

WATCHLIST – FRAUDS THIS WEEK

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FRIDAY 25th SEPT 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

INDIA

INTERNATIONAL

1. **FAKE PESTICIDES SEIZED IN MOGA, TWO ARRESTED**

1. **CBP OFFICIALS SEIZE OVER \$193,000 WORTH OF COUNTERFEIT DESIGNER GOODS, EMPHASIZE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES FOR BUYERS AND SELLERS IN TUSCON**

2. **MAIN ACCUSED ABSCONDING IN LIQUOR BOTTLING PLANT CASE IN ASSAM**

2. **CUSTOMS OFFICIALS SEIZE \$1 MILLION IN COCAINE, COUNTERFEIT CLOTHING AT PORT OF CINCINNATI IN ERLANGER**

3. **KHADI INDIA FORCES TAKE DOWN OF 160 WEB LINKS FROM AMAZON, FLIPKART FOR MISUSING ITS 'KHADI' BRAND NAME IN NEW DELHI**

3. **U.S. CUSTOMS SEIZED 2,000 'COUNTERFEIT' AIRPODS THAT WERE LEGIT COMPETITORS AT JOHN F. KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

4. **SMUGGLED TIMBER, ILLICIT LIQUOR SEIZED IN DHUBRI, ASSAM**

4. **CEO RAISED \$123 MILLION IN MONTHS AND GOT ARRESTED FOR FRAUD IN LAS VEGAS**

5. **ED ATTACHES 3 DELHI-BASED HOTELS WORTH Rs 100 CRORE IN PMC BANK FRAUD CASE**

5. **34 ARRESTED IN WHAT THE EDD CALLS A WEB OF UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD IN CALIFORNIA**

6. **TOP EXECUTIVES OF COX & KINGS, BANKS BEING PROBED IN Rs 20,000 CRORE 'FRAUD' IN NEW DELHI AND MUMBAI**

6. **DONALD TRUMP'S FORMER POLITICAL STRATEGIST PAUL MANAFORT NAMED IN \$2 TRILLION FRAUD**

7. **24 DIRECTORS OF GHAZIABAD BANK BOOKED FOR EMBEZZLING AROUND Rs 100 CRORE**

7. **DULLES CUSTOMS OFFICERS SEIZE \$3 MILLION WORTH OF COUNTERFEIT DESIGNER GOODS**

8. **FOUR HELD FOR SELLING ILLICIT LIQUOR WITH FAKE LABELS IN SHAHJAHANPUR**

8. **\$300K IN COUNTERFEIT DESIGNER MERCHANDISE SEIZED IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

9. **NINE ARRESTED WITH 17 GOLD BARS, COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY WORTH Rs 1.3 CRORE IN KOLKATA**

9. **AMERICAN CONSUMERS HAVE LOST \$145 MILLION TO CORONAVIRUS FRAUD**

10. **FAKE CURRENCY NOTE PRINTING MACHINE RECOVERED IN LAKHIMPUR, ASSAM**

10. **FBI WARNING ABOUT SPOOFERS WHO USED THEIR PHONE NUMBER TO SCAM ST. LOUIS COUNTY VICTIM OUT OF \$100,000**

INDIA

1. FAKE PESTICIDES SEIZED IN MOGA, TWO ARRESTED

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/garments/-textiles/khadi-india-forces-take-down-of-160-web-links-from-amazon-flipkart-for-misusing-its-khadi-brand-name/articleshow/78220321.cms>

In a joint operation with the police, the Agriculture Department busted a pesticide scam in Moga and recovered a few boxes containing fake pesticides. These were being sold to local dealers, who were likely to sell them to farmers. Plant Protection Officer of Moga Jaswinder Singh Brar said he, along with DSP (City) GS Bhullar and other officials of the police, stopped an i-20 car and found boxes of various types of fake pesticides in them.

2. MAIN ACCUSED ABSCONDING IN LIQUOR BOTTLING PLANT CASE IN ASSAM

Link: <https://morungexpress.com/main-accused-absconding-in-liquor-bottling-plant-case>

On September 2, the Assam Rifles discovered an illicit liquor plant in a private property at 7th Mile. The plant was suspected to have been used for bottling liquor. One person, said to be its caretaker, was apprehended and the case was handed over to the police for further investigation. The case is suspected to involve public personalities and there has been no official update from the police till date. But as per other sources, the main accused was absconding and others suspected of complicity have sought legal recourse.

3. KHADI INDIA FORCES TAKE DOWN OF 160 WEB LINKS FROM AMAZON, FLIPKART FOR MISUSING ITS 'KHADI' BRAND NAME IN NEW DELHI

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/garments/-textiles/khadi-india-forces-take-down-of-160-web-links-from-amazon-flipkart-for-misusing-its-khadi-brand-name/articleshow/78220321.cms>

Fighting hard to 'protect its brand name from rampant misinterpretation, government owned 'Khadi India' has shot off legal notices to over a thousand firms and has now got hundreds of web links selling 'khadi' products across e-commerce platforms pulled off. Amazon, Flipkart and Snapdeal among others have taken down over 160 such web links recently after government run Khadi and Village Industries Commission's (KVIC) stepped up pressure on the online selling platforms.

4. SMUGGLED TIMBER, ILLICIT LIQUOR SEIZED IN DHUBRI, ASSAM

Link: <https://nenow.in/north-east-news/assam/assam-smuggled-timber-illicit-liquor-seized-in-dhubri.html>

Dhubri police on Sunday seized a huge quantity of smuggled timber during raids conducted at Chotoguma village area under Golakganj police station close to the Assam-Bengal border. The raid was conducted by a Special Squad of Dhubri Police after it received a specific input and recovered around 400 CFT of timber (sal) worth over Rs 4 lakhs.

5. ED ATTACHES 3 DELHI-BASED HOTELS WORTH Rs 100 CRORE IN PMC BANK FRAUD CASE

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ed-attaches-3-delhi-based-hotels-worth-100-crore-in-pmc-bank-fraud-case/article32645206.ece>

The Enforcement Directorate has attached three Delhi-based hotels worth ₹100 crore in connection with the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank fraud case. The hotels are owned by Libra Realtors Private Limited, Deewan Realtors Private Limited, Rakesh Kumar Wadhawan, Romy Mehra, Libra Hotels Private Limited and its directors. "Hotel Conclave Boutique is located in Kailash Colony; Hotel Conclave Comfort is in East of Kailash and Hotel Conclave Executive in Kalkaji. They are now known as Fab Hotels," said an agency official.

6. TOP EXECUTIVES OF COX & KINGS, BANKS BEING PROBED IN Rs 20,000 CRORE 'FRAUD' IN NEW DELHI AND MUMBAI

Link: <https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/news/top-executives-cox-kings-banks-probed-rs-20000-cr-fraud>

A Mumbai court has ordered a full-fledged inquiry into a massive fraud running into Rs 20,000 crore allegedly involving top executives of tours and travels company Cox & Kings Ltd and several banks. The alleged fraud was carried out for over a period of five years. It is alleged that certain top company officials with Cox & Kings, allegedly with the intention of siphoning off funds, authorised the company's money transactions for diversion of funds into their personal companies. Acting on a complaint by Ajay Ajit Peter Kerkar, the promoter of Cox & Kings Ltd, a Mumbai MM court recently passed the order directing a thorough probe. The court has instructed officers of Nagpada police station to carry out a detailed investigation into the matter. Sources said that on the direction of the court, police have now initiated the investigation and is likely to register an FIR in this case soon.

7. 24 DIRECTORS OF GHAZIABAD BANK BOOKED FOR EMBEZZLING AROUND Rs 100 CRORE

Link: <https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/bank-fraud-24-directors-of-ghaziabad-bank-booked-for-embezzling-around-rs-100-crore/2087899/>

Twenty-four directors of Ghaziabad's now defunct Mahamedha Cooperative Bank have been booked for allegedly misappropriating around Rs 100 crore, according to an FIR lodged here. The case was lodged following an audit by a company engaged by the Cooperative Department. The company in its report named the errant directors and officials. In a company to police, Cooperative Department Assistant Commissioner and Registrar Devendra Singh alleged the bank officials sanctioned loans to ineligible customers. He said Rs 99.85 crore was embezzled.

8. FOUR HELD FOR SELLING ILLICIT LIQUOR WITH FAKE LABELS IN SHAHJAHANPUR

Link: <https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/city-news/four-held-for-selling-illicit-liquor-with-fake-labels.html>

Four people have been arrested in Shahjahanpur for allegedly selling illicit liquor using labels of popular brands, police said on Sunday. Superintendent of Police S Anand on Sunday said, "Following a tip-off that illicit liquor is being sold using wrappers/labels of branded liquor companies for the past some days, police busted the factory involved in making the illicit liquor. Vikas Gupta, Pratap Kumar, Pramod Kumar and Chaman Kumar were arrested from the factory premises." A large number of bottles, barcodes, wrappers/labels, flavour and chemical used in making the illicit liquor was recovered, police said.

9. NINE ARRESTED WITH 17 GOLD BARS, COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY WORTH Rs 1.3 CRORE IN KOLKATA

Link: <http://www.millenniumpost.in/kolkata/nine-arrested-with-17-gold-bars-counterfeit-currency-worth-rs-13-cr-419080>

Nine persons have been arrested with a huge amount of counterfeit Indian currency notes along with gold bars after a hot chase by the police and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) on Monday night in Cooch Behar. According to sources, on Monday night acting on a tip-off, a joint raid was planned by the SSB and cops from Kotwali police station. At night when the joint team of police and SSB jawans saw two sports bikes escorting a car, they instructed them to stop. But the bikes and the car increased speed and fled. The SSB jawans and police personnel chased them and near Dawaguri, the joint team intercepted the car and the bikes and detained 9 persons.

10. FAKE CURRENCY NOTE PRINTING MACHINE RECOVERED IN LAKHIMPUR, ASSAM

Link: <https://nenow.in/north-east-news/assam/assam-fake-currency-note-printing-machine-recovered-in-lakhimpur.html>

The arrest of three persons by Lakhimpur Police on Wednesday on the charges of printing fake currency notes has once again unearthed the continued illicit activities of fake banknotes and gold in the Bangalmora area of the district. The arrested persons have been identified as Soriful Islam (30), Sadikul Ali (21) and Sajida Begum (37). Their arrests and the recovery of a "note printing machine" with Reserve Bank of India logo tells the same old story of counterfeiting activities centering around greater Bangalmora area under several police stations and outposts in the last two decades. On April 2, 2015, one Ainuddin was arrested by police in Bangalmora on the charges of dealing in fake gold and counterfeit currency notes.

INTERNATIONAL

1. CBP OFFICIALS SEIZE OVER \$193,000 WORTH OF COUNTERFEIT DESIGNER GOODS, EMPHASIZE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES FOR BUYERS AND SELLERS IN TUSCON

Link: <https://www.kold.com/2020/09/20/cbp-officials-seize-over-worth-counterfeit-designer-goods-emphasize-legal-consequences-buyers-sellers/>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Louisville seized a shipment containing two boxes of counterfeit high-end designer items worth more than \$193,000. A CBP officer in Louisville held a shipment, manifested as women's clothes, for inspection on Sept. 17, 2020. The parcels were inspected to determine the admissibility of its contents in accordance with CBP regulations. When the shipment was opened designer shoes, handbags, and clothes were found inside. The items were inspected by an import specialist who determined the items were counterfeit. In all, 95 items were seized. If these items were real, the total MSRP for these would have been \$193,740.

2. CUSTOMS OFFICIALS SEIZE \$1 MILLION IN COCAINE, COUNTERFEIT CLOTHING AT PORT OF CINCINNATI IN ERLANGER

Link: <https://www.nkytribune.com/2020/09/customs-officials-seize-1million-in-cocaine-counterfeit-clothing-at-port-of-cincinnati-in-erlanger/>

Customs and Border Protection officers in Kentucky have been kept busy discovering illegal drugs and counterfeit items coming into the

United States from overseas. On Thursday, officers at the Port of Cincinnati facility in Erlanger, seized a shipment containing 29 pounds of cocaine concealed in 11 pouches labeled as shelf-stable emergency food rations. The cocaine has a street value of \$952,200.

3. U.S. CUSTOMS SEIZED 2,000 'COUNTERFEIT' AIRPODS THAT WERE LEGIT COMPETITORS AT JOHN F. KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Link: <https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/gear/a34013853/us-customs-seize-counterfeit-airpods-oneplus-buds/>

Not everyone wants to pay a minimum of \$160 for a pair of AirPods that you could easily lose. That's where third-party retailers come in—with both respected electronics companies like JBL, and some pretty random companies like Urban Outfitters—offering their own dupes at a steep discount. But the Feds want you to know it's a dangerous game. On Sunday, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency tweeted out two grainy images that depict a set of wireless earbuds. The agency noted its officers at the John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, New York confiscated some 2,000 "counterfeit Apple AirPods" coming in from Hong Kong.

4. CEO RAISED \$123 MILLION IN MONTHS AND GOT ARRESTED FOR FRAUD IN LAS VEGAS

Link: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidjeans/2020/09/18/how-a-cyber-fraud-company-ceo-raised-123-million-in-months---and-got-arrested-for-fraud/#618575be253c>

Adam Rogas was cornered. Until that hot Las Vegas afternoon on September 1, he was the only person at his company NS8 with access to one of the company's two bank accounts where all the customer revenue was sent. But, in the preceding weeks, executives at the cyber fraud software startup had begun asking questions about how much money it actually had. Following pressure to show those bank statements, he agreed to meet NS8's vice president of finance at a Bank of America branch on Charleston Boulevard, where he would hand over the account's login credentials, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

5. 34 ARRESTED IN WHAT THE EDD CALLS A WEB OF UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD IN CALIFORNIA

Link: <https://www.pe.com/2020/09/17/unemployment-fraud-crooks-complex-scams-california-edd-jobs-layoffs/>

State labor investigators have begun to pierce a "complex" web of unemployment fraud and have helped catch and arrest 34 suspects for alleged scams linked to jobless claims, the government agency reported Thursday. The Employment Development Department's investigators have engaged in multiple formal investigations and have teamed up with two federal agencies as well as officials in other states in an attempt to crack the fraud rings in California, the EDD said Thursday. "Scammers are using a complex profile of stolen personal identifying information most likely obtained from national and global data breaches," the department said.

6. DONALD TRUMP'S FORMER POLITICAL STRATEGIST PAUL MANAFORT NAMED IN \$2 TRILLION FRAUD

Link: <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/us-news/donald-trumps-former-political-strategist-paul-manafort-named-in-2-dollars-t.html>

Paul Manafort, a political strategist who led Donald Trump's 2016 election campaign has been named in suspicious activity reports (SARs) which states that transactions worth \$2tn have been washed through the US financial system. Thousands of documents with details of this corruption have been leaked to ICIJ (International Consortium of Investigative Journalists). This leak highlights over 2,000 suspicious activity reports filed with the United States government's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). AS per ICIJ, these documents

have \$2 trillion worth transactions dating from between 1999 and 2017.

7. DULLES CUSTOMS OFFICERS SEIZE \$3 MILLION WORTH OF COUNTERFEIT DESIGNER GOODS

Link: https://www.insidenova.com/headlines/dulles-customs-officers-seize-3-million-worth-of-counterfeit-designer-goods/article_83f973bc-fc78-11ea-85ec-17e4fa813d23.html

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at Washington Dulles International Airport last week seized nearly \$3 million in counterfeit consumer goods from China. The shipment, which arrived Aug. 22 and destined to a drop shipper in Dallas was manifested as "sticker storage bag." The shipment consisted of 74 boxes that included 4,213 belts of various designer brand names, 176 Louis Vuitton handbags, 39 Gucci shirts, 37 pairs of Gucci pants and six Louis Vuitton shirts, CBP said in a news release.

8. \$300K IN COUNTERFEIT DESIGNER MERCHANDISE SEIZED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Link: <https://losspreventionmedia.com/300k-in-counterfeit-designer-merchandise-seized/>

A six-month investigation has netted more than \$300,000 worth of counterfeit merchandise from a store in South Carolina, state officials said. South Carolina Secretary of State Mark Hammond said an investigation by local, state and federal agencies began in March into the alleged sale of counterfeit goods by a business called NewImageSC and its operator, Quasheda Parker. At that time, the business was being conducted on Facebook, but eventually grew to include sales at a storefront in Columbia, Hammond said.

9. AMERICAN CONSUMERS HAVE LOST \$145 MILLION TO CORONAVIRUS FRAUD

Link: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/world/american-consumers-have-lost-145-million-to-coronavirus-fraud-5877861.html>

Americans have lost more than \$145 million to fraud related to the coronavirus, according to the Federal Trade Commission, which said it had fielded more than 200,000 complaints from consumers. Schemes related to the coronavirus peaked in the spring, and they focused on federal stimulus payments and other forms of financial relief, personal protective equipment, and unemployment and other government benefits, the commission reported.

10. FBI WARNING ABOUT SPOOFERS WHO USED THEIR PHONE NUMBER TO SCAM ST. LOUIS COUNTY VICTIM OUT OF \$100,000

Link: <https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/crime/st-louis-county-victim-loses-life-savings-fbi-spoofing-scam/63-962eb511-f151-4f04-85e3-09ead9835ff2>

The FBI is warning people of a new phone spoofing scam that was recently used to trick a person in St. Louis County out of more than \$100,000. According to a press release from the St. Louis and Kansas City divisions of the FBI, the scammers use spoofing technology to make it look like a call is coming from FBI's real phone number.



TRUE BUDDY CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED
16th Floor, Tower - B, World Trade Tower
Sector 16, Noida - 201301
Contact: +91 78389 89503
Website: www.tbcpl.co.in

To Unsubscribe
Please contact us at +91 7838989503
OR
Send a mail on controlroom@tbcpl.co.in