

# WATCHLIST – FRAUDS THIS WEEK

## HIGHLIGHTS

INDIA	INTERNATIONAL
1. CBI CASE AGAINST MUMBAI-BASED JEWELLERY TRADING COMPANY IN MULTI-CRORE FRAUD INVOLVING SBI	1. COVID-19 FRAUD REACHES \$100M IN U.S.
2. CRACKDOWN ON LIQUOR SMUGGLERS; 150 FIRs REGISTERED BY JALANDHAR, KAPURTHALA COPS IN FOUR DAYS	2. NEARLY HALF A MILLION DOLLARS IN COUNTERFEIT LOUIS VUITTON BELTS SEIZED IN LOUISVILLE
3. 2 LAKH LITRES OF LAHAN (ILLICIT LIQUOR) SEIZED NEAR SUTLEJ	3. AUTHORITIES RAID 3 PREMISES IN BATU KAWA, MATANG FOR ALLEGEDLY SUPPLYING COUNTERFEIT CANNED FOOD
4. FAKE CURRENCY RACKET BUSTED, THREE HELD IN DELHI, HARYANA AND UTTAR PRADESH	4. COUNTERFEIT MONEY INVESTIGATION LEADS TO SEIZED FIREARMS, NARCOTICS, PARAPHERNALIA IN NEW MEXICO
5. VENTILATOR PURCHASE SCAM: ANONYMOUS LETTER TRACED TO KHARAR RESIDENT	5. TRAFFIC STOP IN MOORESVILLE LEADS TO SEIZURE OF \$360K IN COUNTERFEIT DESIGNER GOODS
6. CBI RECOVERS OVER Rs 50 LAKH FROM ACCUSED IN SBI BANK FRAUD CASE	6. 30 PPP FRAUD PROSECUTIONS SO FAR, AND COUNTING IN U.S.
7. 11 BUSINESSMEN IN CID NET FOR COMMITTING BANK FRAUD	7. SFO CONFISCATES \$7 MILLION FROM EX-AFREN EXECS IN FRAUD CASE
8. THREE HELD FOR RUNNING NATIONWIDE PACKERS AND MOVERS FRAUD IN AGRA	8. CONFIDANT OF FORMER GARY MAYOR INDICTED ON FELONY FRAUD CHARGES
9. THIRUVANANTHAPURAM SUB-TREASURY FRAUD; SENIOR ACCOUNTANT HELD FOR SIPHONING OFF Rs 2 CRORE	9. COLOMBIA SUPREME COURT ORDERS EX-PRESIDENT ALVARO URIBE DETAINED FOR FRAUD AND BRIBERY
10. PUNJAB HOOCH TRAGEDY; DEATH TOLL RISES TO 86 AFTER CONSUMING COUNTERFEIT ALCOHOL	10. CHINA ARRESTS OVER 100 PEOPLE SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN PLUSTOKEN CRYPTOCURRENCY SCAM

# INDIA

## 1. CBI CASE AGAINST MUMBAI-BASED JEWELLERY TRADING COMPANY IN MULTI-CRORE FRAUD INVOLVING SBI

**Link:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/cbi-case-against-mumbai-based-jewellery-trading-company-for-multi-crore-fraud-involving-sbi/story-48EMeEprSd1Ry4caoyNqI.html/>

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a case against Mumbai based jewellery trading company -Auro Gold Jewellery Pvt Ltd- and its directors Amritlal Jain and Ritesh Jain for allegedly cheating State Bank of India of Rs 387 crore. The complaint lodged by the SBI and addressed to the Superintendent of Police, the CBI and Anti-Corruption Branch gave out a detailed account of the fraud and the parties involved. Besides Amritlal Jain and Ritesh Jain, three other people were named in the complaint along with the company.

## 2. CRACKDOWN ON LIQUOR SMUGGLERS; 150 FIRs REGISTERED BY JALANDHAR, KAPURTHALA COPS IN FOUR DAYS

**Link:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/crackdown-on-liquor-smugglers-150-firs-registered-by-jalandhar-kapurthala-cops-in-four-days/story-IqnixhoVsFBoDPwzMp3oKK.html>

Launching a crackdown on illegal liquor smuggling following the Tarn Taran hooch tragedy, the Jalandhar and Kapurthala police have seized around 3,000l liquor and registered about 150 FIRs in the last four days. A cop said that most of the recoveries of illegal liquor were made from rural areas in both districts. The rural police have registered 64 FIRs in the last four days and seized 1,590l illicit liquor. Out all cases registered, in 36 cases, the district police have recovered just 7l liquor in each case. The highest recoveries include 492l by the Lohia police, 451l by Phillaur police, 112l illicit liquor and 3,000l lahan by Bilga police, among others.

## 3. 2 LAKH LITRES OF LAHAN (ILLICIT LIQUOR) SEIZED NEAR SUTLEJ

**Link:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ludhiana/crackdown-on-illicit-liquor-2-lakh-litres-of-lahan-seized-near-sutlej-6536395/>

The Ludhiana police, in a major crackdown on illicit liquor manufacturers, recovered at least 2 lakh liters of lahan (raw material used to prepare illicit liquor) from a village on the banks of river Sutlej on Ludhiana-Jalandhar border Saturday late. Police said that a raid was conducted at village Bholewal Jadid and at least 2 lakh liters of lahan (kacchi daaru) and 55 liters of illicit liquor was recovered. Two accused were arrested from the spot, while their five accomplices managed to escape. An FIR under the sections 61, 1 and 14 of the Excise Act was registered in the matter at Ladhawal police station.

## 4. FAKE CURRENCY RACKET BUSTED, THREE HELD IN DELHI, HARYANA AND UTTAR PRADESH

**Link:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/gurugram/fake-currency-racket-busted-three-held/story-wEamt82cq2kSfVYkiTiBoJ.html>

The police on Sunday arrested three members of a gang and claimed to have busted a fake currency racket in the city that was involved in circulating counterfeit notes in Haryana, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh. The police said they received a tip-off on Sunday morning that two

men had done shopping worth more than Rs 10,000 at New Palam Vihar, but the currency notes they paid turned out to be fake.

#### **5. VENTILATOR PURCHASE SCAM: ANONYMOUS LETTER TRACED TO KHARAR RESIDENT**

**Link:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/ventilator-purchase-scam-anonymous-letter-traced-to-kharar-resident/story-QoonBhDhbaX5JskFKLxKK.html>

Police have arrested a Kharar resident for drafting the anonymous letter that accused the Himachal Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation of irregularities in the purchase of ventilators during the Covid-19 outbreak. The accused has been identified as Shadi Lal Tickoo, a resident of Kharar in Punjab and a native of Bandipura in Jammu and Kashmir. He works with the Harmony Health Care (BPLK) in Phase-II Industrial area. As per the information, Tickoo worked at the Cardio Lab from February 2016 to November, 2019 and was terminated due to some salary and administrative issues. However, as he was a senior employee at the lab, he had access to the billing and accounts department. He retained some official records even after his termination though he claims to have destroyed all the records during the lockdown.

#### **6. CBI RECOVERS OVER Rs 50 LAKH FROM ACCUSED IN SBI BANK FRAUD CASE**

**Link:** <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/cbi-recovers-over-rs-50-lakh-in-cash-from-accused-in-sbi-bank-fraud-case-2273632>

The CBI has recovered over Rs 50 lakh in cash during searches on Monday from one of the accused in a bank-fraud case against a real estate firm, who was recently charged by the central probe agency, officials said. The agency has conducted searches at 11 locations in multiple cities after registering a case against the Nashik-based Sun Infrastructure Limited for causing a loss of around Rs 23.86 crore to the State Bank of India, they said.

#### **7. 11 BUSINESSMEN IN CID NET FOR COMMITTING BANK FRAUD**

**Link:** <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/2020/aug/05/11-businessmen-in-cid-net-for-committing-bank-fraud-2179194.html>

CID officials on Tuesday conducted raids on a few businessmen who had allegedly used fake documents to avail of loans from Sri Guru Raghavendra Cooperative Bank. Vasudev Maiya, former CEO of the bank, recently committed suicide by consuming poison in his car. The Karnataka High Court had handed over the case to CID and it is the first raid they conducted in this connection. Police said CID sleuths searched 15 houses in Shivajinagar, Sadashivanagar, Ulsoor, Rajajinagar and Jayanagar and arrested 11 businessmen. The bank was involved in a multi-crore scam in which the staffers are said to have given loans to people by taking kickbacks. Officials raided the bank, residences and offices of the staffers. "The accused are in three-day police custody. Maiya had mentioned the names of the accused in his suicide death note," police said.

#### **8. THREE HELD FOR RUNNING NATIONWIDE PACKERS AND MOVERS FRAUD IN AGRA**

**Link:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/agra/3-held-for-running-nationwide-packers-and-movers-fraud/articleshow/77358513.cms>

Agra police on Tuesday arrested three men from Itmad-ud-Daula for allegedly cheating more than 100 people across the country of

more than Rs 1.5 crore on the pretext of providing movers and packers service and taking an advance from them for the job. Three other members of the gang are at large. All hail from Agra. Police said Kishan Singh (28), Deepak Tomar (27) and Atul Singh (24) are part of a gang of six that had listed at least 12 fake firms on OLX, Just Dial and e-Trucks, claiming to offer packers and movers service at cheaper rates than other firms.

#### **9. THIRUVANANTHAPURAM SUB-TREASURY FRAUD; SENIOR ACCOUNTANT HELD FOR SIPHONING OFF Rs 2 CRORE**

**Link:** <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/2020/aug/05/thiruvananthapuram-sub-treasury-fraud-senior-accountant-held-for-siphoning-off-rs-2-crore-2179393.html>

The police on Wednesday morning arrested Vanchiyoor sub-treasury senior accountant MR Bijulal, who is accused of siphoning off Rs 2 crore from the Special Treasury Savings Bank (STSB) Account of the District Collector. The accountant was arrested from the office of his lawyer near Vanchiyoor, when he came to surrender in the court. Before being arrested, Bijulal claimed he was innocent and the amount that he had transferred from his account to his wife's was the proceeds from playing online rummy.

#### **10. PUNJAB HOOCH TRAGEDY; DEATH TOLL RISES TO 86 AFTER CONSUMING COUNTERFEIT ALCOHOL**

**Link:** <https://thewire.in/health/punjab-hooch-tragedy-death-toll-rises-to-86-17-more-arrested-in-police-crackdown>

The Punjab Police arrested 17 people in a crackdown in over 100 raids as spurious liquor caused 86 deaths in three districts of Punjab. On Friday, police had nabbed eight people after deaths were reported due to the consumption of spurious liquor in Amritsar, Gurdaspur's Batala and Tarn Taran. So far, 25 arrests have been made in the case, officials added. According to them, 63 people have died in Tarn Taran, 12 in Amritsar and 11 in Batala after drinking the counterfeit liquor.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **1. COVID-19 FRAUD REACHES \$100M IN U.S.**

**Link:** <https://www.pymnts.com/news/security-and-risk/2020/study-covid-19-fraud-reaches-100m/>

The survey, based on government data, put a spotlight on the depth of what it called a fast-growing criminal enterprise that includes everything from phony stimulus check offers to shopping scams and fake COVID-19 cures that prey on distressed Americans. The five most targeted states by the scams include the ones with the biggest populations: California, Florida, New York, Texas and Pennsylvania. These states accounted for one third of more than 150,000 instances of COVID-related fraud reported nationally by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) since mid-March. Those cases have cost victims a total of \$97.5 million to date, according to the FTC.

## **2. NEARLY HALF A MILLION DOLLARS IN COUNTERFEIT LOUIS VUITTON BELTS SEIZED IN LOUISVILLE**

**Link:** <https://www.wlky.com/article/nearly-half-a-million-dollars-in-counterfeit-louis-vuitton-belts-seized-in-louisville/33515072#>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Louisville seized a shipment of counterfeit Louis Vuitton Belts valued at nearly half a million dollars. The package was arriving from Hong Kong and was destined for Atlanta, Georgia. The items were appraised at the total retail price of an authentic LV belt, which made the shipment worth \$453,600.

## **3. AUTHORITIES RAID 3 PREMISES IN BATU KAWA, MATANG FOR ALLEGEDLY SUPPLYING COUNTERFEIT CANNED FOOD**

**Link:** <https://www.theborneopost.com/2020/08/05/authorities-raid-3-premises-in-batu-kawa-matang-for-allegedly-supplying-counterfeit-canned-food/>

The Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) Sarawak raided three premises in Batu Kawa and Matang here yesterday after they were suspected of supplying counterfeit canned food. It said in a statement today that the raid was carried out at around 2pm following complaints by the trademark owners for the canned food under the brand 'Gulong- Stewed Pork Sliced' and around 'Gulong-Pork Mince with Bean Paste.'

## **4. COUNTERFEIT MONEY INVESTIGATION LEADS TO SEIZED FIREARMS, NARCOTICS, PARAPHERNALIA IN NEW MEXICO**

**Link:** <https://www.kcbd.com/2020/08/03/counterfeit-money-investigation-leads-seized-firearms-narcotics-paraphernalia/>

An investigation into counterfeit money in Hobbs, New Mexico on August 2 led to the seizure of counterfeit money, firearms, narcotics and drug paraphernalia. Officials say on August 2, 2020, around 3 p.m., Hobbs Police officers were called about a fraudulent transaction where counterfeit money was used. Officials with the Hobbs Police Department have not released the name of the suspect at this time.

## **5. TRAFFIC STOP IN MOORESVILLE LEADS TO SEIZURE OF \$360K IN COUNTERFEIT DESIGNER GOODS**

**Link:** [https://moorevilletribune.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/traffic-stop-in-mooresville-leads-to-seizure-of-360k-in-counterfeit-designer-goods/article\\_d492f040-d348-11ea-a4f6-ef9dc00c5e71.html](https://moorevilletribune.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/traffic-stop-in-mooresville-leads-to-seizure-of-360k-in-counterfeit-designer-goods/article_d492f040-d348-11ea-a4f6-ef9dc00c5e71.html)

A traffic stop by the Mooresville Police Department in the early morning hours of July 24 resulted in the seizure of counterfeit designer watches, sunglasses, clothing, shoes, backpacks, handbags, and other goods with brand names like Gucci, Patek Philippe, Hublot, Audemars, Cartier, Dior, Moschino, Dolce & Gabbana, Nike, Fendi, Amiri, Louis Vuitton and more. Amory Smith, 27, of Greensboro, has been issued an arrest warrant by the Mooresville Police Department for seven felony charges of possession with the intent to sell counterfeit goods.

## **6. 30 PPP FRAUD PROSECUTIONS SO FAR, AND COUNTING IN U.S.**

**Link:** <https://smallbiztrends.com/2020/08/ppp-fraud.html>

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans have aided more than 5 million small business owners, providing a much-needed lifeline during the Coronavirus outbreak crisis. The overwhelming majority of business owners are legitimate and will use the money as intended to

retain employees and stay operational. But the PPP has attracted a few rotten apples. And you won't believe how rotten they are. To date, the Justice Department has filed 30 PPP fraud cases. Defendants are charged with biking taxpayers out of tens of millions of dollars. Luckily, the Feds have recovered a large part of the loan proceeds already.

#### **7. SFO CONFISCATES \$7 MILLION FROM EX-AFREN EXECS IN FRAUD CASE**

**Link:** <https://www.complianceweek.com/regulatory-enforcement/sfo-confiscates-7m-from-ex-afren-execs-in-fraud-case/29281.article>

The U.K. Serious Fraud Office announced it has secured orders confiscating \$7 million from two former executives of oil and gas exploration company Afren. After deceiving the board of Afren into a \$300m deal from which they personally stood to gain over \$17m, Shahenshah and Ullah were each found guilty of one count of fraud and two counts of money laundering in October 2018. The two men hatched the scheme following a shareholder revolt which objected to their £6.6m and £3.8m salary packages and threatened the possibility of lower remuneration in future. Seeking to maintain their high rate of pay, they created a side deal with one of Afren's Nigerian oil partners whereby 15% of Afren's payment to the company would be paid out to a Bermudan shell company controlled by Shahenshah and Ullah.

#### **8. CONFIDANT OF FORMER GARY MAYOR INDICTED ON FELONY FRAUD CHARGES**

**Link:** [https://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/confidant-of-former-gary-mayor-indicted-on-felony-fraud-charges/article\\_d132e0ed-6dc7-5a47-8a46-f1f7b6245418.html](https://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/confidant-of-former-gary-mayor-indicted-on-felony-fraud-charges/article_d132e0ed-6dc7-5a47-8a46-f1f7b6245418.html)

A close confidant and former consultant to ex-Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson who once held various city government jobs during Freeman-Wilson's reign in Gary has been charged with wire fraud. Mary Cossey, of Munster, is accused of concealing more than \$250,000 in income and assets as part of her serial bankruptcy filings beginning in 2013, including \$187,000 deposited into a bank account owned by an "Individual A."

#### **9. COLOMBIA SUPREME COURT ORDERS EX-PRESIDENT ALVARO URIBE DETAINED FOR FRAUD AND BRIBERY**

**Link:** <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/04/world/americas/colombia-president-uribe-charged.html>

Colombia's Supreme Court ordered on Tuesday the detention of a former president and longtime giant of Colombian politics, Álvaro Uribe, amid an investigation into whether he committed acts of fraud, bribery and witness tampering. The decision is a landmark in a nation accustomed to back door deals between politicians who were rarely called to answer for their actions in court.

#### **10. CHINA ARRESTS OVER 100 PEOPLE SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN PLUSTOKEN CRYPTOCURRENCY SCAM**

**Link:** <https://www.zdnet.com/article/china-arrests-over-100-people-suspected-of-involvement-in-plustoken-cryptocurrency-scam/>

China has arrested 109 individuals suspected of involvement in the PlusToken cryptocurrency fraud ring. South Korea-based PlusToken was marketed as a high-yield investment opportunity for traders interested in cryptocurrencies. 9% to 18% in monthly returns were dangled in front of investors mainly based in China and South Korea, who then stored Bitcoin (BTC), Ethereum (ETH), and EOS on the platform.



TRUE BUDDY CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED  
16th Floor, Tower - B, World Trade Tower  
Sector 16, Noida - 201301  
Contact: +91 78389 89503  
on [controlroom@tbcpl.co.in](mailto:controlroom@tbcpl.co.in)  
Website: [www.tbcpl.co.in](http://www.tbcpl.co.in)

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