

# WATCHLIST – FRAUDS THIS WEEK

## HIGHLIGHTS

### INDIA

1. **KHEDA CONSTABLE, TWO OTHERS HELD FOR 'SMUGGLING LIQUOR' IN GUJARAT**
2. **THREE YOUTHS DIE IN ANGUL AFTER 'CONSUMING' SPURIOUS LIQUOR**
3. **KALYAN CRIME BRANCH ARRESTS 5 FOR MAKING, SELLING ADULTERATED GHEE UNDER POPULAR BRANDS IN MUMBAI**
4. **FAKE AADHAAR, RATION CARDS FOUND IN BHIWANDI AIMIM CHIEF'S OFFICE**
5. **COVID-19; PEOPLE WARNED ABOUT QUACKS MANUFACTURING AYURVEDA AND SIDDHA MEDICINES IN TAMIL NADU**
6. **ED ATTACHES 21 IMMOVABLE ASSETS IN BANK FRAUD CASE IN ANDHRA PRADESH**
7. **CYBER FRAUD; 4 ARRESTED FOR IMPERSONATING POLICE OFFICERS IN BENGALURU**
8. **GST FRAUD WORTH Rs 50 CRORE DETECTED, AHMEDABAD STUDENT ARRESTED FOR REGISTERING FAKE FIRMS**
9. **PUNJAB & SIND BANK REPORTS FRAUD OF Rs 561.13 CRORE**
10. **I-T DEPARTMENT BUSTS Rs 500 CRORE RACKET OF FAKE BILLS OPERATING FROM SEVERAL STATES**

### INTERNATIONAL

1. **CUSTOMS OFFICIALS SEIZE 25,000 FAKE VIAGRA PILLS, OTHER COUNTERFEIT GOODS AT LOS ANGELES AND LONG BEACH SEAPORT**
2. **R1 MILLION IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS SEIZED IN NELSON MANDELA BAY**
3. **WOMEN NABBED FOR ONLINE SALE OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS, OVER \$24K WORTH OF ITEMS SEIZED IN SINGAPORE**
4. **CUSTOMS OFFICERS SEIZE OVER \$500K IN COUNTERFEIT MONEY AT AREA PORT OF CHICAGO**
5. **CUSTOMS OFFICIAL IN ERLANGER SEIZE COUNTERFEIT WATCHES WORTH MORE THAN \$8.8M IF THEY WERE AUTHENTIC**
6. **BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS, CHAINSAWS SEIZED BY CBP AT INTERNATIONAL FALLS PORT OF ENTRY**
7. **FOUR PEOPLE CHARGED IN \$200K FAKE US COAST GUARD CREDENTIALING SCHEME**
8. **EU ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE BUSTS MAFIA ABUSE OF EU AGRICULTURE FUNDS**
9. **27 ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FRAUD IN TORRANCE SINCE SEPTEMBER 10**
10. **60 CHARGED IN MASSIVE ELDER MAGAZINE FRAUD SCAM IN MINNEAPOLIS**

# INDIA

## 1. KHEDA CONSTABLE, TWO OTHERS HELD FOR 'SMUGGLING LIQUOR' IN GUJARAT

**Link:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/gujarat-kheda-constable-two-others-held-for-smuggling-liquor/>

Three persons including a police constable were arrested in Kheda on Monday for allegedly smuggling illicit liquor which had been previously seized by police and kept under police custody. According to police, the accused were identified as Shabbir Khan Pathan, police constable attached with Vaso police station in Kheda, and two civilians, Bharat Parmar and Sandeep Sisodia, both residents of Ratanpur village in Matar taluka of Kheda.

## 2. THREE YOUTHS DIE IN ANGUL AFTER 'CONSUMING' SPURIOUS LIQUOR

**Link:** <https://sambadenglish.com/odisha-three-youths-die-in-angul-after-consuming-illicit-liquor/>

Three tribal youths died and another was critical reportedly after consuming spurious liquor in Odisha's Angul district. The deceased were identified as Kaira Pradhan, Tukuna Pradhan and Sashi Bhushan Dehuri from Patharagada village under Purunakote police limits in the district. The four youths were working as daily wage labourers and engaged in a house construction work on Sunday evening. After their work got over, the four youths consumed country liquor.

## 3. KALYAN CRIME BRANCH ARRESTS 5 FOR MAKING, SELLING ADULTERATED GHEE UNDER POPULAR BRANDS IN MUMBAI

**Link:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/kalyan-crime-branch-arrests-5-for-making-selling-adulterated-ghee-under-popular-brands/story-RbcUEVmNC8xvslWtRrUYkL.html>

The Kalyan Crime Branch has arrested five men for selling counterfeit ghee under the names of well-known dairy companies. Police have seized 83 litres of adulterated ghee worth Rs 44,000 from these accused. The crime branch team led by Dattaram Bhosale received information about one of the accused, a resident of Gograswadi, Dombivli, Alpesh Gore, 36, who is involved in making adulterated Ghee. The team nabbed the accused who led them to the other four. The police have taken everyone into custody and seized the materials. The other four, from Dahisar, have been identified as Jimit Gathani, 33, Saud Shaikh, 32, Dhanraj Mehta, 62 and Chandresh Mirani, 52. Two more accused are wanted.

## 4. FAKE AADHAAR, RATION CARDS FOUND IN BHIWANDI AIMIM CHIEF'S OFFICE

**Link:** <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/fake-aadhaar-ration-cards-found-in-bhiwandi-aimim-chief-s-office-11603437500294.html>

Police have recovered fake Aadhaar and ration cards from the private office of Bhiwandi unit chief of AIMIM Khalid Guddu and his brother, who are currently in judicial custody in extortion and other cases, an official said on Friday. Police had last month arrested Guddu, his brother Bablu and their aides for the offences registered against them under various IPC sections, including 364A (kidnapping for ransom) and 384 (extortion), besides the Arms Act, the official said.

## 5. COVID-19; PEOPLE WARNED ABOUT QUACKS MANUFACTURING AYURVEDA AND SIDDHA MEDICINES IN TAMIL NADU

**Link:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/covid-19-people-warned-about-quacks-manufacturing-ayurveda-and-siddha-medicines-in-tn/articleshow/78909575.cms>

Perundurai based Peripheral Pharmacovigilance Centre has asked the public to beware of fake Indian medicine practitioners, who promise cures for Covid-19. The centre said there is a spike in the number of quacks, who manufacture and distribute siddha and ayurvedic medicines for Covid-19. The public should be aware that any medicine prescribed must be duly licensed by the state licensing authority (Indian medicine).

**6. ED ATTACHES 21 IMMOVABLE ASSETS IN BANK FRAUD CASE IN ANDHRA PRADESH**

**Link:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ed-attaches-21-immovable-assets-in-bank-fraud-case/article32962146.ece>

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached 21 immovable properties in connection with a bank fraud case involving PBR Poultry Tech and others. The properties worth ₹7.57 crore on paper were held in the name of accused Polepalli Venkata Prasand and his family members. The attachment order also includes deposits of ₹50 lakh with the Meliora Asset Reconstruction Company.

**7. CYBER FRAUD; 4 ARRESTED FOR IMPERSONATING POLICE OFFICERS IN BENGALURU**

**Link:** <https://nationalcybersecuritynews.today/cyber-fraud-4-arrested-for-impersonating-police-officers-cyberfraud-criminal-cybercrimnals/>

Police officials with the cyber-crime division of the CID arrested four persons from Rajasthan for allegedly creating fake social media accounts of police officers and government servants in a scam to extract money from their contacts. A police team tracked down the accused to Bharatpur and arrested Ansar, Balwinder Singh, Saini and Saddam. "We are on the lookout for a fifth person, Shakeel, who allegedly created the fake profiles," said a senior police officer. The accused would get details of their targets' friends list on Facebook, then make a fake profile using an official photo and send requests for financial help to their contacts via the site's messaging app. Recently, the cyber-crime division received as many as four complaints, three from senior police officers.

**8. GST FRAUD WORTH Rs 50 CRORE DETECTED, AHMEDABAD STUDENT ARRESTED FOR REGISTERING FAKE FIRMS**

**Link:** <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/gst-input-tax-credit-fraud-worth-rs-50-crore-detected/2112691/>

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) has detected a tax fraud worth Rs 50 crore via intensive but non-intrusive data analytics, officials said. The racketeers floated about 115 fake companies spread across nine commissionerates and wrongfully availed of input tax credits (ITC), they added. A student based in Ahmedabad has been arrested for registering these fake firms. Sources said at least 55 firms registered under Vadodara and Ahmedabad commissionerates raised suspicion for the manner in which ITC was claimed.

**9. PUNJAB & SIND BANK REPORTS FRAUD OF Rs 561.13 CRORE**

**Link:** [https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/punjab-sind-bank-reports-fraud-of-rs-561-13-cr-120102400392\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/punjab-sind-bank-reports-fraud-of-rs-561-13-cr-120102400392_1.html)

Punjab & Sind Bank announced that an NPA Account, viz. IL & FS Financial Services (IFIN) with outstanding dues of Rs 561.13 crore has been declared as fraud and reported to RBI as per regulatory requirement. Further, Bank has already made 100% provisioning as per the prescribed prudential norms and account is technically written off.

**10. I-T DEPARTMENT BUSTS Rs 500 CRORE RACKET OF FAKE BILLS OPERATING FROM SEVERAL STATES**

**Link:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/i-t-raids-on-fake-currency-racketeers-across-states-expose-rs-500-crore-racket-of-entry-operation/story-CqEdUDwGZlYIMJ4zzaWkuJ.html>

The Income Tax Department on Monday carried out raids on a large network of entry operation racketeers who generated cash through fake billing. The search operations were conducted on 42 premises across Delhi-NCR, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Goa. According to a press release issued by the department on Tuesday, documents showing accommodation entries of more than Rs 500 crore were found and seized.

# INTERNATIONAL

## **1. CUSTOMS OFFICIALS SEIZE 25,000 FAKE VIAGRA PILLS, OTHER COUNTERFEIT GOODS AT LOS ANGELES AND LONG BEACH SEAPORT**

**Link:** <https://lbpost.com/news/fake-viagra-counterfeit-goods-port>

U.S. Customs officials today announced a seizure of 25,000 fake Viagra pills at the Los Angeles and Long Beach seaport, along with more than 5,100 pieces of apparel knockoffs of a wide range of brands including Gucci and Nike, and nearly 930 counterfeit makeup and perfume items. The merchandise, which was seized last month, has a street value of about \$3.5 million, according to Customs and Border Protection officials. "CBP is committed to detecting, intercepting and seizing contraband and dangerous imports arriving at our Greater Los Angeles Area ports of entry every day," said Carlos Martel, the agency's director of field operations in LA. "Not only do counterfeits damage the American economy, such goods can threaten the health and safety of consumers."

## **2. R1 MILLION IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS SEIZED IN NELSON MANDELA BAY**

**Link:** <https://www.algoafm.co.za/local/r1-million-in-counterfeit-goods-seized-in-nelson-mandela-bay>

Sea Border police have confiscated more than R1 million worth of counterfeit goods in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro. Eastern Cape Police spokesperson, Colonel Sibongile Soci, says members received information on Tuesday regarding the sale of counterfeit goods from different shops in the Metro. A joint operation between members of Ngqura Sea Port and staff from Spoor and Fisher patent attorneys was conducted and a large quantity of fake good was recovered from three stores across the city. Colonel Soci said all the goods were seized after being confirmed by the patent attorneys to be counterfeit and were handed over to the licensed warehouse for destruction. Eastern Cape Provincial Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General Liziwe Ntshinga, said fake and counterfeit products pose a serious risk to the country's economy as South Africa loses significant tax revenue due to the illicit trade.

## **3. WOMEN NABBED FOR ONLINE SALE OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS, OVER \$24K WORTH OF ITEMS SEIZED IN SINGAPORE**

**Link:** <https://stomp.straitstimes.com/singapore-seen/3-women-nabbed-for-online-sale-of-counterfeit-goods-over-24k-worth-of-items-seized>

Three women, aged between 23 and 57, were arrested on Monday (Oct 26) for their suspected involvement in online sales of counterfeit goods. The police said in a statement that officers from the Criminal Investigation Department conducted simultaneous raids at various locations island-wide, resulting in the arrests. "During the operation, more than 690 pieces of trademark-infringing goods comprising handbags, apparel, footwear and accessories with an estimated street value of more than S\$24,000 were seized," said the police. Preliminary investigations revealed that one of the women had allegedly procured the counterfeit goods from foreign sources and had offered them for sale through social media.

## **4. CUSTOMS OFFICERS SEIZE OVER \$500K IN COUNTERFEIT MONEY AT AREA PORT OF CHICAGO**

**Link:** <https://wgntv.com/news/chicago-news/customs-officers-seize-over-500k-in-counterfeit-money-at-area-port-of-chicago/>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers seized over \$500,000 in counterfeit money over the weekend at the Area Port of Chicago. On Friday night, officers at the International Mail Facility, located at the port, inspected a parcel that was coming from Ukraine and heading to Joliet. Officer said the shipment was full of counterfeit money that totaled \$298,160. On Saturday, officers seized another package from Ukraine totaling \$272,220 in counterfeit money. Each of the counterfeit bills were \$20.

## **5. CUSTOMS OFFICIAL IN ERLANGER SEIZE COUNTERFEIT WATCHES WORTH MORE THAN \$8.8M IF THEY WERE AUTHENTIC**

**Link:** <https://www.nkytribune.com/2020/10/customs-officials-in-erlanger-seize-counterfeit-watches-worth-more-than-8-8-million-if-real/>

Counterfeit watches that would have been worth more than \$8.8 million if they were authentic were seized by Customs and Border Patrol officers at their Port of Cincinnati office located in Erlanger. The 11 counterfeit Richard Millie watches originated from Hong Kong and were destined to an individual in New Orleans, Louisiana. This seizure is part of CBP's ongoing initiative aimed at protecting U.S. businesses and consumers from unfair Chinese trade practices, known as Operation Mega Flex. This operation has yielded more than 4,200 seizures of illicit goods and 2,400 agricultural violations over the past 15 months.

#### **6. BLUETOOTH SPEAKERS, CHAINSAWS SEIZED BY CBP AT INTERNATIONAL FALLS PORT OF ENTRY**

**Link:** [https://www.ifallsjournal.com/news/local/bluetooth-speakers-chainsaws-seized-by-cbp-at-international-falls-port-of-entry/article\\_c6e23357-052c-5ace-8e4f-d4645226ba6b.html](https://www.ifallsjournal.com/news/local/bluetooth-speakers-chainsaws-seized-by-cbp-at-international-falls-port-of-entry/article_c6e23357-052c-5ace-8e4f-d4645226ba6b.html)

Bluetooth speakers and chainsaws in a rail car destined for Ranier were seized earlier this month by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, who targeted the containers. Officers Monday seized 254 chainsaws with a domestic value of \$34,423. The chainsaws that were in violation of the EPA Clean Air Act. The Bluetooth speakers were discovered by officers Oct. 22, and were in violation of intellectual property rights (IPR) regulations. The 2,000 speakers had an estimated manufacturer's suggested retail price of \$139,800, if the goods had been genuine.

#### **7. FOUR PEOPLE CHARGED IN \$200K FAKE US COAST GUARD CREDENTIALING SCHEME**

**Link:** <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/four-people-charged-in-200k-fake-us-coast-guard-credentialing-scheme>

Four individuals have been charged in a scheme to sell phony US Coast Guard merchant mariner credentials, according to the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia. The grand jury indictment alleges that the scheme netted over \$200,000 in profits from the production and sale of the counterfeit certificates to over 150 mariners. Beginning in July 2016 and continuing through at least the end of 2019, it is alleged that the four individuals devised a scheme to defraud and to obtain money falsely by "creating counterfeit course certificates from the Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy (MAMA) and selling them directly to individual mariners seeking various merchant mariner seafarer qualifications." The certificates were submitted to the US Coast Guard and shipping lines as proof of completion of required training.

#### **8. EU ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE BUSTS MAFIA ABUSE OF EU AGRICULTURE FUNDS**

**Link:** <https://www.eureporter.co/frontpage/2020/10/28/eu-anti-fraud-office-busts-mafia-abuse-of-eu-agriculture-funds/>

48 people were arrested as a result of the operation, code-named *Grande Carro*, Italian for Big Dipper. Charges against those arrested included the offence of mafia-type criminal association, money laundering, extortion, intimidation, kidnapping, illegal detention of firearms and explosives, and fraud, making Big Dipper a vast operation against organised crime. As part of their case, Italian authorities discovered that the criminal group – called Società Foggiana – had stepped up into a sophisticated fraud scheme at the expense of EU funds. OLAF initiated investigations and proved that the group had committed fraud against EU agricultural funds for rural development worth some €9.5m.

#### **9. 27 ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FRAUD IN TORRANCE SINCE SEPTEMBER 10**

**Link:** <https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2020/10/28/torrance-people-arrested-unemployment-benefits-fraud-edd/>

More than two dozen people have been arrested in Torrance since Sept. 10 for alleged unemployment benefits fraud and identity theft, police reported Wednesday. According to Sgt. Alexander Martinez of the Torrance Police Department, the 27 suspects used stolen identities to obtain California Employment Development Department unemployment benefits, and 130 EDD cards were recovered, along with \$150,000 and four handguns, including two without serial numbers. "Most debit cards were issued in third parties' names, including identity theft victims, with a value of up to \$20,000," Martinez said. "The suspects possessed numerous cards and would often use the cards to make high-end purchases and make cash withdrawals from ATMs."

#### **10. 60 CHARGED IN MASSIVE ELDER MAGAZINE FRAUD SCAM IN MINNEAPOLIS**

**Link:** <https://www.kare11.com/article/money/consumer/60-charged-in-massive-elder-fraud-scam/89-5dfd35e2-3132-4148-8631-cbb2856e6457>

Calling it the "largest elder fraud scheme in the nation," U.S. Attorney Erica MacDonald on Wednesday announced three separate indictments charging 60 defendants for their roles in a telemarketing scheme worth an estimated \$300 million. The charges filed against the defendants include conspiracy, mail fraud, wire fraud, and violating the Senior Citizens Against Marketing Scams Act of 1994 (the SCAMS Act). "More than 150,000 elderly and vulnerable victims across the United States have been identified in what is essentially a criminal class action," said MacDonald. "Unfortunately, we live in a world where fraudsters are willing to take advantage of seniors, who are often trusting and polite."



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