

WATCHLIST – FRAUDS THIS WEEK

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FRIDAY 18th SEPT 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

INDIA

1. **EXCISE TEAMS SEIZE OVER 25,000 LITRES OF ILLICIT LIQUOR IN SEVERAL UP DISTRICTS**
2. **FAKE CURRENCY WORTH Rs 10 LAKH SEIZED, THREE ARRESTED IN HYDERABAD**
3. **PPE SCAM; SENIOR IAS OFFICER APPEAR BEFORE LOKAYUKTA IN ODISHA**
4. **IMA SCAM; NOD TO PROSECUTE 2 IPS OFFICERS, 3 OTHERS IN BENGALURU**
5. **EOW ARRESTS HDIL PROMOTER SARANG WADHWAN IN Rs 1,034 CRORE SCAM IN MUMBAI**
6. **ED ATTACHES ASSETS WORTH Rs 11.62 CRORE IN NH-74 SCAM IN UDHAM SINGH NAGAR**
7. **INDIAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN TELEMARKETING SCAM IN US**
8. **PEOPLE TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID THROUGH FAKE SWAB SAMPLES 'DIPPED IN PLAIN WATER'**
9. **SEVEN ARRESTED IN VILLUPURAM DISTRICT FOR FRAUD IN PM-KISAN SCHEME**
10. **CHENNAI MAN ARRESTED FOR Rs 107-CRORE GST FRAUD**

INTERNATIONAL

1. **SMOORE WINS \$5.4M DAMAGES IN COUNTERFEIT VAPE LAWSUIT IN CHINA**
2. **OVER \$300,000 IN COUNTERFEIT MERCHANDISE SEIZED IN RICHLAND COUNTY**
3. **AGENCY SEIZES \$3.6 MILLION IN COUNTERFEIT CASH AT BORDER IN PEMBINA**
4. **DUBAI CUSTOMS RECYCLES Dh3.2 MILLION WORTH OF COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS**
5. **ONEPLUS BUDS SEIZED AT US BORDER AS 'COUNTERFEIT AIRPODS'**
6. **COUNTERFEIT BEDAZZLED BINKIES SEIZED IN PITTSBURGH**
7. **CUSTOMS AGENTS SEIZE 500,000 COUNTERFEIT N95 MASKS FROM CHINA BOUND FOR NEW JERSEY**
8. **INDIAN-AMERICAN BANK PRESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY IN \$17-MILLION FRAUD**
9. **44 PEOPLE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH EDD FRAUD IN BEVERLY HILLS SINCE SEPTEMBER 3**
10. **SHIPMENT OF COUNTERFEIT N-95 MASKS VALUED AT MORE THAN \$3 MILLION SEIZED IN CHICAGO**

INDIA

1. EXCISE TEAMS SEIZE OVER 25,000 LITRES OF ILLICIT LIQUOR IN SEVERAL UP DISTRICTS

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bareilly/excise-teams-seize-over-25000-litres-of-illicit-liquor-in-several-up-districts/articleshow/78131722.cms>

Taking forward the anti-illicit liquor drive enforced across Uttar Pradesh, excise teams have seized 25,238 litres of illicit liquor from several districts in a week and registered 1,042 cases against the offenders. The excise department also claimed to have seized 11,1874 kilograms of 'lahan' (fermented liquid used in the distillation of illicit liquor). Divulging details to TOI, excise commissioner P Guruprasad said 147 people indulged in the distillation of illicit liquor and its unlawful trading were arrested and sent to jail, while nine vehicles being used for the transportation of illicit liquor were impounded.

2. FAKE CURRENCY WORTH Rs 10 LAKH SEIZED, THREE ARRESTED IN HYDERABAD

Link: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/hyderabad/hyderabad-fake-currency-worth-rs-10-lakh-seized-three-arrested-6596446/>

Three persons found printing counterfeit currency notes using a color printer and scanner at their home were arrested in Hyderabad Monday. Based on a tip-off, the Rachakonda police nabbed the trio and seized Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) of Rs 10 lakh in denomination of Rs 500, meant for circulation in the market. According to a press note, Karam Nagendraprasad (30), Bandari Goutham (29), and Tubbakula Naresh (25), the three arrested accused, hatched a plan to make easy money by printing fake currency notes. They bought a colour printer and a scanner, and printed copies at Gowtham's home. These photocopies were then cut the size of genuine Rs 500 notes and stacked in bundles of 100 notes each.

3. PPE SCAM; SENIOR IAS OFFICER APPEAR BEFORE LOKAYUKTA IN ODISHA

Link: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2020/sep/15/ppe-scam-senior-ias-officers-appear-before-lokayukta-in-odisha-2197044.html>

Two senior IAS officers - Industries Secretary Hemant Sharma and Managing Director of the Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited Yamini Sarangi - appeared before the Lokayukta in connection with the alleged multi-hundred crore PPE, mask and nebuliser purchase scam and submitted their written replies. The officers had failed to respond to the notice by Lokayukta on August 11 to submit their replies following which the anti-corruption ombudsman had warned that it will proceed with the investigation of the case if they do not appear at the next hearing on September 14. The next date of hearing has been fixed on October 4.

4. IMA SCAM; NOD TO PROSECUTE 2 IPS OFFICERS, 3 OTHERS IN BENGALURU

Link: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2020/sep/15/ima-scam-nod-to-prosecute-2-ips-officers-3-others-2196985.html>

The Karnataka government has accorded sanction to the CBI for the prosecution of two senior IPS officers and three other police personnel in the I-Monetary Advisory (IMA) multi-crore scam. The IMA has allegedly duped thousands of people in the name of 'Halal' investment. In its order on September 9, the government gave its nod for the prosecutions of Hemant Nimbalkar, the then IGP, Economic Offences, CID, and Ajay Hilori, the then DCP (Bengaluru East Division). Nimbalkar is now serving as Additional Commissioner

of Police (Administration), Bengaluru City, while Hilori is posted as SP, KSRP.

5. EOW ARRESTS HDIL PROMOTER SARANG WADHWAN IN Rs 1,034 CRORE SCAM IN MUMBAI

Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/eow-arrests-hdil-promoter-sarang-wadhwan-in-rs-1-034-crore-scam/story-Ft0zh7eal5BOwRisZM5uOI.html>

Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) arrested Housing Development Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) promoter Sarang Wadhawan late Monday evening connection with the Rs 1,034 crore scam involving the Goregaon Patra Chawl redevelopment project. A first information report (FIR) was filed against Guruashish Constructions Private (Pvt) Limited (Ltd), a subsidiary of HDIL, in March 2018 on the basis of a complaint by Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA).

6. ED ATTACHES ASSETS WORTH Rs 11.62 CRORE IN NH-74 SCAM IN UDHAM SINGH NAGAR

Link: <http://www.uniindia.com/ed-attaches-assets-worth-rs-11-62-cr-in-nh-74-scam-in-udham-singh-nagar/india/news/2164889.html>

The attached assets consist of 23 immovable properties which include agriculture, industrial land, commercial plots and buildings situated at District Udhm Singh Nagar of Uttarakhand and movable properties consist of funds lying in five bank accounts. Investigation under PMLA was initiated on the basis of FIR and charge sheet filed by the Uttarakhand Police against Dinesh Pratap Singh and other revenue officers, officials, farmers and middlemen which discloses that DP Singh and Anil Shukla, the then Revenue officials working incapacity of Competent Authority of Land Acquisition entered into conspiracy with other public servants, farmers and middlemen for misappropriation of Government Funds by way of granting compensation.

7. INDIAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN TELEMARKETING SCAM IN US

Link: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2020/sep/16/indian-man-pleads-guilty-in-telemarketing-scam-in-us-2197716.html/>

An Indian national has pleaded guilty to the charges of participating in an India-based telemarketing scheme to try to embezzle about USD 600,000 from seven elderly people in America. Chirag Sachdeva, 30, has been held since he was arrested by FBI agents on February 16 as he got off a plane in Boston after a flight from India. He admitted to US District Court Chief Judge John J McConnell Jr. that he tried to misappropriate funds from bank accounts of victims, each of them older than 65 years, across the US, using personal and banking information obtained from them in the course of an India-based telemarketing scheme, US Department of Justice said in a statement on Tuesday.

8. PEOPLE TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID THROUGH FAKE SWAB SAMPLES 'DIPPED IN PLAIN WATER'

Link: <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/shocking-case-of-mp-village-people-test-positive-for-covid-through-fake-swab-samples-dipped-in-plain-water/653805>

The worst nightmares of people seem to have unfortunately come true in a village in Madhya Pradesh after several people tested positive for Covid-19 even without giving their swab samples. In what appears to be a horrendous scar on the veracity of testing facilities, people in Tana village of Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district tested positive for Covid-19 even without offering their swab or blood samples, officials said on Wednesday. Guman Singh, a health department technician, decided to test the effectiveness of the laboratory where samples are sent for examination after he had heard several complaints of loopholes within the testing system. However, he had collected only four swab samples from the village, though the health department noted down the names of 15 others without even taking their samples

since many of them were not in the village at that time. Singh admitted to have manipulated the samples and said that many villagers had been suspecting the accuracy of the tests.

9. SEVEN ARRESTED IN VILLUPURAM DISTRICT FOR FRAUD IN PM-KISAN SCHEME

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/seven-arrested-in-villupuram-district-for-fraud-in-pm-kisan-scheme/article32597864.ece>

The Crime Branch CID on Sunday night arrested seven contract employees attached to the Department of Agriculture for alleged irregularities in implementation of the PM-KISAN Nidhi scheme in Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu. The arrested, identified as Venkatesan, Pushparaj, Palani Kumar, Pari, Mayavan, Prakash and Balakrishnan employed as contract employees of the Department in Gingee block, were produced before a local court and remanded in custody.

10. CHENNAI MAN ARRESTED FOR Rs 107-CRORE GST FRAUD

Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/chennai-man-arrested-for-107-crore-gst-fraud/article32622334.ece>

The GST and Central Excise Department, Chennai Outer on Wednesday said it has arrested a 56-year old person from the Kodungaiyur area of Chennai for committing a GST credit fraud of ₹107 crore. The arrest was made after carrying out detailed investigation and conducting searches to gather evidence. According to a press release issued by the Principal commissioner GST and Central Excise, Chennai Outer, the arrested person along with some others had registered in the name of other persons on non-existent addresses, using doctored documents.

INTERNATIONAL

1. SMOORE WINS \$5.4M DAMAGES IN COUNTERFEIT VAPE LAWSUIT IN CHINA

Link: <https://www.securindustry.com/smoore-wins-5-4m-damages-in-counterfeit-vape-lawsuit/s111/a12283/#.X2OsKGgzY2x>

Chinese e-cigarette company Smoore has won a damages award against more than 100 defendants it accused of counterfeiting its Vapresso brand. The verdict in a New York federal court orders that Smoore receive \$50,000 per defendant – equivalent to \$5.4m overall – and implements a permanent injunction on the sale of Vapresso goods or other Smoore product covered by trademarks. Shenzhen-based Smoore filed the complaint in October, claiming trademark counterfeiting and infringement against defendants who were located in China but conducting business in the US and other countries, generally using storefronts on online marketplaces.

2. OVER \$300,000 IN COUNTERFEIT MERCHANDISE SEIZED IN RICHLAND COUNTY

Link: <https://www.wltx.com/article/news/crime/over-300000-dollars-counterfeit-goods-seized-in-richland-county/101-e0842e56-5382-4e43-9e4b-a447d827ffbd>

The South Carolina Secretary of State's office has seized over \$300,000 of what they say is counterfeit merchandise in Richland County. The action resulted from six-month investigation by agents with the Richland County Sheriff's Department, South Carolina Law

Enforcement Division (SLED) and US Department of Homeland Security into a business called NewImageSC.

3. AGENCY SEIZES \$3.6 MILLION IN COUNTERFEIT CASH AT BORDER IN PEMBINA

Link: https://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/crime-and-courts/agency-seizes-3-6-million-in-counterfeit-cash-at-border/article_794ad59d-5ad9-5e75-8bef-052a46475253.html

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection says its seized \$3.6 million in counterfeit cash along North Dakota's border with Canada. The agency initially targeted a commercial cargo of toy guns making its way through the Pembina Port of Entry last week. Officers found the shipment contained 36,000 fake \$100 bills. "Working with other federal partners, CBP officers were able to keep this counterfeit currency from entering into the economy," said Pembina Area Port Director Jason Schmelz. The agency will destroy the counterfeit cash.

4. DUBAI CUSTOMS RECYCLES Dh3.2 MILLION WORTH OF COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS

Link: <https://www.thenational.ae/uae/government/dubai-customs-recycles-dh3-2-million-worth-of-counterfeit-products-1.1077544>

Dubai Customs has recycled 149,000 counterfeit goods worth Dh3.2 million since the start of the year. The pieces came from 46 international brands and it marks a more environmentally-friendly approach to disposing of seized goods. Dubai Customs' Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) department announced the figure on Monday following talks with US and French officials to tackle the scourge of counterfeit goods. "The IPR department is very serious about the rights of international brands and how to protect them from counterfeiting," said Yousef Ozair Mubarak, IPR director. "Instead of destroying counterfeit goods, we offer them the option of recycling them as this is more environmentally friendly."

5. ONEPLUS BUDS SEIZED AT US BORDER AS 'COUNTERFEIT AIRPODS'

Link: <https://www.kitguru.net/lifestyle/mobile/matthew-wilson/oneplus-buds-seized-at-us-border-as-counterfeit-airpods/>

The US Customs and Border Protection agency this week seized "2,000 counterfeit Apple AirPods from Hong Kong, valued at \$398K had they been genuine". The issue here is that these are clearly branded OnePlus Buds, making it difficult to confuse them for an Apple product at all.

6. COUNTERFEIT BEDAZZLED BINKIES SEIZED IN PITTSBURGH

Link: <https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/09/16/bedazzled-binkies-seized-pittsburgh/>

Federal officers seized more than two dozen bedazzled binkies in Pittsburgh, saying the pacifiers were not only counterfeits, but also potentially dangerous. Customs and Border Protection officers in Pittsburgh seized a shipment of 25 counterfeit pacifiers from Hong Kong last week. The binkies were bejeweled with Chanel and Mercedes-Benz logos. They also had metallic link chains and clips, and CBP says they were a choking hazard. Officials say the binkies were on their way to Allegheny County. Had they been the real deal, their retail price would have been around \$1,300.

7. CUSTOMS AGENTS SEIZE 500,000 COUNTERFEIT N95 MASKS FROM CHINA BOUND FOR NEW JERSEY

Link: <https://www.foxnews.com/us/cbp-counterfeit-coronavirus-masks-nj>

A shipment of 500,000 counterfeit N95 masks from China bound for New Jersey was intercepted by customs agents in Chicago, officials

announced. Officers with U.S Customs and Border Protection and Homeland Security Investigations seized the bulk shipment of the special respirator masks on September 10 after suspecting they were counterfeit, the CBP wrote in a Monday press release. Testing by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed investigators' suspicions.

8. INDIAN-AMERICAN BANK PRESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY IN \$17-MILLION FRAUD

Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/indian-american-bank-president-pleads-guilty-in-17-million-fraud-120091600179_1.html

An Indian-American president of a now-defunct New Jersey-based marble and granite wholesaler has admitted his role in scheming to defraud a bank in connection with a USD17 million secured line of credit, a US Attorney has said. Rajendra Kankariya, 61, pleaded guilty by video conference before US District Judge Susan D. Wigenton to committing wire fraud affecting a financial institution. He faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison and a fine of USD1 million.

9. 44 PEOPLE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH EDD FRAUD IN BEVERLY HILLS SINCE SEPTEMBER 3

Link: <https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2020/09/16/44-people-arrested-over-2-5-million-found-on-fraudulent-edd-cards-in-beverly-hills-since-september-3/>

The Beverly Hills Police Department launched an investigation into possible EDD fraud that has led to nearly 50 arrests and over \$2.5 million on fraudulent EDD cards, officials announced Wednesday. In a press release, officials said that the BHPD "learned criminals were fraudulently obtaining EDD benefits loaded onto EDD debit cards using stolen identities" at the beginning of September. Since Sept. 3, police have arrested 44 Beverly Hills residents who are responsible for EDD fraud and identity theft, according to the release. Additionally, 129 fraudulent EDD credit cards have been recovered, valuing over \$2.5 million. Over \$289,000 in U.S. currency and seven handguns were also seized from those arrested.

10. SHIPMENT OF COUNTERFEIT N-95 MASKS VALUED AT MORE THAN \$3 MILLION SEIZED IN CHICAGO

Link: <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/cbp-officers-seize-counterfeit-n-95-masks-valued-at-more-than-3-million-in-chicago/2338777/>

More than 500,000 counterfeit N-95 respirator masks, with an estimated domestic value of more than \$3 million, were seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in Chicago earlier this month, according to a press release. According to authorities, officers were contacted by the Department of Homeland Security and told to seize a shipment arriving from Schenzhen, China on Sept. 10 in Chicago. The shipment was immediately seized, and officials say they discovered more than 500,000 masks purporting to be N-95 respirator masks in the shipment. Officers from the Anti-Terrorism Contraband Enforcement Team sent 30 of the masks to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention testing office in West Virginia, which found that 10% of the respirators tested had a filter efficiency rating of below 95%.



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