

WATCHLIST – FRAUDS THIS WEEK



FRIDAY 14th AUGUST 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

INDIA

1. COUNTERFEIT MASKS WORTH Rs. 90,000 SEIZED BY AHMEDABAD POLICE
2. Rs. 5 CRORE LED SCAM ROCKS GHAZIABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION(GMC)
3. TWO MORE FAKE CALL CENTRES BUSTED, NINE HELD IN KOLKATA
4. AXIS BANK, KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK ALLEGE Rs 1,204-CRORE FRAUD BY COX & KINGS
5. 67 INDIAN BANK ACCOUNTS UNDER SCANNER OVER EMBEZZLEMENT FRAUD IN BRAZIL FROZEN BY ED
6. FAKE E-PASSES; COMPUTER CENTRE SEALED IN TIRUVANNAMALAI
7. 50 FAKE AGENCIES BUSTED IN KARNATAKA
8. FAKE APPLE ITEMS WORTH Rs. 13.8L SEIZED AT GEETA MANDIR MARKET IN NEW DELHI
9. 3 DERA BASSI UNITS RAIDED POST MAJHA ILLICIT LIQUOR DEATHS
10. VAN TRANSPORTING 100 LITRES OF ILLICIT LIQUOR SEIZED, TWO HELD IN ANDHRA PRADESH

INTERNATIONAL

1. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PATROL AGENTS SEIZE MORE THAN \$83k IN COUNTERFEIT LOUIS VUITTON, MAC PRODUCTS IN NEW ORLEANS
2. SEIZURE OF MORE THAN 151,000 COUNTERFEIT FACE MASKS BEARING THE "3M" MARK IN VIETNAM
3. COUNTERFEIT PILL OPERATION BUSTED AT N.J. APARTMENT, \$1M IN FENTANYL SEIZED
4. HOOSIER CLAIMS INDIANA PAID OUT \$10,000 IN FRAUDULENT CLAIM
5. \$4.3 MILLION IN FAKE AIR JORDANS, NIKE AND ADIDAS SHOES SEIZED IN TEXAS
6. MEXICO SEIZES NEARLY 500 POUNDS OF FENTANYL FROM SPAIN
7. INDIANA MEN ALLEGEDLY USED \$1,200 IN COUNTERFEIT MONEY AT SIX FLAGS IN EUREKA
8. VALUEWISE CEO PLEADS GUILTY TO \$100M FRAUD THAT LEFT COMPANIES, WORKERS ON THE HOOK
9. PHARMACY EXEC PLEADS GUILTY IN \$50M DRUG FRAUD SCAM TARGETING NJ'S PUBLIC WORKERS
10. KRA WARNS AGAINST ALCOHOL COUNTERFEITS, GOES AFTER ROGUE PLAYERS

INDIA

1. COUNTERFEIT MASKS WORTH Rs. 90,000 SEIZED BY AHMEDABAD POLICE

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/counterfeit-masks-worth-rs-90k-seized-by-city-police/articleshow/77451737.cms>

In the times of Covid-19, unscrupulous elements are using every means to prey on people. After detecting fake injections and drugs, city police have now busted a racket making counterfeit masks of a branded company. Bapunagar police on Saturday detained four persons, Kiran Jethwa, 32, of Vastral, Kamlesh Mehta, 50, of Sabarmati, Niraj Bhatia, 37, of Sabarmati and Ghanshyam Nagrahu of Chiloda in the case. Kamlesh Gangwani of Hansol, who used to market the counterfeit masks is absconding.

2. Rs. 5 CRORE LED SCAM ROCKS GHAZIABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION(GMC)

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ghaziabad/rs-5-crore-led-scam-rocks-gmc/articleshow/77472808.cms>

BJP councillor Rajender Tyagi has alleged that the urban development has cleared the dues of a private firm blacklisted by the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation (GMC) without informing the civic body. The firm, responsible for installing LED lights, was blacklisted after GMC found irregularities in the work done by it. GMC has taken note of Tyagi's allegations and is now planning to write to the urban development department. Tyagi alleged that the scam was perpetrated by the firm in connivance with the department's officials and he has also written to the chief minister demanding a probe into the matter.

3. TWO MORE FAKE CALL CENTRES BUSTED, NINE HELD IN KOLKATA

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/two-more-fake-call-centres-busted-nine-held/articleshow/77513210.cms>

Barely 24 hours after history-sheeter SK Vinod was arrested by Regent Park police for allegedly running an illegal call centre at Azadgarh, the detective department sleuths have busted two more fake call centres operating from Pratapaditya Road in Tollygunge and the other at the Metropolitan Cooperative Building, Pragati Maidan on Tuesday night. Nine people were arrested so far during the raids. Joint CP (crime) Murlidhar Sharma said cops had raided the illegal call centre on Pratapaditya Road and nabbed five people, Sandip Kumar Shaw (35), Farad Rabbani (36), Md. Izaz Khan (31), Md. Shoaib Yousuf (26) and Shanu Singh (24).

4. AXIS BANK, KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK ALLEGE Rs 1,204-CRORE FRAUD BY COX & KINGS

Link: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/axis-bank-kotak-mahindra-bank-allege-rs-1204-crore-fraud-by-cox-kings-report-5667551.html>

Allegations of fraud worth Rs 1,204 crore against Cox & Kings, made by Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank, are under investigation by the Mumbai Police's economic offences wing (EOW). Ajay Peter Kerkar, Director and Group CEO of Cox & Kings, told The Times of India the investigation "is an inquiry". Axis Bank in its complaint alleged that some office bearers of Cox & Kings and its sister-concerns cheated the bank of Rs 1,030 crore after availing loans, which were not repaid.

5. 67 INDIAN BANK ACCOUNTS UNDER SCANNER OVER EMBEZZLEMENT FRAUD IN BRAZIL FROZEN BY ED

Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/67-indian-bank-accounts-under-scanner-over-embezzlement-fraud-in-brazil-frozen-by-ed/story-tYzhpGVBWJWnGechqAzBeI.html>

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) informed the Delhi high court on Thursday that it froze 67 bank accounts of various Indian businessmen and companies in India on the request of Brazil, where a provincial governor is under investigation for embezzling funds. The ED has informed the court that it acted on mutual legal agreement between both countries but it hasn't filed any case in the matter. The agency was responding to a plea filed by advocate Vijay Aggarwal on behalf of company Hamilton Housewares, whose account was frozen by the ED last month along with other individuals/companies.

6. FAKE E-PASSES; COMPUTER CENTRE SEALED IN TIRUVANNAMALAI

Link: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2020/aug/12/fake-e-passes-computer-centre-sealed-2182222.html>

Officials from the Revenue Department sealed a computer centre on Kattabomman Street for allegedly issuing fake e-passes, on Monday night. Materials were seized from the centre and a search is on to nab those who were behind it, sources said. Another case Officials are also probing into posts regarding quick distribution of e-passes found on the Facebook account of a person. The account, which was in the name of Vikram Raja, had posts claiming that e-passes would be provided within an hour for destinations such as Bengaluru, Puducherry and Kerala, sources said. Investigation is underway in both these cases, sources added.

7. 50 FAKE AGENCIES BUSTED IN KARNATAKA

Link: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2020/aug/11/50-fake-agencies-may-sour-your-foreign-job-dream-2181700.html>

The office of the Protector of Emigrants (PoE) in Bengaluru has written to all the district police chiefs in Karnataka alerting them about 50 fake foreign recruitment agents/agencies, which are trapping gullible people wishing to go overseas for employment. There are 16 registered foreign employment agencies in Karnataka, the names of which can be found at the emigrate.gov.in. Of the 50 illegal agents/agencies, 17 operate in Mangaluru, 11 in Bengaluru, four in Belagavi, three in Shivamogga, two in Hassan, one each in Dharwad, Udupi, Davangere and Haveri districts. Besides these, nine other illegal foreign recruitment agents/agencies are spread across the State. "There could be many more such fake foreign recruiting entities in the State, which are yet to be unearthed," said an official source.

8. FAKE APPLE ITEMS WORTH Rs. 13.8L SEIZED AT GEETA MANDIR MARKET IN NEW DELHI

Link: <https://ahmedabadmirror.indiatimes.com/ahmedabad/crime/fake-apple-items-worth-rs-13-8l-seized/articleshow/77438127.cms>

Officials of the Prevention of Crime Branch (PCB) raided four shops in the mobile market at Geeta Mandir and seized a huge consignment of duplicate products of Apple brand worth around Rs. 13.8 lakh. The team was on patrol in Geeta Mandir area on Friday when they received a tip-off about sale of duplicate products of the brand at four mobile shops in the area. They went and raided the stores- Core Telecom, Parmeshwari Mobile Accessories, Shree Nagnechi Mobile Accessories and Bhavani Mobile Accessories. They found that duplicate products being sold as original after pasting stickers of the brand.

9. 3 DERA BASSI UNITS RAIDED POST MAJHA ILLICIT LIQUOR DEATHS

Link: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/punjab/3-dera-bassi-units-raided-post-majha-illicit-liquor-deaths-124497>

The Excise and Taxation Department today raided three chemical units in Dera Bassi and seized 27,600 litres of illicit chemical containing alcohol. The department claimed it to be the biggest haul ever. The raids come after the spurious liquor deaths in Punjab's three Majha districts. Four persons, including the owners of the firms, were arrested. Those named in the FIR are KP Singh and AK Chaudhary, Allychem Chemicals directors, Gaurav Chaudhary, the proprietor of Om Solvi Trading Co, and Jagmohan Arora, the proprietor of Pure Chemicals.

10. VAN TRANSPORTING 100 LITRES OF ILLICIT LIQUOR SEIZED, TWO HELD IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Link: <http://www.uniindia.com/van-transporting-100-liters-of-illicit-liquor-seized-two-held-in-ap/south/news/2108098.html>

The Jaggampet police on a tip off, intercepted a minivan near the police station on the national highway on Tuesday and detected 100 litres of illicit liquor packets being clandestinely transported to Kakinada. Two alleged smugglers were arrested and the van along with the liquor was seized. The names of the arrested were given as Zeenu Virababu of Chollangi village and Yarrapuneedi Lovaraju in Matlapalem.

INTERNATIONAL

1. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PATROL AGENTS SEIZE MORE THAN \$83k IN COUNTERFEIT LOUIS VUITTON, MAC PRODUCTS IN NEW ORLEANS

Link: <https://www.wafb.com/2020/08/10/customs-border-patrol-agents-seize-more-than-k-counterfeit-louis-vuitton-mac-products/>

Officers with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the Port of New Orleans seized more than \$83,000 worth of counterfeit Louis Vuitton and Mac products on Aug. 6. Agents say the products came from an express consignment facility. CBP says officers found 75 Gucci and Hermes belts, Louis Vuitton duffel bags, backpacks, wallets, and purses, as well as ten Mac brush kits. All of the items were seized for bearing counterfeit trademarks.

2. SEIZURE OF MORE THAN 151,000 COUNTERFEIT FACE MASKS BEARING THE "3M" MARK IN VIETNAM

Link: <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=9b1f8776-2ac8-4b89-bd9a-773a8d5eed1f>

Vietnam Directorate of Market Surveillance, the Ho Chi Minh City Market Surveillance Department and Team 368 coordinated to conduct a surprise raid at a factory in Binh Chanh District, Ho Chi Minh City after more than 10 days of tracking. This factory belonged to Nam Anh Equipment Trading Production Company Limited, with the head office located in Tan Phu District, Ho Chi Minh City. The raid resulted in the seizure of 120 carton boxes containing more than 151,000 counterfeit face masks bearing the "3M" mark- a registered trademark of 3M Company from the United States. These products were expected to be consumed nationwide.

3. COUNTERFEIT PILL OPERATION BUSTED AT N.J. APARTMENT, \$1M IN FENTANYL SEIZED

Link: <https://www.nj.com/bergen/2020/08/counterfeit-pill-operation-busted-at-nj-apartment-1m-in-fentanyl-seized.html>

A medical call in East Rutherford Wednesday led to the discovery of a fake pill mill using raw fentanyl, the arrest of eight people and the seizure of over a million dollars' worth of drugs, cash proceeds and luxury items, authorities said. The Bergen County Prosecutor's Office said police discovered the incredibly strong opioid fentanyl, cutting agents and a pill press they believe was being used to create counterfeit Oxycodone and Percocet pills, less potent opioids. Prosecutor Mark Musella said counterfeit pills like the ones discovered have contributed to a "surge of overdoses the tri-state area in recent months."

4. HOOSIER CLAIMS INDIANA PAID OUT \$10,000 IN FRAUDULENT CLAIM

Link: <https://www.wthr.com/article/news/investigations/13-investigates/hoosier-claims-indiana-paid-out-10000-in-fraudulent-claim/531-463b86cb-4ae4-4a57-a812-236a1c996d75>

The state agency in charge of Indiana's unemployment is tight-lipped about a federal investigation into millions of dollars stolen by scammers. But suspected victims from across the state are speaking out and sharing disturbing details about the fraud. 13 Investigates first reported on the shutdowns and warnings at the Department of Workforce Development in July.

5. \$4.3 MILLION IN FAKE AIR JORDANS, NIKE AND ADIDAS SHOES SEIZED IN TEXAS

Link: <https://www.ksat.com/news/local/2020/08/12/43-million-in-fake-air-jordans-nike-and-adidas-shoes-seized-in-texas/>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers seized more than \$4.3 million in counterfeit footwear from China this week, including hundreds of pairs of fake limited-edition Air Jordans. A press release from CBP officials says the shipment was headed to Mexico and contained "several pairs of limited-edition basketball shoes that retail for \$2,000 per pair." More than 1,800 pairs of counterfeit limited edition "Dior X Air Jordan 1" shoes were seized at the Dallas/Fort Worth port of entry in addition to shoes bearing the registered trademark logos for Nike and Adidas.

6. MEXICO SEIZES NEARLY 500 POUNDS OF FENTANYL FROM SPAIN

Link: <https://www.news18.com/news/world/mexico-seizes-nearly-500-pounds-of-fentanyl-from-spain-2781929.html>

Mexican customs authorities said Wednesday they have seized almost 500 pounds (220 kilograms) of a chemical used to make the synthetic opioid fentanyl at a cargo terminal at the Mexico City airport. The six plastic drums of fentanyl precursor came on a flight from Spain, an unusual source for the drug. Authorities said the shipment was detected by a trained dog. It was another sign that Mexican traffickers may be having a harder time getting their hands-on fentanyl and precursors from their usual suppliers in Asia.

7. INDIANA MEN ALLEGEDLY USED \$1,200 IN COUNTERFEIT MONEY AT SIX FLAGS IN EUREKA

Link: https://www.myleaderpaper.com/news/police_fire/indiana-men-allegedly-used-1-200-in-counterfeit-money-at-six-flags-in-eureka/article_ba35d3b2-dc1b-11ea-937b-132894e397ac.html

A 20-year-old man and a 28-year-old man, both of Indiana, were arrested at about 6:30 p.m. July 19 for allegedly using counterfeit money at the Six Flags amusement park, Eureka Police reported. Police were called to the park at 4900 Six Flags Road in Eureka after the men reportedly used 12 counterfeit \$100 bills at numerous locations throughout the park. The men allegedly collected \$718 in change

after the dozen transactions, and one of the men allegedly was found with a counterfeit \$100 bill in his wallet, the report said.

8. VALUEWISE CEO PLEADS GUILTY TO \$100M FRAUD THAT LEFT COMPANIES, WORKERS ON THE HOOK

Link: <https://www.foxbusiness.com/money/valuewise-ceo-pleads-guilty-fraud>

ValueWise CEO Michael Mann pled guilty Wednesday to orchestrating a years-long fraud that caused more than \$100 million in losses to banks, financing companies and other businesses, according to the Justice Department. U.S. Attorney Grant C. Jaquith for the Northern District of New York and Thomas F. Relford, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Albany field office, brought the charges against Mann. Mann is slated to be sentenced in December to two years in federal prison on the aggravated identity theft conviction and faces maximum terms of three years for filing a false tax return, 20 years for wire fraud conspiracy, and 30 years for bank fraud.

9. PHARMACY EXEC PLEADS GUILTY IN \$50M DRUG FRAUD SCAM TARGETING NJ'S PUBLIC WORKERS

Link: <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/pharmacy-exec-pleads-guilty-in-50m-drug-fraud-scam-targeting-njs-public-workers/2565187/>

A central figure in a \$50 million prescription drug fraud scheme that used public employees in New Jersey pleaded guilty Wednesday. Hayley Taff, CEO of Louisiana-based Central Rexall Drugs, admitted her role in a scam in which public-sector employees in New Jersey were recruited to get expensive compound, or specialty, prescriptions they didn't need and hadn't been prescribed. Wednesday marked the first time the pharmacy or Taff had been identified, though earlier indictments had referred to an unidentified Louisiana-based pharmacy. The 37-year-old Hammond, Louisiana, resident took more than \$1.5 million from the scam, according to the U.S. attorney's office. She pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit health care fraud, which carries a maximum 10-year prison sentence. Taff also agreed to forfeit more than \$1.5 million.

10. KRA WARNS AGAINST ALCOHOL COUNTERFEITS, GOES AFTER ROGUE PLAYERS

Link: <https://www.the-star.co.ke/business/kenya/2020-08-13-kra-warns-against-alcohol-counterfeits-goes-after-rogue-players/>

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has heightened market surveillance and crackdown on fake and counterfeited alcoholic products which are putting public health at risk, undercutting genuine players and denying the taxman revenues. Deputy Commissioner policy and tax advisory-Domestic Taxes Department-Caxton Masudi has said rogue players took advantage of the Covid-19 to manufacture fake products. This, as KRA withdrew some of its market surveillance and enforcement officers from the field to reduce exposure to the virus.



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