

# WATCHLIST – FRAUDS THIS WEEK

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Consulting

FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup> SEPT 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

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### INTERNATIONAL

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2. **ILLICIT LIQUOR RECOVERED IN RAIDS IN JHANSI**
3. **TWO HELD FROM DELHI FOR RUNNING FAKE CALL CENTRE, DUPING HUNDREDS OF JOB SEEKERS**
4. **FAKE CERTIFICATE RACKET BUSTED IN HYDERABAD, EX-ARMYMAN HELD**
5. **JUVENILE POSING AS MAJOR OPENS FAKE BANK ACCOUNT, DUPES MAN OF Rs 6 CRORE**
6. **NIA CHARGESHEETS 9 FAKE INDIAN CURRENCY NOTES CASE OF CHHATTISGARH**
7. **FAKE CALL CENTRES IN GURUGRAM UNDER POLICE SCANNER**
8. **DELHI POLICE BUST JAMTARA PHISHING GANG; GOOGLE-LISTED FAKE BANK CUSTOMER CARE TOLL-FREE NUMBER USED TO DUPE PEOPLE**
9. **PM KISAN SCHEME BECOMES FRAUDSTERS' PLAYGROUND, FAKE BENEFICIARIES SWINDLE Rs 110 CRORES IN TAMIL NADU**
10. **27 PERSONS BOOKED FOR TRYING TO USURP MUMBAI CIVIC BODY LAND USING FAKE DOCUMENTS**

1. **RM 1 MILLION WORTH OF COUNTERFEIT LIQUOR SEIZED IN KLUANG**
2. **COUNTERFEIT INPUTS ON DOWNTREND AS AGRICULTURE MINISTRY INTENSIFIES CRACKDOWN IN BUNYANGABU DISTRICT**
3. **DSI SEIZES FAKE BRAND-NAME GOODS WORTH OVER 100 MILLION BAHT IN BANGKOK**
4. **COUNTERFEIT APPLE AIRPODS SEIZED AT LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH SEAPORT**
5. **PENANG KPDNHEP SEIZES 17,187 UNITS OF COUNTERFEIT MOTORCYCLE SPARE PARTS, ACCESSORIES**
6. **LOUIS VUITTON BUSTS UP MASSIVE FAKE BAGS OPERATION IN CHINA**
7. **THOUSANDS OF COUNTERFEIT CIGARETTES SEIZED FROM SHOP IN CUMNOCK**
8. **RACKET PRODUCING FAKE PRESS ID CARDS ARRESTED IN KATHMANDU**
9. **6 MEMBERS OF THE MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR PLUSTOKEN SCAM CHARGED WITH FRAUD IN CHINA**
10. **SALES OF FAKE LUXURY ON RUSSIAN SOCIAL NETWORKS EXCEEDED 23 BILLION RUBLES**

# INDIA

## 1. EXCISE DEPARTMENT TO CRACK DOWN ON ILLICIT LIQUOR BIZ IN DHARWAD

**Link:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hubballi/excise-dept-to-crack-down-on-illicit-liquor-biz/articleshow/77918789.cms>

The district administration and excise department are determined to end the menace of illegal liquor business in the district, said deputy commissioner Nitesh Patil. Chairing a meeting of district-level standing committee to tackle the illicit liquor business here on Thursday, he said continuous raids on hooch producing kilns by excise officials has resulted in a drastic reduction in illegal activities and action against them will continue.

## 2. ILLICIT LIQUOR RECOVERED IN RAIDS IN JHANSI

**Link:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/illicit-liquor-recovered-in-raids-in-jhansi/articleshow/77985828.cms>

On its second day of district-wide drive against spurious and illegal country-made liquor, the Jhansi police and excise department, conducted raids at the outskirts of the city and rural belt across the district on Monday. They recovered a large quantity of spurious liquor and raw material. At many places, the raw material was found hidden in plastic barrels buried underground. Police took help of drone cameras and JCB machines in the raids. At a place in Padri village, the police found a tubewell hand pump fitted to the barrels filled with liquor underground. The police found ten thousand litres of raw material stored in 50 barrels here.

## 3. TWO HELD FROM DELHI FOR RUNNING FAKE CALL CENTRE, DUPING HUNDREDS OF JOB SEEKERS

**Link:** <https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/two-held-from-delhi-for-running-fake-call-centre-duping-hundreds-of-job-seekers>

The Matunga police has arrested two persons from Delhi for allegedly running a call centre and duping hundreds of job seekers. The accused are identified as Arif Abdul Rashid, 24, and Sujahud Suhelhud, 25, both residents of Delhi. They were arrested on Thursday by sleuths from Matunga police station. The police have so far identified at least 30 people from the city who had been duped by the gang. According to the police, in the month of February, the Matunga police had registered an offence of online cheating after a woman was duped to the tune of Rs 40,000 on the pretext of offering her a job. During investigations the accused were traced to Delhi and a team from Matunga police station raided their call centre in Subhash Nagar in Delhi and seized 8 mobiles, 7 SIM cards, 3 routers and 4 hard disks from the accused.

## 4. FAKE CERTIFICATE RACKET BUSTED IN HYDERABAD, EX-ARMYMAN HELD

**Link:** <https://telanganatoday.com/fake-certificate-racket-busted-in-hyderabad-ex-armyman-held>

The Jawaharnagar police busted a fake educational certificate racket and arrested a retired Army personnel at Balaji Nagar on Thursday. Officials seized 300 fake certificates of various universities and educational institutions. Police said B Shankar Rao (50), a resident of Mohan Rao Colony in Balaji Nagar, and a native of Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh, retired from the Army in 2013 and set up 'A1 Geethanjali Defence Academy' in Balaji Nagar to coach aspirants for entrance tests for the Army. He forged and issued fake certificates

of various educational qualifications to candidates who were unqualified and took money from them, the police said.

#### **5. JUVENILE POSING AS MAJOR OPENS FAKE BANK ACCOUNT, DUPES MAN OF Rs 6 CRORE**

**Link:** <https://www.indiatvnews.com/crime/bank-fraud-rs-6-crore-fraud-juvenile-fake-bank-account-kyc-fraud-noida-648477>

The Delhi Police's Economic Offence Wing on Wednesday apprehended a juvenile for duping an octogenarian of Rs 6 crore. According to the police, the juvenile posed as major and opened a bank account RBL Bank in the name of M/s FUTURE INDIA with a fake name. Further, the juvenile, part of a gang of cheats, used this bank account for getting money transferred from gullible victims. The 86-year-old complainant was duped after he was made to believe that the call he had received was from officials of the insurance company. The money, so credited, was withdrawn from ATMs, leaving no money trail to follow. The matter came to light when a woman approached EOW to report the fraud.

#### **6. NIA CHARGESHEETS 9 FAKE INDIAN CURRENCY NOTES CASE OF CHHATTISGARH**

**Link:** <https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/nia-chargesheets-9-in-fake-indian-currency-notes-case-of-chhattisgarh.html>

The state police filed a chargesheet on September 16 last year against the seven accused under sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Subsequently, the NIA re-registered the case on August 9 last year and during investigation, two more persons Hemlal Sahu and Sewak Ram were arrested. Kurre was the mastermind in counterfeiting Indian currency notes and government stamp papers, and involved Mahilange and Miri. The three started making FICNs with the help of computer desktops and colored printer/scanner, the NIA official said. Kurre also influenced Baghel and Bharadwaj and involved them in the printing and circulation of FICNs, he said. Sahu and Chandra came in contact with Kurre and were involved in the circulation of the counterfeit currency, the official said. Later, Hemlal and Sinha were lured into the circulation of FICNs.

#### **7. FAKE CALL CENTRES IN GURUGRAM UNDER POLICE SCANNER**

**Link:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/gurugram/fake-call-centres-in-gurugram-under-police-scanner/story-tOckqafYzfeCVpt9T3bIXN.html>

In a bid to crackdown against illegal call centres operating in the city in the garb of providing technical support or fake job offers, the station house officers (SHOs) of 40 police stations, across all the zones in the city, have been asked to prepare and submit a list of all the call centres operating within their respective jurisdictions. The SHOs have also been directed to share the details of all the illegal call centres that have been busted in the recent months and the arrests made in those cases. As per the police, the details of the call centres and their work profile would be used to maintain a database and help the police in gathering information regarding the alleged masterminds behind such fake call centres. In the past two years, at least 62 fake call centres have been busted by the police. The move comes after the same set of suspects were found to be involved in multiple cases, said the police.

#### **8. DELHI POLICE BUST JAMTARA PHISHING GANG; GOOGLE-LISTED FAKE BANK CUSTOMER CARE TOLL-FREE NUMBER USED TO DUPE PEOPLE**

**Link:** <https://www.dnaindia.com/delhi/report-delhi-police-bust-jamtara-phishing-gang-google-listed-fake-bank-customer-care-toll-free-number-used-to-dupe-people-2842098>

The Delhi Police busted an online cyber phishing gang from Jamtara in Jharkhand. The gang used to phish off all the amount from people's accounts after obtaining the registered phone number and bank details. The gang obtained the phone number and other details

by registering a fake toll-free customer care number of banks or payment wallets on google phone listings. According to the Delhi Police, this gang of six from Jamtara has duped many from across India before being caught. These days, people generally rely on Google phone listings to get their bank customer care toll free numbers.

#### **9. PM KISAN SCHEME BECOMES FRAUDSTERS' PLAYGROUND, FAKE BENEFICIARIES SWINDLE Rs 110 CRORES IN TAMIL NADU**

**Link:** <https://www.dnaindia.com/delhi/report-delhi-police-bust-jamtara-phishing-gang-google-listed-fake-bank-customer-care-toll-free-number-used-to-dupe-people-2842098>

Fraudsters are leaving no stone unturned in duping government as well as private citizens. In yet another incident of defrauding the exchequer, fake beneficiaries have withdrawn at least Rs 110 cr from Prime Minister Kisan Scheme in Tamil Nadu. The state has seen 50 per cent falsification of records by ineligible beneficiaries. After verification by agriculture department officials, at least five lakh fake entries have been located on the list of beneficiaries. These are mostly from the western and northern districts causing a loss of Rs 110 cr to the government. According to a report in Times of India, the agriculture department has so far recovered Rs 32 lakh from such fake beneficiaries.

#### **10. 27 PERSONS BOOKED FOR TRYING TO USURP MUMBAI CIVIC BODY LAND USING FAKE DOCUMENTS**

**Link:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/27-persons-booked-for-trying-to-usurp-mumbai-civic-body-land-using-fake-documents/story-YumJnkTpw6UDr7BYGfK9oJ.html>

Following a complaint from officials from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) H-East ward, 27 people, including developer and main proprietor, secretary and treasurer of a housing society, have been booked for allegedly forging documents to get flats and shops on BMC's land. Shashikant Bhandari, senior inspector from Nirmal Nagar police station, said, "We have registered a first information report (FIR) and are investigating the case. We haven't arrested anybody yet." After receiving a complaint in February about people allegedly using forged documents to get property on BMC's land at Ganpatram Dayma Marg in Bandra (East), Nirmal Nagar police conducted an inquiry. The allegations were found to be true, following which the police informed BMC.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **1. RM 1 MILLION WORTH OF COUNTERFEIT LIQUOR SEIZED IN KLUANG**

**Link:** <https://www.nst.com.my/news/crime-courts/2020/09/622260/rm1-million-worth-counterfeit-liquor-seized-kluang>

The General Operations Force's (PGA) Fifth Battalion seized counterfeit liquor worth RM1 million in a raid at a factory in Taman Wawasan Kluang here, yesterday. Its commanding officer Superintendent Dimin Awang said a 39-year-old man believed to be an employee at the premises was also arrested in the 1.50pm raid. He said a total of 321 boxes containing about 9,000 bottles of liquor ready to be shipped were found at the factory. "Preliminary investigations found that the counterfeit liquor processing factory has been operating for more than four months.

## **2. COUNTERFEIT INPUTS ON DOWNTREND AS AGRICULTURE MINISTRY INTENSIFIES CRACKDOWN IN BUNYANGABU DISTRICT**

**Link:** <https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Counterfeit-inputs-downtrend-MAAIF-intensifies-crackdown/688334-5619326-u0y7aaz/index.html>

The inspectors from the Crop protection and certification department of Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), have confirmed that counterfeit inputs on market have gone down as they intensified the crackdown. According to the agriculture police commandant, SSP John Ssewanyana, there's a downtrend of counterfeit products on the market.

## **3. DSI SEIZES FAKE BRAND-NAME GOODS WORTH OVER 100 MILLION BAHT IN BANGKOK**

**Link:** <https://www.thailandnews.co/2020/08/dsi-seizes-fake-brand-name-goods-worth-over-100-million-baht/>

The Department of Special Investigation (DSI) seized counterfeit goods worth more than 100 million baht in a raid at a house in Bangkok. Pol Lt Col Korrawat Panprapakorn, DSI chief led the team to search a house in Phasi Charoen district. The search found counterfeit goods, including cosmetics, cloths and bags of the high-end brands such as Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Coach.

## **4. COUNTERFEIT APPLE AIRPODS SEIZED AT LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH SEAPORT**

**Link:** <https://www.pe.com/2020/09/09/counterfeit-apple-products-seized-at-los-angeles-long-beach-seaport/>

Authorities at the Los Angeles/Long Beach seaport recently seized 16,620 counterfeit wireless earphones and charging cables arriving from China that violated Apple's AirPods and Lightning protected trademarks, officials said Wednesday. The items, which were seized on July 2 and July 15, included 2,400 pairs of counterfeit wireless earphones and 14,220 counterfeit charging cables, said Jaime Ruiz of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. If genuine, the seized merchandise would have had an estimated manufacturer's suggested retail price of \$651,780, Ruiz said.

## **5. PENANG KPDNHEP SEIZES 17,187 UNITS OF COUNTERFEIT MOTORCYCLE SPARE PARTS, ACCESSORIES**

**Link:** <https://www.thesundaily.my/local/penang-kpdnhep-seizes-17187-units-of-counterfeit-motorcycle-spare-parts-accessories-YC3958724>

A total of 17,187 units of motorcycle spare parts and counterfeit accessories were seized by the Penang Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) in a trademark inspection at Taman Gemilang here, yesterday morning. State KPDNHEP chief enforcement officer Peter J. Berinus Agang said, his team also seized 113 units of motorcycle helmets which did not comply with the Motorcycle Safety Helmet Order 2012 and the overall estimated value of the seized items was about RM340,500.

## **6. LOUIS VUITTON BUSTS UP MASSIVE FAKE BAGS OPERATION IN CHINA**

**Link:** <https://www.complex.com/style/2020/09/louis-vuitton-busts-fake-bags-operation-in-china>

A massive counterfeit operation was recently uncovered that saw the production of thousands of fake Louis Vuitton bags. A *Women's Wear Daily* report from Wednesday details the mole and high-tech fakes endeavor, which is said to have seen a (since-fired) sales rep at the LV Guangzhou store playing a "key role" in the case. According to the report, the rep had been "knowingly selling" not-yet-released bags to fake-makers at an upmarket price in order to facilitate the selling of counterfeit bags at the same as the release of the real bags

"or even earlier," all while making a personal profit. The counterfeits in question were notably equipped with NFC sensor chips, which LV aficionados will note as a feature that's not even available on the real bags. In a statement to *WWD*, a brand spokesperson slammed the act of counterfeiting as a "violation" of artists' work.

## **7. THOUSANDS OF COUNTERFEIT CIGARETTES SEIZED FROM SHOP IN CUMNOCK**

**Link:** <https://www.cumnockchronicle.com/news/18704580.thousands-counterfeit-cigarettes-seized-shop-cumnock/>

On Friday, September 4, almost 16,000 illegal cigarettes and 3kg of potentially dangerous hand rolling tobacco was seized from the Cumnock store by trading standards officers. After a tip off from the public, trading standards officers attended the shop, accompanied by their super sniffer, Dixie the Consumer Protection Dog. Dixie had no trouble identifying the problem products, which officers subsequently confiscated from the store.

## **8. RACKET PRODUCING FAKE PRESS ID CARDS ARRESTED IN KATHMANDU**

**Link:** <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/racket-producing-fake-press-id-cards-arrested-in-kathmandu/>

Police on Monday arrested four individuals for allegedly producing fake press identity cards. A team of police from the Metropolitan Police Crime Division arrested four persons from the Bagabazar-based Kalika Sports Pvt Ltd on the charge of producing counterfeit ID cards of different media houses in Kathmandu. Those arrested have been identified as Laxman Neupane, 35, of Nawalparasi district, Shree Ram Khadka, 23, of Bardiya district, Ramesh Kumar Regmi, 29, of Nawalparasi district, and Rajendra Raj Bhandari, 39, of Syangja district.

## **9. 6 MEMBERS OF THE MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR PLUSTOKEN SCAM CHARGED WITH FRAUD IN CHINA**

**Link:** <https://news.bitcoin.com/6-members-of-the-multi-billion-dollar-plustoken-scam-charged-with-fraud-in-china/>

The Plustoken scam was a large heist that managed to gather a large number of crypto assets during the scheme's short tenure. Essentially Plustoken was a pyramid scheme that pretended to offer high-yield returns after people deposited funds into the system. The system promised rewards in its native token eponymous token (PLUS) and managed to gather over 200,000 BTC, 26 million EOS, and roughly 789,000 ETH. After the fraudsters racked up all the funds, they left a simple message behind and wrote: "sorry we have run." On July 31, news.Bitcoin.com reported on Chinese law enforcement arresting approximately 109 individuals allegedly connected to the Plustoken project.

## **10. SALES OF FAKE LUXURY ON RUSSIAN SOCIAL NETWORKS EXCEEDED 23 BILLION RUBLES**

**Link:** <https://tekdeeps.com/sales-of-fake-luxury-on-russian-social-networks-exceeded-23-billion-rubles/>

According to research by BrandMonitor, an anti-counterfeiting and brand protection company, in 2020 the sales of counterfeit luxury in Russian social networks exceeded 23 billion rubles. The main sales channels are Instagram, VKontakte, Telegram. Rusbase was informed about this in the press service of BrandMonitor. Sales of fake luxury on Russian social networks exceeded 23 billion rubles It is noted that social networks are one of the main sales channels for counterfeit luxury in Russia. In total, there are about 192 thousand accounts selling replicas of famous brands. On average, an account with 10 thousand subscribers earns up to 450 thousand rubles per month.



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