

Police Officers Training, Pune

Capacity Building Programme

Police Officers join hands with FICCI CASCADE to fight the menace of Smuggling and Counterfeiting

Over a period of time, trade in counterfeiting and smuggling has developed into a substantial threat to the economy globally. The implication of this menace is manifold as it impacts industries, consumers, government and economies as a whole. So far there has not been any rigorous empirical work on the forces affecting the market with such crimes. This challenge of the time needs to be addressed at a priority with effective enforcement of laws as a key to curb the menace. With a view to highlight the importance of this global threat, FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) organised a police training programme on February 27, 2015 in Pune as a part of its capacity building programme. FICCI CASCADE has been sensitizing enforcement officers on this issue, equipping them to understand and take requisite action against counterfeiters and smugglers.

The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Joint Commissioner of Police, Pune. In his address, he discussed the increase in the smuggling and counterfeiting related crimes at a more rapid rate than the conventional crimes. Mr. Kumar said that "There has been an increase in copyright related crimes, which are dangerous as someone dealing with copyright infringement results in creation of black money creating voluminous parallel economy. This parallel economy is more powerful than the real economy and is endearing the society. Confusion among police officers about law on infringement and violation of intellectual property rights needs to be overcome." He also added that unless we have safe borders, foolproof internal security and better policing, one cannot address the issue of duplication and cybercrimes. He further added that the biggest loophole is that we fail to understand the ramifications of counterfeiting and smuggling.

Mr. Deep Chand, Rtd. Special Commissioner of Police, Delhi and Advisor FICCI CASCADE underlined the fact that Section 28 of the Indian Penal Code can help keep a track on supply of duplicate products. "With the globalization of trades, the problem has turned into a global epidemic", Mr. Chand said. He added that most terrorist activities are funded by such illicit market and the primary law enforcement agency must ensure effective enforcement of laws. He highlighted the loss suffered by the center to the tune of more than Rs. 26,190 crore in 2012 due to counterfeiting and smuggling and industry loss of Rs. 72,969 crore according to FICCI CASCADE study on Socio-economic impact of counterfeiting and smuggling in seven key sectors.

Eminent speakers from the industry and legal experts also discussed and deliberated on various aspects police officer needs to keep in mind while investigating cases of smuggling and counterfeiting. The training programme was enthusiastically attended by over 90 officers, the programme observed a deliberate discussion and an interactive platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences in the enforcement of laws and practices while dealing with counterfeiters and smugglers.