETRATED \$11M COVID BENEFIT FRAUD IN TORONTO**

**Link:** [Pro-democracy Hong Kong publisher charged with fraud amid crackdown- The New Indian Express](#)

A pro-democracy Hong Kong media tycoon who was arrested during a crackdown on dissent was charged Wednesday with fraud but no national security offences, two newspapers reported. Jimmy Lai of Next Digital, which owns the Apple Daily newspaper, was among 10 people arrested Aug. 10 on what police said was suspicion of violating a national security law and collusion with a foreign country. Lai, 71, was later released on bail but police raided his company's offices in October. Two Next Digital executives were charged with fraud along with Lai, the South China Morning Post and Apple Daily reported.

#### **8. OPERATION LEADS TO 121 ARRESTS, MORE THAN R130,000 TRAFFIC FINES IN KAGISO**

**Link:** <https://krugersdorpnews.co.za/447902/operation-leads-to-121-arrests-more-than-r130-000-in-traffic-fines/>

As the year draws nearer to its end, the community's focus once again falls on gender-based and family violence. Standing at the forefront in the fight against abuse and with the 16 Days of Activism campaign in full swing, West Rand Police conducted another highly successful Operation Okae Molao in and around the Kagiso Area. "The South African Police Service as to intensify its crime-prevention and policing strategies to protect the community and their property," explained West Rand District Corporate Communication's Sergeant Carmen Hendricks.

#### **9. SIX CHARGED WITH DEFRAUDING US OF \$2.1M IN 'BIRTH TOURISM' SCHEME THAT SAW 117 PREGNANT TURKISH WOMEN PAY UP OF \$10K EACH**

**Link:** <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9010915/Six-charged-birth-tourism-scheme-saw-117-pregnant-Turkish-women-fly-birth.html>

Six people have been charged and more are being sought in a 'birth tourism' and money laundering scheme which saw dozens of pregnant Turkish woman pay up to \$10,000 to give birth on Long Island to secure US citizenship for their children. Details of the indictment were unveiled by US Attorney Seth DuCharme in a Wednesday morning press conference. According to DuCharme, the illicit plot saw 117 women travel from Turkey to Suffolk County to give birth to the children before returning home. In total, 119 children were born on US soil. The operators of the scheme consist of four Turkish nationals and two US citizens, officials said.

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**Link:** <https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/fake-iphones-rolex-watches-givenchy-19389656>

The Capital Market Authority (CMA) identified some cases suspected of manipulations, fraud and scam of the capital market rules and its executive regulations, amid the price fluctuations of some stocks. The Saudi market regulator is finalizing the required paperwork to take the necessary regulatory measures with regard to those violators, including their referral to the Public Prosecution. The CMA pointed out that it is keen to enforce the stock market executive regulations and protect the market from illegal practices.

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