

# ▶ NEWSLETTER

March 2023

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



**Anil Rajput**

Chairman  
FICCI CASCADE

I am delighted to present this edition of the FICCI CASCAD E (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) newsletter, which highlights our activities over the past few months, brings the latest news, and shares thought pieces. FICCI CASCAD E is perhaps the only forum in India that has been dedicatedly working for over a decade now with the policy makers, enforcement agencies, industry, media, and general consumers, including the youth of the country, to generate large-scale awareness and deep dive into issues to provide effective strategies to mitigate the mounting challenge of smuggling and counterfeiting.

In a pioneering feat, FICCI CASCAD E, in 2022, took the lead and launched Anti-Smuggling Day on 11 February. I am happy to share that in order to bring the much-needed attention to this critical issue and reinforce our commitment to raise awareness and foster collaboration, CASCAD E successfully organized the second edition of Anti-Smuggling Day on 11 February 2023 in New Delhi. Addressing the programme, Mr. Mohan Kumar Singh, Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence extended his wholehearted support to the initiative and rightly emphasized that the threat of smuggling is dynamic in nature and has grave social implications which makes all of us deeply cognizant of our roles and responsibilities in combating this problem.

The conference was also addressed by senior official from World Customs Organization (WCO), Appellate Tribunal-SAFEMA, National Investigation Agency, Border Security Force, Indian Coast Guard, Australian High Commission, United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), US Homeland Security along with policy makers from the Indian government and industry leaders. I am sure that the deliberations will be instrumental in bringing international and domestic cooperation to battle this global bane.

The event also saw the release of the publication titled, 'Regulatory Interventions and Illicit Trade across Borders' which has aimed to create data and evidence-based empirical reasoning, in the Indian context, for understanding how various tariff and non-tariff measures affect illicit trade in the six key

industries namely-FMCG Packaged Foods, FMCG Household & Personal Goods, Consumer Electronics, Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco Products and Mobile Phones.

Among other activities, CASCAD E in the last few months has been strengthening its engagement with stakeholders through several seminars, police trainings, youth awareness programmes across the length and breadth of the country, creating a national movement on this subject. States have been a key component in this movement. Thiru. R. SAKKARAPANI, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Tamil Nadu, Shri Amarjeet Bhagat, Hon'ble Minister of Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Protection, Planning Economic and Statistics, Culture, Government of Chhattisgarh and Shri Samir Kumar Mahaseth, Industry Minister, Government of Bihar addressed our recent state programmes in Chennai, Patna and Raipur and extended their enthusiastic support to CASCAD E.

While on one hand policy interventions are imperative, on the other hand, awareness amongst consumer, especially the youth is fundamental to address this problem. With the objective of empowering our future consumers & creating a learning ecosystem that can nurture youngsters to fight against this menace, FICCI CASCAD E saw an enthusiastic participation of around 900 students from different schools of Bihar and Chhattisgarh during our youth focussed activities.

We also made great strides in working with enforcement agencies across the nation. In the last few months, CASCAD E organized capacity building programmes for the police officers of Lucknow, Goa and Chhattisgarh, where over 600 officers from different states were sensitized on this subject. The programmes were addressed by several dignitaries including Mr. Nilabja Chaudhary, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police, Crime and Hq, Lucknow, Mr. Jaspal Singh, IPS, Director General of Police, Goa and Mr. Ratan Lal Dangi IPS, Director, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose State Police Academy, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

It is indeed heartening to see the constant thrust of Assam Rifles in protecting our country from infiltration of illicit goods across our borders. A capacity building programme for

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the officers of Assam Rifle officers was organised by CASCADE at Dimapur, Nagaland where over 500 officers took part in the engaging and productive session. Brigadier S K Sheoran, YSM, SM, Deputy Inspector General, Assam Rifles Training Centre and School, Dimapur, Nagaland, chief guest at the programme while emphasising on the need for stringent punishment to curtail this problem, assured that the officers of the force will continue to strengthen the fight against illicit trade.

To highlight the enormity of this problem, we have been tracking the media coverage through our monthly Media Monitor, which highlights the seizure carried out across India for various illegal, tax evaded, smuggled & counterfeit goods. Our valiant officers from different enforcement agencies have been showing exceptional skills in investigating, seizing and apprehending illicit goods and illicit trading activities. FICCI CASCADE has been congratulating the officials and issuing statements applauding them for their exemplary work.

Our hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has said that 'a

safe and secure world is our shared responsibility and that when the forces of good cooperate, the forces of crime cannot operate'. It is my firm conviction that developing systemic measures through synergy and concerted efforts will go a long way in addressing the detrimental impact of this illegal business. We have been receiving a great deal of support from all quarters which keeps us motivated to work with even greater zeal in addressing this socio-economic scourge.

I'm confident that you will find this issue of the newsletter a meaningful read. I also look forward to your comments and feedback, for any improvements, if required for our future endeavours.

Jai Hind

**Anil Rajput**

Chairman

FICCI CASCADE



## NEWS FLASH

**millenniumpost**

### DRI seizes contraband of over ₹1,000 cr every month: DG, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

*'Smuggling is carried out in our country by the land, sea and air route via different modes- containers, porous borders, usage of sophisticated means'*

**NEW DELHI:** Mohan Kumar Singh, Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) while addressing at FICCI CASCADE 'Anti-Smuggling Day' event said, "For DRI every day is an Anti-Smuggling Day. The enormity of the issue of smuggling can be gauged from the fact that DRI seizes more than Rs 1,000 crore of contraband every month. Smuggling is carried out in our country by the land, sea and air route via different modes- containers, porous borders, usage of sophisticated means by smugglers etc."

Applauding FICCI CASCADE Singh said, "Today, smugglers are using sophisticated methods and technologies to smuggle goods across international borders. This kind of illicit trade in terms of counterfeiting and smuggling is a global

risk that has negative impacts on economic activities, deprives governments of revenue, forces a high burden on taxpayers, exposes customers to dangerous products and provides linkages to terrorism. Think Tanks like FICCI CASCADE can play an important role in generating fresh ideas, creating awareness and highlighting the problems of smuggling and counterfeiting."

Over the years, FICCI CASCADE has been working on creating awareness on tackling the grave problem of smuggling and launched Anti-Smuggling Day in 2022 as a global first. The objective of declaring an Anti-Smuggling Day was to highlight the issue amongst consumers and how smuggling is impacting nation-building, enhance coordination and cooperation between

law enforcement agencies, facilitate better exchange of information and experiences and build a strong network to find innovative solutions to combat the menace of smuggling.

P K Das, Director, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, World Customs Organisation (WCO) said, "As per UNCTAD smuggling drains 3 per cent of the world's economy and results in a loss of 2 trillion dollars. To address smuggling the WCO has unveiled a three-year strategic plan (2022-25) with a focus in the areas of illicit trade. WCO has also launched a data strategy to nurture and reengineer new processes, incorporate modern disruptive technologies like artificial intelligence, blockchain, machine learning, drone, robotics etc." Highlighting the importance of sharing best practices

to tackle smuggling, Das added, "Advanced analytics used by CBIC to detect fraud in indirect taxation domain in India was showcased to WCO members as part of disseminating best practices. WCO also has been applying technology to improve the seamless flow of information and statistics. Real-time intelligence sharing amongst custom agencies is also being done."

Speaking on the importance of Anti-Smuggling Day, Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE said, "A year ago, on this day, FICCI CASCADE, took the lead and marked the launch of Anti-Smuggling Day on February 11. On that day we pledged to leave no stone unturned in raising awareness and resolved to take concerted action against this multifaceted adversary."

MPOST

### Customs, Assam Rifles recover foreign cigarettes worth over Rs 1 cr from Mizoram

2 February, 2023 11:14 am IST

Champhai (Mizoram) [India], February 2 (ANI): In yet another success in its crusade against smuggling activities, the Serchhip Battalion of 23 Sector Assam Rifles recovered 77 Cases of Foreign-origin cigarettes worth Rs 1.155 Crore near Melbuk Xg at Zokhawthar on Wednesday, according to an official statement. The operation was carried out by a combined team of Assam Rifles and Customs Department, LCS Zokhawthar based on specific information under Inspector General Assam Rifles (East).

The approximate cost of the recovered Foreign Origin Cigarette is 1.155 Crore, informed the officials. The seized consignment was handed over to Customs Department, LCS Zokhawthar on Wednesday for further legal proceedings, the statement said.

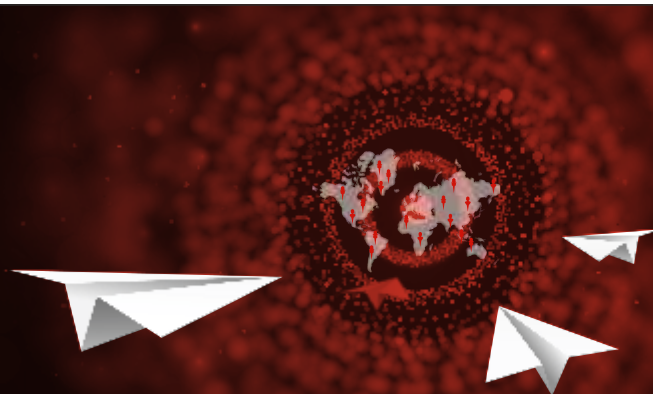
<https://theprint.in/india/customs-assam-rifles-recover-foreign-cigarettes-worth-over-rs-1-cr-from-mizoram/1349329/>



The seized foreign cigarettes (Photo/ANI)

# RECENT INITIATIVES

## ANTI SMUGGLING DAY 11 February 2023 The Lalit, New Delhi



Smuggling is a global problem, impacting countries and regions across the globe. Governments around the world have taken various decisive measures to combat smuggling, including strengthening border security, implementing stricter trade regulations, and increasing international cooperation to disrupt criminal networks. However, smuggling continues to be a significant challenge that needs immediate attention. In order to address the critical issue of smuggling and reinforce our commitment to raise awareness and foster collaboration CASCADE successfully organized the **second edition of Anti-Smuggling Day on 11th February 2023** in New Delhi.

**Mr. Mohan Kumar Singh**, Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) was the chief guest at the programme. While addressing the conference he highlighted that the enormity of smuggling can be gauged from the fact that DRI seizes more than Rs 1,000 crore of contraband every month, the majority being narcotics and drugs. Smuggling is carried out in our country by the land, sea and air route via different modes- containers, porous borders, usage of sophisticated means by smugglers etc. Mr. Singh cited that today, smugglers are using sophisticated methods and technologies to smuggle goods across



“**The threat of Smuggling is of dynamic nature, and has grave social implications, which makes us deeply cognizant of our roles and responsibilities**”

international borders. Illicit trade in terms of counterfeiting and smuggling is a global risk that has negative impacts on economic activities, deprives governments of revenue, forces a high burden on taxpayers, exposes customers to



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dangerous products and provides linkages to terrorism. He emphasized that the Think Tanks like FICCI CASCADE can play an important role in generating fresh ideas, creating awareness, and highlighting the problems of smuggling.

**Mr. P K Das**, Director, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, World Customs Organisation (WCO) in the keynote address mentioned that as per UNCTAD smuggling drains 3 per cent of the world's economy and results in a loss of 2 trillion dollars. Mr. Das opined that to address smuggling WCO has unveiled a three-year strategic plan (2022-25) with a focus in the areas of illicit trade. WCO has also launched a data strategy to nurture and reengineer new processes, incorporate modern disruptive technologies like artificial intelligence, blockchain, machine learning, drone, robotics etc. Highlighting the importance of sharing best practices to tackle smuggling, Mr. Das shared his insights on the advanced analytics used by CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs) to detect fraud in indirect taxation domain in India which was showcased to WCO members as part of disseminating best practices. WCO has been applying technology to improve the seamless flow of information and statistics and real-time intelligence sharing amongst custom agencies.

Speaking on the importance of Anti-Smuggling Day,



**Mr. Anil Rajput**, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE stated that a year ago, on this day, FICCI CASCADE, took the lead and marked the launch of Anti-Smuggling Day on 11th February. On that day we pledged to leave no stone unturned in raising awareness and resolved to take concerted action against this multi-faceted adversary. Mr. Rajput urged the United Nations to recognize and declare 11th February as Anti-Smuggling Day which will significantly encourage international cooperation and coordination in efforts to tackle this issue, as well as provide an effective platform for discussing and addressing the root cause and consequences of smuggling. This recognition will also provide greater thrust for nations to come together to find solutions and combat this global problem.

During the conference, FICCI CASCADE released a report on '**Regulatory Interventions and Illicit Trade Across Border-Impact on Six Key Industries**'. The study examines the impact of tariff and non-tariff regulatory measures on illicit trade in the six key industries namely Alcoholic Beverages, Consumer Electronics, FMCG - Packaged Foods, FMCG-Household & Personal Goods, Mobile Phones and Tobacco Products.

As a run-up to this year's Anti-Smuggling Day, and to sensitize the youth on the menace of smuggled goods, FICCI CASCADE also organized a Digital Art/Poster making competition on the theme, 'Stand Against Smuggling'. Winners of the competition were given awards during the



conference.

**Mr. Deep Chand IPS**, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi highlighted that to battle this menace, it is important that we work together, across borders and sectors, to disrupt the networks and supply chains that supports smuggling. This requires strong laws, and effective enforcement actions, as well as the cooperation of all relevant stakeholders, including governments, businesses, and civil society.

**Mr. Najib Shah**, Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE chaired the panel discussion on "Combat Smuggling to Foster National Security and Economic Development". While chairing the session he stated that 11th February aims to spread awareness and bring on board all enforcement agencies together to understand the extend of the problem and think of ways and means for greater cooperation and coordination. Mr. Shah mentioned that if global organisation like United Nations will recognise Anti-Smuggling Day, we would be able to solve the greater purpose and win our battle against smuggling.

Panellist, **Mr. Balesh Kumar**, Member, Appellate Tribunal-SAFEMA, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance stated that smuggling is a multidimensional issue and has serious impact on economic and national security of the country. There are four steps that can be taken for creating a meaningful impact to curb smuggling: legislative upgradation in the context of present dynamics of smuggling; second, effect policy changes in sectors that are vulnerable to smuggling; third, use of successful technology risk management measures and fourth, to strengthen resources including equipment and manpower to manage operational issues while combating smuggling.

During the discussion, **Mr A M Kulkarni**, Additional Director General, National Investigation Agency said that smuggling not only causes money arbitrage but also fuels terrorism as funds earned from such activities are funnelled back to countries which foster terrorism and in turn impact national



safety and security. **Mr. Ayush Mani Tiwari**, IPS, Inspector General- Operations, Border Security Force and **Mr. Manish Kumar Negi**, Deputy Inspector General, Indian Coast Guard also shared their views in the panel discussion on achieving significant level of inter-agency and international cooperation to combat smuggling and shared methods to formulate prohibitive, combative, and curative measures to control smuggling.

**Mr. Anil Sinha**, Former Director, Central Bureau of Investigation and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE chaired the panel discussion on "Strengthening the Global Strategy to Combat Smuggling- Achieving Coordinated Actions and Solutions". Mr. Sinha explained that in the recent times, we have seen the use of disruptive technology which has been building a new ecosystem. He highlighted the use of blockchain for identifying products, numerical identities and bringing together various facets of the trade. He added that the enforcement agencies can come on a common platform, discuss, adopt best practices, and share the need for skill development and upgradation.

**Mr. Gautam Shrinivasan**, Anchor, CNBC moderated the panel discussion. The other eminent panellists who highlighted the need for real-time data analysis and sharing



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of intelligence to effectively tackle the problem of smuggling include Ms. Joanne Prior, Counsellor (Australian Border Force), Australian High Commission; **Mr. Marco Teixeira**, Regional Representative- South Asia, UNODC, **Mr. Jason Gooding**, Assistant Attache, Homeland Security Investigations, US Embassy and **Mr. Rameesh Kailasam**, CEO, IndiaTech.org (Technology Services Industry Association). They enunciated effective measures to combat and prosecute offences related to smuggling and emphasized on international and domestic cooperation to combat this global scourge.

**Dr. D P Dash**, Former Pr. Director-General, DRI, Former Chairman, Enforcement Committee, World Customs Organisation (WCO) and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE during his concluding remarks stated that increasing significance of inter-agency and international cooperation for combating smuggling through better exchange of information and experiences will also help in strengthening national security. The conference witnessed an overwhelming response by more than 300 industry captions, representatives from consumer forums, enforcement agencies, government officials, legal experts amongst others.



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## Chairman, FICCI CASCADE meets UN Resident Coordinator in India

*From left to right: Mr. Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator in India and Mr. Anil Rajput, Member - Chairman, FICCI CASCADE and Member-Corporate Management Committee & President, Corporate Affairs, ITCLtd.*



# Pre- Event Coverage

## India's march to \$40 trillion economy under Amrit Kaal can be seized by smuggling: Report

PTI / Feb 10, 2023



**NEW DELHI:** The magnitude of smuggling and the consequent loss to the country's economy might become a roadblock in India's march towards a \$40 trillion economy under the government's vision of Amrit Kaal, a report said. There is a need to launch a robust international campaign against smuggling so that major impediment in the growth path is removed, FICCI Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADe) in a report. While last year FICCI CASCADe took the initiative to mark February 11 as Anti-Smuggling Day, it has appealed to the government to highlight the issue of smuggling on the world stage and work with the United Nations to declare the day as 'International Anti-Smuggling Day'. The significance of the need for a high-impact international campaign against smuggling can be understood in the context of massive loss that smuggling inflicts on the Indian economy, it said. The tax loss to government of India because of the illicit trade has jumped 163 per cent to Rs 58,521 crore in 2019-20 for 5 key industries - alcoholic beverages, mobile phones, FMCG-household and personal goods, FMCG-packaged foods and tobacco products, as per the report.

## India's march to a \$40 trillion economy under Amrit Kaal can be seized by smuggling: FICCI CASCADe

**News Patroling**  
By Ashok Chatterjee  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY 2023. The FICCI Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Destroying the Economy (CASCADe) has urged the government to launch a robust international campaign against the menace of smuggling. The trade body has taken the initiative to mark 11 February as Anti-Smuggling Day. It is appealing to the government to highlight the issue of smuggling on the world stage and work with the United Nations to declare this as an 'International Anti-Smuggling Day'. The FICCI (organising a conference in New Delhi tomorrow on the subject of smuggling. The trade body said that the magnitude of smuggling and the consequent loss to the country's economy might become a roadblock in India's march towards a \$40 trillion economy under the government's vision of Amrit Kaal, a report said. While last year FICCI CASCADe took the initiative to mark 11 February as Anti-Smuggling Day, the body is appealing to the Indian government to highlight the issue of smuggling on the world stage and work with the United Nations to declare the day as 'International Anti-Smuggling Day'. The significance of the need for a high-impact international campaign against smuggling can be understood in the context of massive loss that smuggling inflicts on the Indian economy, it said. The tax loss to Government of India because of the illicit trade has jumped 163 per cent to Rs 58,521 crore in 2019-20 for 5 key industries - alcoholic beverages, mobile phones, FMCG-household and personal goods, FMCG-packaged

## Trade body's cry to stop illicit trade on Anti-Smuggling Day

**ASHOK CHATTERJEE**  
NEW DELHI, 10 FEBRUARY  
The FICCI Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Destroying the Economy (CASCADe) has urged the government to launch a robust international campaign against the menace of smuggling. The trade body has taken the initiative to mark 11 February as Anti-Smuggling Day. It is appealing to the government to highlight the issue of smuggling on the world stage and work with the United Nations to declare this as an 'International Anti-Smuggling Day'. The FICCI (organising a conference in New Delhi tomorrow on the subject of smuggling. The trade body said that the magnitude of smuggling and the consequent loss to the country's economy might become a roadblock in India's march towards a \$40 trillion economy under the government's vision of Amrit Kaal, a report said. While last year FICCI CASCADe took the initiative to mark 11 February as Anti-Smuggling Day, the body is appealing to the Indian government to highlight the issue of smuggling on the world stage and work with the United Nations to declare the day as 'International Anti-Smuggling Day'. The significance of the need for a high-impact international campaign against smuggling can be understood in the context of massive loss that smuggling inflicts on the Indian economy, it said. The tax loss to Government of India because of the illicit trade has jumped 163 per cent to Rs 58,521 crore in 2019-20 for 5 key industries - alcoholic beverages, mobile phones, FMCG-household and personal goods, FMCG-packaged foods and tobacco products, as per the report. Tax loss because of the illicit trade in two highly regulated and taxed industries - alcohol and tobacco products - has jumped 227 per cent, it said. It further said India should also forge together the interests of similar developing countries such as Indonesia, Brazil and the Philippines which are facing the impact of smuggling. Given the massive damage that smuggling is inflicting on the Indian economy, the government has to take up the issue at the international stage and lead a campaign against it, it said. It will highlight the growing hazard of smuggling and create awareness amongst consumers and the youth to mitigate smuggling which has now become an obstacle to nation-building, FICCI CASCADe said. It is upon countries like India that can leverage its global standing to bring out the necessary coordination and collaboration amongst various countries to create awareness, fight and mitigate this global problem that pose serious threat both to security and economy, it added.

## India's march to \$40 tn economy under Amrit Kaal can be seized by smuggling, says FICCI CASCADe Report

**NEW DELHI:** The magnitude of smuggling and the consequent loss to the country's economy might become a roadblock in India's march towards a \$40 trillion economy under the government's vision of Amrit Kaal, a report said. There is a need to launch a robust international campaign against the menace of smuggling so that major impediment in the growth path is removed, FICCI Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Destroying the Economy (CASCADe) said in a report. While last year FICCI CASCADe took the initiative to mark February 11 as Anti-Smuggling Day, it has appealed



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**हिन्दुस्तान**  
देश की इकोनमी 40 ट्रिलियन डालर बनने की राह में बड़ी बाधा है तस्करी  
भारत में आज की 40 ट्रिलियन डालर की इकोनमी बनने की राह में बड़ी बाधा है। तस्करी और जालसाजी के खिलाफ अंतरराष्ट्रीय अभियान शुरू करने का आग्रह किया है। पिछले साल फिक्की कास्केड ने 11 फरवरी को 'तस्करी-रोधी दिवस' मनाने की पहल की थी। कास्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल रावपूत ने कहा, हम देश में तस्करी की समस्या को सामने लाने के लिए प्रयास कर रहे हैं। अभियान से तस्करी कम करने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय और युवाओं के बीच जागरूकता पैदा होगी। कमेटी ने भारत सरकार से अपील की है कि वह वैश्विक स्तर पर तस्करी की समस्या को उजागर करे और संयुक्त राष्ट्र के साथ मिलकर इसे 'अंतरराष्ट्रीय तस्करी-रोधी दिवस' घोषित करे। इससे भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को नुकसान से बचाया जा सकेगा।

**देश की इकोनमी 40 ट्रिलियन डालर बनने की राह में बड़ी बाधा है तस्करी**

भारत में आज की 40 ट्रिलियन डालर की इकोनमी बनने की राह में बड़ी बाधा है। तस्करी और जालसाजी के खिलाफ अंतरराष्ट्रीय अभियान शुरू करने का आग्रह किया है। पिछले साल फिक्की कास्केड ने 11 फरवरी को 'तस्करी-रोधी दिवस' मनाने की पहल की थी। कास्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल रावपूत ने कहा, हम देश में तस्करी की समस्या को सामने लाने के लिए प्रयास कर रहे हैं। अभियान से तस्करी कम करने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय और युवाओं के बीच जागरूकता पैदा होगी। कमेटी ने भारत सरकार से अपील की है कि वह वैश्विक स्तर पर तस्करी की समस्या को उजागर करे और संयुक्त राष्ट्र के साथ मिलकर इसे 'अंतरराष्ट्रीय तस्करी-रोधी दिवस' घोषित करे। इससे भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को नुकसान से बचाया जा सकेगा।

**58,521** करोड़ रुपये के कर का नुकसान  
दूर 2019-20 में कासमूट उद्योग में

**2,60,094** करोड़ रुपये का अर्थव्यवस्था का नुकसान  
कासमूट 2019-20 में देश में

**पांच प्रमुख उद्योगों में अप्रैल कारोवार की स्थिति**

उद्योग	अप्रैल बटन (अप्रैल 2023)	अप्रैल कारोवार की हेमिस्टरी (अप्रैल)	रॉजबन की नुकसान (अप्रैल)	कर का नुकसान (अप्रैल 2023)
सोडा पानी	15,884	7.56	0.35	2,859
सोडा पानी का उत्पादन	55,530	34.25	2,989	9,995
सोडा पानी का निर्यात	1,42,284	25.89	7.94	17,074
सोडा पानी का निर्यात	22,930	20.04	3.7	13,331
सोडा पानी का निर्यात	23,466	19.87	0.98	15,262

**तस्करी से भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को नुकसान : फिक्की कास्केड**

नई दिल्ली: फिक्की समिति (कास्केड) ने सरकार से तस्करी के खतरे के खिलाफ अंतरराष्ट्रीय अभियान शुरू करने का आग्रह किया है। पिछले साल फिक्की कास्केड ने 11 फरवरी को 'तस्करी-रोधी दिवस' मनाने की पहल की थी। कास्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल रावपूत ने कहा, हम देश में तस्करी की समस्या को सामने लाने के लिए प्रयास कर रहे हैं। अभियान से तस्करी कम करने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय और युवाओं के बीच जागरूकता पैदा होगी। कमेटी ने भारत सरकार से अपील की है कि वह वैश्विक स्तर पर तस्करी की समस्या को उजागर करे और संयुक्त राष्ट्र के साथ मिलकर इसे 'अंतरराष्ट्रीय तस्करी-रोधी दिवस' घोषित करे। इससे भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को नुकसान से बचाया जा सकेगा।

**देश में तस्करी के लगातार बढ़ते मामले अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए बड़ी चुनौती**

भारत में आज की 40 ट्रिलियन डालर की इकोनमी बनने की राह में बड़ी बाधा है। तस्करी और जालसाजी के खिलाफ अंतरराष्ट्रीय अभियान शुरू करने का आग्रह किया है। पिछले साल फिक्की कास्केड ने 11 फरवरी को 'तस्करी-रोधी दिवस' मनाने की पहल की थी। कास्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल रावपूत ने कहा, हम देश में तस्करी की समस्या को सामने लाने के लिए प्रयास कर रहे हैं। अभियान से तस्करी कम करने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय और युवाओं के बीच जागरूकता पैदा होगी। कमेटी ने भारत सरकार से अपील की है कि वह वैश्विक स्तर पर तस्करी की समस्या को उजागर करे और संयुक्त राष्ट्र के साथ मिलकर इसे 'अंतरराष्ट्रीय तस्करी-रोधी दिवस' घोषित करे। इससे भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को नुकसान से बचाया जा सकेगा।

## 40 ट्रिलियन डालर की अर्थव्यवस्था बनने के सपने पर ग्रहण लगा सकती है तस्करी

**नई दिल्ली, जेएनएन।** अर्थव्यवस्था को नष्ट करने वाली तस्करी और जालसाजी के खिलाफ फिक्की समिति (कास्केड) ने सरकार से तस्करी के खतरे के विरुद्ध एक मजबूत अंतरराष्ट्रीय अभियान शुरू करने का आग्रह किया है। पिछले साल फिक्की कास्केड ने 11 फरवरी को तस्करी-रोधी दिवस के रूप में मनाने की पहल की थी। अब कमेटी ने भारत सरकार से अपील की है कि वह वैश्विक स्तर पर तस्करी की समस्या को उजागर करे और संयुक्त राष्ट्र के साथ मिलकर इसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय तस्करी-रोधी दिवस घोषित करे। तस्करी के खिलाफ एक प्रभावशाली अंतरराष्ट्रीय अभियान की आवश्यकता को तस्करी के कारण भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को होने वाले नुकसान से समझा जा सकता है।

**विजनेस**  
TOP 100  
तस्करी रोधने के लिए अपील

RECENT INITIATIVES

Post- Event Coverage

DRI seizes ₹1k cr contraband every month

New Delhi: Smuggling is rampant and the enormity of the issue can be gauged from the fact that DRI seizes more than Rs 1,000 crore of contraband every month, a top official said.

"Today, smugglers are using sophisticated methods and technologies to smuggle goods across international borders. This kind of illicit trade in terms of counterfeiting and smuggling is a global risk that has negative impacts on economic activities, deprives governments of revenue, forces a high burden on taxpayers, exposes customers to dangerous products and provides linkages to terrorism," Mohan Kumar Singh, director general, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), said while addressing at a Ficci event. AGENCIES

IN BRIEF

Smuggling can slow march to \$40-trn economy: Report

The magnitude of smuggling and the consequent loss to the country's economy might become a roadblock in India's march towards a \$40-trillion economy under the government's vision of Atmanirbhar, FICCI Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) said in a report. It said the tax loss to the Centre because of the illicit trade jumped by 163 per cent to reach ₹58,571 crore for five key industries in over 10 years till 2020. NIKESH SINGH

DRI seizes contraband worth ₹1,000 crore each month: DG

The enormity of the issue of smuggling can be gauged from the fact that the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seizes more than ₹1,000 crore of contraband every month, said Mohan Kumar Singh, director-general, DRI, at the Ficci Cascade 'Anti-Smuggling Day' event. "Today, smugglers use sophisticated methods and technologies to smuggle goods across international borders. This kind of illicit trade of counterfeiting and smuggling is a global risk that has negative impact on economic activities, deprives governments of revenue, forces a high burden on taxpayers, exposes customers to dangerous products, and provides linkages to terrorism," he said at the event. NIKESH SINGH

India's march to \$40 trillion economy under Amrit Kaal can be seized by smuggling: FICCI CASCADE

The magnitude of smuggling and the consequent loss to the country's economy might become a roadblock in India's march towards a \$40-trillion economy under the government's vision of Atmanirbhar, FICCI Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) said in a report. It said the tax loss to the Centre because of the illicit trade jumped by 163 per cent to reach ₹58,571 crore for five key industries in over 10 years till 2020. NIKESH SINGH



'DRI seizes ₹1,000 crore of contraband every month'

ating fresh ideas, creating awareness and highlighting the problems of smuggling and counterfeiting, he added. Over the years, FICCI CASCADE has been working on creating awareness on tackling the grave problem of smuggling and launched Anti-Smuggling Day in 2022 as a global first. The objective of declaring an Anti-Smuggling Day was to highlight the issue amongst consumers and how smuggling is impacting nation-building, enhance coordination and cooperation between law enforcement agencies, facilitate better exchange of information and experiences, and build a strong network to find innovative solutions to combat the menace of smuggling, Ficci said in a statement. Speaking on the occasion, World Customs Organ-

DRI seizes contraband of over ₹1,000 cr every month: DG, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

'Smuggling is carried out in our country by the land, sea and air route via different modes- containers, porous borders, usage of sophisticated means'

NEW DELHI: Mohan Kumar Singh, Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) while addressing at FICCI CASCADE 'Anti-Smuggling Day' event said, "For DRI every day is an Anti-Smuggling Day. The enormity of the issue of smuggling can be gauged from the fact that DRI seizes more than Rs 1,000 crore of contraband every month. Smuggling is carried out in our country by the land, sea and air route via different modes- contain-

1,000 करोड़ की प्रतिबंधित वस्तुएं हर माह होती हैं जब्त ड्रग्स तस्करी बड़े पैमाने पर : DRI

दिल्ली, नवभारत न्यूज नेटवर्क, तस्करी कई पैमाने पर हो रही है. इस मुद्दे की भयावहता का अंदाजा इस बात से लगाया जा सकता है कि डीआरआई हर महीने 1,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की प्रतिबंधित वस्तुएं जब्त करता है, रामनवमी का उपयोजित कार्यक्रम (डीआरआई) के महानिदेशक मोहन कुमार सिंह ने 'फिक्की केसकेड एंटी स्मगलिंग डे' पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए कहा, डीआरआई के लिए हर दिन एक तस्करी विरोधी दिवस होता है। तस्करी के मामले की भयावहता का अंदाजा इस बात से लगाया जा सकता है कि यह निदेशालय (डीआरआई) हर महीने 1,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक का प्रतिबंधित सामान जब्त करता है। पिछले कई वर्षों से, फिक्की केसकेड तस्करी की गंभीर समस्या से निपटने के लिए जागरूकता पैदा करने पर काम कर रहा है।

प्रतिबंधित सामान से सरकार को नुकसान हर महीने 1,000 करोड़ की वस्तुएं जब्त

नई दिल्ली। तस्करी कई पैमाने पर हो रही है। इस मुद्दे की भयावहता का अंदाजा इस बात से लगाया जा सकता है कि डीआरआई हर महीने 1,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की प्रतिबंधित वस्तुएं जब्त करता है। रामनवमी का उपयोजित कार्यक्रम (डीआरआई) के महानिदेशक मोहन कुमार सिंह ने 'फिक्की केसकेड एंटी स्मगलिंग डे' पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए कहा, डीआरआई के लिए हर दिन एक तस्करी विरोधी दिवस होता है। तस्करी के मामले की भयावहता का अंदाजा इस बात से लगाया जा सकता है कि यह निदेशालय (डीआरआई) हर महीने 1,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक का प्रतिबंधित सामान जब्त करता है। पिछले कई वर्षों से, फिक्की केसकेड तस्करी की गंभीर समस्या से निपटने के लिए जागरूकता पैदा करने पर काम कर रहा है।

हमारे लिए हर दिन तस्करी विरोधी दिवस :सिंह

नई दिल्ली। तस्करी कई पैमाने पर हो रही है। इस मुद्दे की भयावहता का अंदाजा इस बात से लगाया जा सकता है कि डीआरआई हर महीने 1,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की प्रतिबंधित वस्तुएं जब्त करता है। रामनवमी का उपयोजित कार्यक्रम (डीआरआई) के महानिदेशक मोहन कुमार सिंह ने 'फिक्की केसकेड एंटी स्मगलिंग डे' पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए कहा, डीआरआई के लिए हर दिन एक तस्करी विरोधी दिवस होता है। तस्करी के मामले की भयावहता का अंदाजा इस बात से लगाया जा सकता है कि यह निदेशालय (डीआरआई) हर महीने 1,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक का प्रतिबंधित सामान जब्त करता है। पिछले कई वर्षों से, फिक्की केसकेड तस्करी की गंभीर समस्या से निपटने के लिए जागरूकता पैदा करने पर काम कर रहा है।

RECENT INITIATIVES



# Digital Art Poster Making Competition

As a run-up to this year's Anti-Smuggling Day, and to sensitize the youth on the menace of smuggled goods, FICCI CASCADE organized a Digital Art/Poster making competition on the theme, 'Stand Against Smuggling'. Winners of the competition were given awards during the Anti-Smuggling Day conference.



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL OUR WINNERS!**

FIRST PRIZE

SECOND PRIZE

THIRD PRIZE



HARSH KASHYAP



SAMNEET



MAMTA SHARMA



**CONGRATULATIONS  
ON WINNING INCENTIVES!**



HARISH SRIVASTAVA



SHILPI NARANG



KENNETH BANAGAN



RECENT INITIATIVES

## SEMINAR ON PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES TO COMBAT COUNTERFEITING AND SMUGGLING

Tuesday, 8th November 2022  
Focus State: Chennai, Tamil Nadu

**T**echnological advent, fast communication channels and globalisation have given impetus to the exponential growth of illicit trade in dangerous forms such as counterfeiting and smuggling. According to the World Economic Forum, the economic leakage from illicit trade creates an annual drain on the global economy of \$2.2 trillion, which is nearly 3% of the world's economy. FICCI CASCADE believes that awareness and outreach is an essential element in building a proactive strategy to curb this growing menace of counterfeiting and smuggling. With this view, FICCI CASCADE organised a seminar on "Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling" on 8th November 2022 at Hotel Ramada Plaza, Guindy, Chennai. The objective of the seminar was to focus on spreading awareness and enabling a dialogue between the stakeholders on the alarming magnitude of illicit trade to exterminate this demon from the society.

Dr. G S K Velu, Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council & CMD, Triviron / Neuberg Group of Companies in his welcome address said the existence and operation of counterfeiting and smuggling are broad in scope and large in value impacting not only the global economy causing losses to both industry and government, but also adversely affecting consumer health and safety and hugely funding terror activities across the globe. He emphasized that the consumers must ask for a bill while making any purchase in order to make India a tax complaint nation and encouraged citizens to be a part of progressive nation building.

Mr. P C Jha, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) while outlining the landscape of illicit trade practices, highlighted that FICCI CASCADE's recent report titled "Illicit Markets: A Threat to Our National Interests" examines the impact of illicit trade in five key industries in India namely Mobile Phones, FMCG-Household and Personal Goods, FMCG-Packaged Foods, Tobacco Products, and Alcoholic Beverages. According to the report, he said that the size of

illicit market in the above-mentioned industries was ₹2,60,094 crore for the year 2019-20, with the FMCG industry — household and personal goods, and packaged foods together accounting for 3/4th of the total illicit value of goods in five key industries. The report further estimates that unlawful trade in the five above-mentioned industries results in a total estimated legitimate employment loss of 15.96 lakh. The estimated tax loss to the government due to illicit goods in these industries is Rs 58,521 crore, with two highly regulated and taxed industries, tobacco products, and alcoholic beverages, accounting for nearly 49% of the overall tax loss.

Thiru. R. SAKKARAPANI, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Tamil Nadu was the chief guest at the programme. In his inaugural address he suggested that FICCI CASCADE should organize awareness programs in educational institutions and extensively involve the youth in this fight against illicit trade. He further urged FICCI CASCADE to propagate the problem of counterfeiting and smuggling on social media channels, newspapers and other promotional sources in order to make the general public aware of this alarming issue.

Hon'ble Minister informed that the stringent actions by the government and enforcement agencies in the state of Tamil Nadu has reduced smuggling of watches, gold, alcohol and Indian currency, to a considerable extent, but there's a lot that still needs to be done.

Mr. Bhupesh Nagarajan, Co-Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council & CMD, Indira Projects in his concluding remarks said that counterfeiting and



smuggling is damaging national progress by impacting its financial, social and physical health across the globe. There is vital need for the policy makers, enforcement agencies and industry to be on the front foot, to tackle it.

The seminar generated discussions on the policies to prevent counterfeiting and smuggling among senior officials including Mr. G. Ravindranath, Principal Commissioner, Chennai Customs, Mr. Mahesh Kumar Agarwal, Additional Director General of Police, Chennai, Ms. S. Saroja, Executive Director – Consumer Advisory and Outreach Vertical, Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG) and Mr. Amrith Lal, Convenor, FICCI Tamil Nadu Finance & Taxation Panel and Senior Partner, KRT & Co.

Mr. Deep Chand, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi while chairing the session said that increasing the rule of law and enhancing effectiveness of penalties and sanctions is important to curb the mounting hazards of counterfeiting and smuggling. It is imperative that businesses should take proper steps to protect consumers from the proliferation of scammers and infringers that seek to take advantage of the situation. He mentioned that capacity building in terms of skill, infrastructure and technology among the enforcement agencies in improving the detection and investigation of crimes will play an important role in making a conducive environment, free of illicit markets.

Mr. G. Ravindranath, Principal Commissioner, Chennai Customs said that smuggling is a transborder and

transnational crime. It destabilizes the legal industry, restrain innovation and investment, reduces government revenues and hampers the health and safety of consumers. Therefore, strict enforcement plays a very important role in curbing this menace.

“Customs and border control agencies are playing a proactive role in preventing illicit trade and disrupting transnational smuggling operations. Indian customs have built a legal and administrative system, pioneering the implementation of automation, risk management and data analytics to combat illicit trade”, he added. Creating public awareness, increasing surveillance, coordination and concerted efforts are required amongst various stakeholders, enforcement agencies, industry, partnership with private stakeholders and consumers can help counter the problem of counterfeiting and smuggling, Mr. Ravindranath suggested.

Mr. Mahesh Kumar Agarwal, Additional Director General of Police, Chennai highlighted that the online sale of counterfeit products counts to \$323 billion, out of which \$ 98 billion accounts to consumer goods. Counterfeits in pharmaceuticals is a major issue affecting public health, and healthcare systems around the globe. Trade-in pharmaceutical counterfeits during COVID 19 spiked majorly in products such as vaccines, medicines, test kits, antibiotics, face masks and sanitizers. He also mentioned that illicit trade is a national threat, through which black money is generated which further funds organised crime like terrorism.



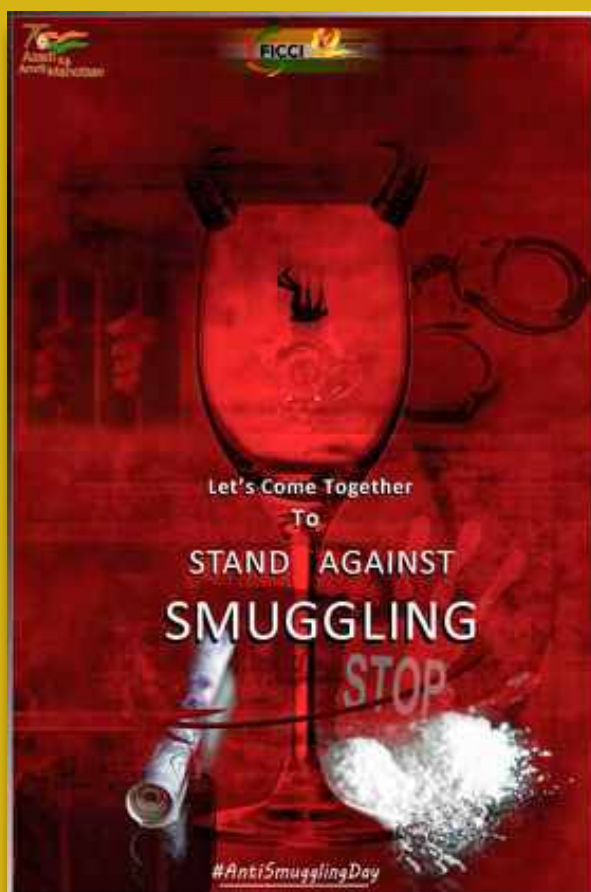


Ms. S. Saroja, Executive Director – Consumer Advisory and Outreach Vertical, Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG) highlighted the need for continuous awareness generation to educate the consumers on the potential risks and detrimental impact of buying and using counterfeit, fake, spurious and smuggled products.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 120 industry captains, representative from consumer forums, lawyers, government officials and other stakeholders.

There is a need for consumers to demand their right of genuine and authentic products the seminar aims to awake the stakeholders on this menace.

## AWARENESS THROUGH ART



# Capacity Building Programme for Police Officers on Prevention of Counterfeiting and Smuggling

28 November 2022  
Focus State: Lucknow, UP



India is a victim of large-scale smuggling and counterfeiting web, entangling not only our legal industry and economy, but also the consumers who are exposed to grave risks to life and security. The costs of these illicit activities are not only real but are huge. FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has been working concertedly with the enforcement officers across the nation to sensitize them and raise awareness on this very important issue. With this objective, FICCI CASCADE organized the **“Capacity Building Programme for Police Officers of Uttar Pradesh on Prevention of Counterfeiting and Smuggling” on 28 November 2022 at Lucknow.**

Mr. Nilabja Chaudhary, Joint Commissioner of Police, Crime and Hq, Lucknow was the chief guest at the programme. Mr. Chaudhary mentioned that the Police Department plays a significant role in ensuring the protection of legitimate businesses from illicit market operators. He highlighted that the Uttar Pradesh police actively seize products such as fake medicines, currency notes, cigarettes and liquor, which have direct repercussions on the law and order and public health and safety. The police department has seen a renewed spate of counterfeit cases in food and beverage industry in the past few months, particularly counterfeit edible oil at Farrukhabad Mandi.

Mr. Chaudhary accentuated that illicit trade, in terms of counterfeiting and smuggling, is among one of the factors that is impeding growth of the economy in multidimensional ways. He emphasized the need for a continuous dialogue with industry association like FICCI in order to make the public aware about the magnitude of the problem and promote fair trade practices to contribute greater equity in trade. Capacity building programme in terms of skill, infrastructure and technology is essential for the law enforcement agencies in improving the detection and investigation of crimes relating to counterfeiting and smuggling. He suggested that coordinated efforts of the government, industry bodies and enforcement agencies are therefore needed to control the spread of this growing menace.

While giving an overview on socio-economic impact of counterfeiting and smuggling, Mr Deep Chand, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi stated that the grey market is fueling illegitimate industry which is leading to an increased criminalization in the society. This capacity building program is aimed to sensitize the UP police officers on the importance of continued awareness and seriousness of the impact of counterfeit and smuggled products.



He further stated that as per the FICCI CASCADE’s recent report titled “Illicit Markets: A Threat to Our National Interests”, the unlawful trade in the five key industries (Mobile Phones, FMCG-Household and Personal Goods, FMCG-Packaged Foods, Tobacco Products, and Alcoholic Beverages) results in a total estimated legitimate employment loss of 15.96 lakh. The estimated tax loss to the government due to illicit goods in these industries is Rs 58,521 crore, with two highly regulated and taxed industries, tobacco products, and alcoholic beverages, accounting for nearly 49% of the overall tax loss.

Col Atul Yadav, General Manager- North, Industry Affairs, ITC Ltd. opined that illegal activities such as counterfeiting and smuggling are flooding the market with substandard fake and smuggled products which are produced without following quality norms at unhygienic places, and are sold illegally, thus contributing towards increase in unaccounted money. A major driver for the rampant increase of smuggling is high taxes which create a significant arbitrage to fuel such activities. The extent of smuggling in the country is a cause of

great concern. However, to effectively tackle the growing menace of smuggling in India, a lot more needs to be done to make the compliance and processes more robust and detection of such crime easier, headed.

Mr. Gagan Rajpurohit, Legal Counsel, HUL Central Region and Mr. Devesh Pandey, Brand Protection Consultant, HUL discussed about various types of counterfeit products available in the market, how to identify them and the powers of police in search & seizure. They discussed practical challenges faced by the industry and how industry and police can work collaboratively to curb the menace of counterfeiting and smuggling.

Ms. Aashita Agarwal, Manager, Public Policy discussed Amazon’s efforts in mitigating fraud and abuse on marketplaces that hamper customer’s trust. She said that Amazon is committed to promoting and participating in the efforts for ensuring the empowerment of consumers to enjoy the benefits of online shopping while being protected from the risks the digital era may present.

RECENT INITIATIVES



# Role of Youth in Making India Free from Smuggling & Counterfeiting

5th & 6th December 2022  
Focus state: Patna, Bihar



India has a young population profile, and it is imperative to understand the power of the consumers of tomorrow. With youngsters becoming a key stakeholder for advocating socially responsible behaviour, FICCI CASCADE believes that it is important to train and educate the young minds in order to empower and strengthen our society for national development and shape the future of our country in a brighter and more prosperous manner.

In our continuous endeavour to sensitize young minds and to create awareness about the intricacies and critical issues of illicit trade practices, FICCI CASCADE organized a two-day youth awareness programme in Patna, Bihar on 5th and 6th December 2022.

A youth competition on the theme “Role of Youth in Making India Free from Smuggling & Counterfeiting” was organised at Bankipur Girls High School. The programme was divided into three competitions: Painting, Elocution and Jingle Writing. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 350+ children from 40 leading schools

in Patna. The competition was meant to generate awareness among the country’s youth and seek their support in addressing the growing hazards posed by counterfeiting and smuggling to strengthen the fight against illicit trade. It saw a plethora of ideas, innovative expressions, talent and content exhibited in way of speech, art and write ups.

The elocution competition was judged by Mr. Amrendra Kumar, Dwarika High School Mandiri, Patna; Ms. Binita Kumari, B. N. Collegiate, Patna and Ms. Shabnam, Bankipur Girls High School, Patna. The painting competition was judged by Ms. Bindu Kumari, Rajkiya Kanya Uchch Vidyalaya, Gardanibagh, Patna; Ms. Renu Kumari, DD Nandan Girls High School, Danapur, Patna and Ms. Archana Kumari, Ghanshayam Girls Higher Secondary School, Patna. The jingle writing competition was judged by Ms. Shrishti Suman, Bankipur Girls High School, Golghar, Patna; Ms. Sanju Kumari, B. N. Collegiate, Patna and Mr. Ravi Kumar, Dwarika High School, Mandiri, Patna.

Winners of the competition were:



Winners	Elocution Competition	Painting Competition	Jingle Writing Competition
1st Prize	Tannu Kumari, Kamla Nehru Girls School	Radhika Kumari, Indra Prasad Singh Gangasthali High Secondary School	Jonshon Kumar K B Sahay Shekhpuri
2nd Prize	Siya Bharti, Govt. RGSS School, Bankipur	Sristy Rachna, Kamla Nehru Girls School	Roushni Kumari, Rabindra Baliya Vidhaya
3rd Prize	Abhishek Raj, Govt Boys Sr. Secondary School	Sagar Kumar, DPCSS (Miller) Sr. Secondary School	Manish Kumar, Govt. Boys Sr. Secondary School



Competition winners were awarded at a seminar on “Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling” organised at L. N. Mishra Institute of Economic Development & Social Change. Mr Samir Kumar Mahaseth, Industry Minister, Government of Bihar was the chief guest at the seminar. While addressing the programme, he mentioned that the problem of counterfeiting and smuggling is complex in nature, with no legal regulation and very little recourse, consumers are at risk from unsafe and ineffective products. It is important that consumers understand the multi-faceted complexities of the problem. Youth are the consumers of tomorrow, who can encourage and bring about the required change through their choices and behaviours, he added.

Shri Mahaseth emphasized that educating and generating awareness about the ill effects of counterfeiting and smuggling is the need of hour to combat this global scourge. He suggested that FICCI CASCADE should organize similar youth awareness programmes in Bihar frequently to motivate the young minds in achieving the objective of making India free from illicit trade. The Hon’ble Minister also

felicitated school children for the inter-school competition organised by CASCADE.

Mr Dipak Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Education, Government of Bihar also addressed the seminar. He stated that the uninhibited growth of counterfeiting and smuggling is not only impacting the economy of our country but also posing severe risk to public health and safety. Smuggling and counterfeiting leads to tax evasion which further slows down the pace of development of the country, said Mr. Singh. He emphasized on the need to take a bill while making any purchase, to act as proof/evidence of the transaction.

Mr P C Jha, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs accentuated that illicit trade is of grave concern, it undermines the nation’s economy, damages brand integrity, and most importantly affects health and safety of the citizens which needs to be addressed on an urgent basis. He opined that presently lack of awareness, besides the inadequate legal framework, are shaping the dynamics of illicit trade.





Mr Rajiva Ranjan Verma, Former Director General, RPF, NCRB, Civil Defense, Home Guard & Fire Services and BPR&D and Think tank Member, FICCI CASCADJE highlighted that raising awareness is an important aspect of combating illicit trade in terms of smuggling and counterfeiting which needs to be pursued vigorously. The role of youth is paramount in battling the menace of smuggling and counterfeiting, he stressed.

The seminar discussed the importance of increased awareness on the hazards of counterfeiting and smuggling, and the need for effective enforcement to enhance India's economic development. The seminar also deliberated on FICCI CASCADJE's recent report titled Illicit Markets: A Threat to Our National Interests, which examines the impact of illicit trade in five key industries in India — Mobile Phones, FMCG-Household and Personal Goods, FMCG-Packaged Foods, Tobacco Products, and Alcoholic Beverages.



RECENT INITIATIVES

# Capacity Building Programme for Police Officers on Prevention of Counterfeiting and Smuggling

16th December 2022

Focus state: GOA



**A**cross the globe, illicit networks are infiltrating and corrupting legitimate business markets, reducing productivity, and dis-incentivizing investments, jeopardizing public health and eroding the security of our nation. Illicit trade is an increasingly growing global concern which is threatening India's legal industry, adding social cost to the consumers and causing huge loss to the exchequers. India today had the potential to become a global manufacturing hub. However, widespread smuggling and counterfeiting act as a dampener in achieving this goal. It is time that India, as a nation and as a part of the global economy, call for strict and resolute enforcement actions against such activities.

Shri Jaspal Singh IPS, Director General of Police, Goa was the chief guest at the programme. Shri Singh informed that awareness is the first step towards enforcement as the problem of trade in illicit products emanates from the lack of awareness. Counterfeiting and Smuggling have developed into a substantial threat to the economy globally, this is the biggest challenge and needs to be addressed at a priority with effective enforcement of laws as a key to curb the menace.

While giving an overview on socio-economic impact of counterfeiting and smuggling, Mr. Deep Chand IPS, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi stated that lack of stringent enforcement, weak surveillance and weak regulatory framework are the main factors responsible for illicit trade. He opined that the wider social, investment and criminal enforcement costs due to smuggling and counterfeiting could touch \$4.2 trillion putting at risk 5.4 million legitimate jobs.

Mr. Chand further stated that as per the FICCI CASCADE's recent report titled "Illicit Markets: A Threat to Our National

Interests", the unlawful trade in the five key industries (Mobile Phones, FMCG-Household and Personal Goods, FMCG-Packaged Foods, Tobacco Products, and Alcoholic Beverages) results in a total estimated legitimate employment loss of 15.96 lakh. The estimated size of illicit market was ₹2,60,094 crore for the year 2019-20 and the tax loss to the government in these industries was Rs 58,521 crore, with two highly regulated and taxed industries, tobacco products, and alcoholic beverages, accounting for nearly 49% of the overall tax loss.

Mr. Pradeep Dixit, Executive Vice President - Industry Affairs, ITC Ltd. stated that India is the 4th largest and fastest growing market for smuggling of illegal cigarettes, which calls for heightened awareness and sensitization of people in the society. Generating mass awareness amongst the consumers is an important mean to curtail the hazards of growing illicit trade, added Mr Dixit.

Mr. Ashish Sawant, Assistant Manager, Global Brand Protection, APAC Region, Johnson & Johnson highlighted that counterfeit products have a detrimental impact on both the manufacturers and consumers. It poses severe risk to company's reputation, brand image and negatively affect the consumers' confidence in the global market. It also affects businesses and consumers alike by sowing mistrust in genuine products made by reputable brands.

Ms. Sucheta Dessai, SP, Goa Police mentioned that smuggled & counterfeit products are a serious concern to the economy and the society at large, hurting the integrity of the brand, reducing employment opportunities and most importantly, threatening health and safety. There is vital need for the policy makers, enforcement agencies and industry to be on the front foot, to tackle it.

# Celebration of National Consumer Day, 2022

**Theme: Effective disposal of cases in Consumer Commissions**

**24th December, 2022 | Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**

**F**ICCI CASCADE has been taking forward the 'Jago Grahak Jago' initiative and other similar campaigns in association with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India, for generating widespread awareness on the socio-economic impact of illicit trade.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs on National Consumer Day in December 2022, organized a national conference where Mr. P K Malhotra, Former Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice, Govt. of India represented CASCADE and shared his views on 'Effective disposal of cases in Consumer Commissions – way ahead'. The conference was attended by more than 600 industry captains, representatives from consumer forums, government officials and other stakeholders.



RECENT INITIATIVES

# A Step to Make India Free from Smuggling & Counterfeiting

**9th- 11th January 2023**

**Focus State: Chhattisgarh**

In our continued endeavour, to sensitize the consumers on the need to work together to address the growing hazards posed by counterfeiting and smuggling, FICCI CASCADE organized a three-day sensitization programme in Chhattisgarh which included interactions with policy makers, industry, media, police officials and the youth on 9th, 10th and 11th January 2023.

A youth awareness programme on the theme “Role of Youth in Making India Free from Smuggling & Counterfeiting” was organized at Shri Shankaracharya Technical Campus, Bilhai. The programme was divided into three competitions: Painting, Elocution and Jingle Writing. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 450 students from various educational institutions of Chhattisgarh. The

competition observed a great sight of young prodigious talent demonstrating their skills to curtail the threat posed by counterfeiting and smuggling. The objective of the competition was to generate awareness among the country’s youth and seek their support in strengthening our fight against illicit trade.

The competition was judged by Mr. Deep Chand, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi, Mr. P C Jha, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and Ms. Mr. Jaya Mishra, Member, FICCI Chhattisgarh State Council and President, Shri Shankaracharya Technical Campus.

The list of the winners are as follows:

Winners	Elocution Competition	Painting Competition	Jingle Writing Competition
1st Prize	Prakiti Pandey Shri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalaya	Notram Sahu Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand College of Nursing	Maheshwaree Sahu Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand College of Nursing
2nd Prize	Kush Upadhyay Shri Shankaracharya Technical Campus	Elisha Kerketta Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand College of Nursing	Janhavi Sarva Shri Shankaracharya Institute of Medical Science
3rd Prize	Aryansh Dubey Shri Shankaracharya Institute of Medical Science	Annapurna Shama Shri Shankaracharya Technical Campus	Megha Mandavi Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand College of Nursing



RECENT INITIATIVES



FICCI CASCADE believes that it is important to empower the youth of our nation to take a leading role in the fight against illicit trade by educating and training them to identify and respond to illicit trade activities.

Competition winners were awarded at a Seminar on 'Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling' organised at Hotel Courtyard by Marriott, Raipur. Shri Amarjeet Bhagat, Hon'ble Minister of Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Protection, Planning Economic and Statistics, Culture, Government of Chhattisgarh was the chief guest at the seminar. While addressing the programme, he mentioned that the rapid growth of technology has led to a drastic increase in economic crimes and cybercrimes. Shri Bhagat emphasized that illicit trade activities are the major barriers in the path of economic growth of the country. Over the years, the government has initiated several mechanisms to ensure consumer safety and checking unfair trade practices, there is an urgent need of increased consumer awareness to tackle this problem, he added.

Mr. Topeshwar Verma, Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Protection, Technical Education and Employment, Government of Chhattisgarh accentuated that Illicit activities such as smuggling and counterfeiting are global problems of enormous scale, impacting all stakeholders such as consumers, industry, government and society as a whole. He urged all stakeholders to join hands to collectively fight the menace of illicit trade. Mr. Verma

emphasized the need to take a bill on every purchase, as it acts as evidence of transaction.

Mr P C Jha, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs stated that illicit trade have a significant adverse effect on security, environment, health, safety and economy. Illicit trade is a low risk and high reward criminal activity. There is no manufactured product, illicit of which is not available in the market. Inadequate penal provisions and delayed prosecution/ adjudication proceedings do not create desired deterrence for illegal market operators, added Mr. Jha.

Mr. Abhijit Pati, Chairman, FICCI Chhattisgarh State Council and CEO & Director BALCO (Vedanta Group) opined that in the past ten years the magnitude of illicit trade has grown from USD 650 billion to about USD 3 trillion, representing 10 per cent of the global trade and rightly been termed as the crime of the 21st century by the FBI. Mr. Pati mentioned that there is a need for concerted effort by all stakeholders to ensure that an effective and workable deterrence is created.

Mr. Deep Chand, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi chaired the Panel Discussion on Policies to Prevent Counterfeiting and Smuggling. While chairing the session he stated that it is important to work together across borders and sectors in order to disrupt



RECENT INITIATIVES



the networks and supply chains that support smuggling. Strong laws and effective enforcement actions are critical to ensure that individuals and organizations are held accountable and deterred from engaging in illegal or harmful activities.

Panelist, Ms. Pratima Singh, Additional Commissioner, Central GST & Central Excise, Raipur highlighted that the custom department is at the forefront to save the society from the ill-effects of smuggling. She apprised that last year officials have seized 92,000 kg narcotics, 800 kg ganja and 36 lakh smuggled cigarette sticks from across the country. During the discussion, Dr. Sanjeev Shukla, IPS, Inspector General of Police, CID, Raipur emphasized that it is essential for enforcement agencies to be proactive in combating smuggling to protect the national security, support the economy, and prevent criminal organizations from gaining a foothold in the country. There is a need to increase intelligence gathering, surveillance, risk assessments, and targeted operations.

Shri Praveen Mishra, Hon'ble Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Raipur highlighted that the existing punishments that are handed out in compliance with the various legal laws are not as effective as they could be in preventing the threat of smuggling and counterfeiting. Therefore, there is a need to enhance stringent laws and regulations to prevent illicit trade. Shri Arvind Agrawal, Director, VNR Seeds Pvt Ltd., Raipur stated that stakeholders, including governments, law enforcement agencies, international organizations, businesses, and civil society groups, can play a critical role in battling the menace of illicit trade by working together to share information, resources, and expertise. This will help to create a more secure and sustainable global economy that benefits everyone.

Ms. Jaya Mishra, Member, FICCI Chhattisgarh State Council and President, Shri Shankaracharya Technical Campus during her vote of thanks, mentioned that students can play an important role as brand ambassadors and torchbearer in the fight against illicit trade. The conference was attended by more than 250 industry captions, representatives from



consumer forums, government officials and other stakeholders in this segment.

The seminar was followed by a Capacity Building Programme for the Police Officers of Chhattisgarh on 11th January 2023 in Raipur. The training programme aimed at highlighting the paramount role of police officials in liberating the nations from the clutches of illicit trade.

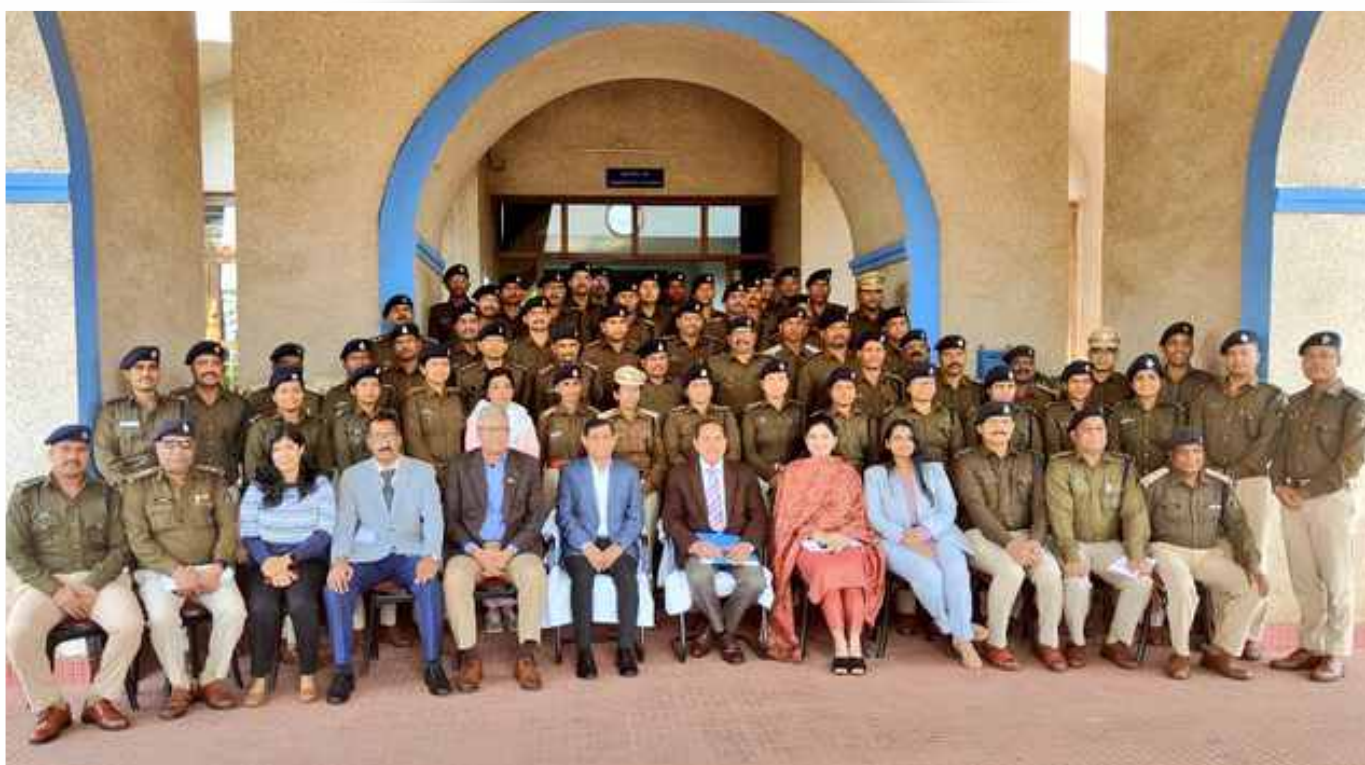
While addressing the 'Capacity Building Programme for Police Officers on Prevention of Counterfeiting and Smuggling' Mr Ratan Lal Dangi IPS, Director, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose State Police Academy stated that the problem of smuggling and counterfeiting is not only confined to India but is impacting the world. Police, being the primary enforcement body is playing an important role in enforcing laws and is continuously working for the nation building to foster economic growth. Mr. Dangi mentioned that counterfeiters and smugglers are not only hurting the economy of our country but are posing severe threat to the health and safety of citizens. Awareness among the enforcement agencies on the growing need to save the consumers from the hazard of counterfeiting & smuggling is essential, he added.

Mr Deep Chand, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi gave an overview on socio-economic impact of counterfeiting and smuggling. He stated that the grey market is fueling illegitimate industry, leading to an increased criminalization in society. This capacity building program is aimed to sensitize the

Chhattisgarh police officers on the importance of continued awareness and seriousness of the impact of counterfeit and smuggled products, he emphasized.

Col Atul Yadav, General Manager- North, Industry Affairs, ITC Ltd. opined that illegal activities such as counterfeiting and smuggling are flooding the market with substandard fake and smuggled products which are produced without following quality norms at unhygienic places, and are sold illegally, thus contributing towards increase in unaccounted money. A major driver for the rampant increase of smuggling is high taxes which create a significant arbitrage to fuel such activities. The extent of smuggling in the country is a cause of great concern. However, to effectively tackle the growing menace of smuggling in India, a lot more needs to be done to make the compliance and processes more robust and detection of such crime easier, he added.

Ms Aashita Agarwal, Policy Manger, Public Policy, Amazon India accentuated that Amazon is focused in mitigating fraud and abuse on marketplaces that hamper customer trust. Amazon has introduced several initiatives and have put in resources to make its marketplace a reliable and safe platform for customers, brands, and sellers to conduct transactions. She added that we are committed to promoting and participating in the efforts for ensuring that the consumers are empowered to enjoy the benefits of online shopping while being protected from the risks the digital era may present. The programme witnessed an enthusiastic participation of 120 police officers across the state.





# CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR OFFICERS OF ASSAM RIFLES ON PREVENTION OF COUNTERFEITING & SMUGGLING

21 February 2023 | Dimapur, Nagaland

**A**ssam Rifles is committed to working with all central and state agencies to combat illegal trade and smuggling in the North-east. FICCI CASCADE lauds Assam Rifles' successful interception of products such as illicit cigarettes, liquor, currency, contrabands and many more in the recent past in the Northeastern states. To engage and sensitize the officers on the subject of counterfeiting and smuggling, FICCI CASCADE organised a Capacity Building Programme for the officers of Assam Rifles on 21st February 2023 at Assam Rifles Training Centre & School, Dimapur, Nagaland.

Brigadier S K Sheoran, YSM, SM, Deputy Inspector General, Assam Rifles Training, Centre and School, Dimapur, Nagaland was the chief guest at the programme. Brigadier Sheoran

stated that the government has given power to the Assam Rifles under the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS), Act to keep a check on the ongoing increase in drug trafficking in the North-Eastern states. Drugs, cigarettes, arms and ammunition and betel nuts are few products which are frequently smuggled into our country. There is a need for stringent punishment and to inculcate a fear of law enforcement agencies and law and order to curtail the problem of illicit trade.

Brigadier Sheoran cited that the only way to stop smuggling at the border is to stay alert and have suspicious eye on everything coming in the country especially because of the porous and unfenced border India share with Myanmar, added Brigadier Sheoran. He apprised that smuggling and





counterfeit trade hold back progress, impact health of the economy and create safety hazards for consumers. Therefore, significant steps should be taken against illicit traders to battle the menace of smuggling.

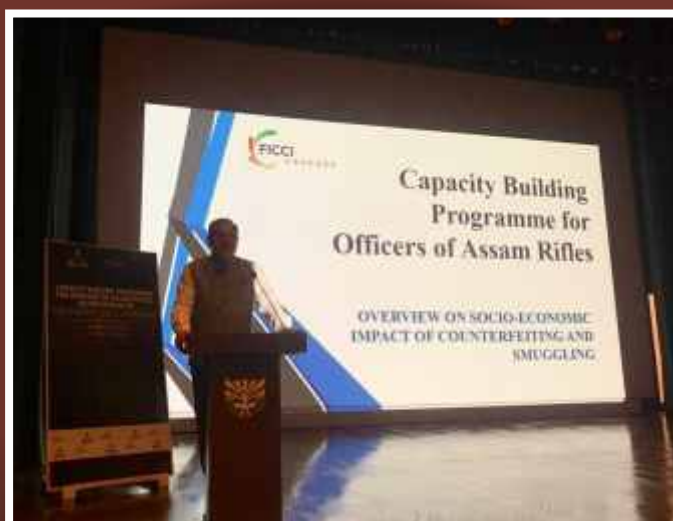
While giving an overview on socio-economic impact of counterfeiting and smuggling, Mr Deep Chand, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi mentioned that Assam Rifles proactive vigilance in intercepting the movement of smuggled products is a definitive step towards putting the fear in the hearts of smugglers who deal in illicit trade activities. "The capacity building program is aimed to sensitize the officers of Assam Rifles on the gravity of the issue and amplify the need for a greater focus on combatting smuggling and related crimes at the border", said Mr. Chand.

Mr. Avinash Sinha, Regional, Manager, Industry Affairs (East), ITC Ltd. accentuated that among the illicit & smuggled goods, cigarettes have emerged as one of the most lucrative products, witnessing the highest jump in the recent past, and it accounts for 1/3rd of the legal cigarette market in the country. It calls for heightened surveillance and stricter enforcement to curb the menace of illegal cigarettes in India added, Mr. Sinha.

Mr. Milind Palany, Senior Manager, Global Brand Protection, Southern Asia and ANZ, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Health opined that in India smuggling, counterfeiting, tax evasion and illicit trade is impacting legitimate economic activity. It also deprives the government's revenues for investment in vital public services, dislocating millions of legitimate jobs and causing irreversible damage to ecosystems and human lives. This is critical at a time when India is making strong progress to become a manufacturing hub for the world, supporting innovation in every sector and focusing on people-centric development models.

Ms. Shamin Marwah Anand, Legal Manager, Marico Limited talked about the consequences of counterfeits, which are considerable, and they affect industry, consumers, government and society. "Individual consumers purchasing counterfeit goods are denied the use of safe and genuine products, especially if they believe they are purchasing legitimate products. In addition to legitimate loss of sales, companies may suffer loss of reputation from poorly performing counterfeit product and that finally entities like government may suffer from loss of revenue, societies may suffer risks to public health and safety", said Ms. Anand.

The programme witnessed an enthusiastic participation of more than 500 officers from across the north-eastern states.



# Strengthening the fight to curb illicit trade



**ANIL RAJPUT**

Chairman, FICCI CASCADE and  
Member-Corporate Management Committee  
& President, Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd.

*Combating illicit trade and related crimes — emerging as fallouts of ongoing conflicts across the world — requires enhanced collaboration and bold policy reforms*

Over the years, seizures of smuggled products in India have grown at a rapid pace. DRI's latest Smuggling in India report (2021-22) shows that 833 kg of smuggled gold worth ₹405 crore, 28,334 kg narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances along with smuggled cigarettes amounting to about ₹93 crore.

No nation can achieve its developmental goals without having a zero-tolerance policy against smuggling. Smuggling results in an annual drain of \$2.2 trillion globally.

In addition to a well-established enforcement machinery, widespread awareness and strong consumer action against such malpractices can help address problems efficiently.

FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) took the

lead and launched 'Anti-Smuggling Day' on February 11 in 2022.

FICCI CASCADE also successfully runs a nation-wide campaign to address the challenges at the regional and national levels.

In CASCADE's recent engagement in Chennai, Tamil Nadu's Minister for Food and Civil Supplies R Sakkarapani emphasised on the State's stringent actions that have resulted in reduced smuggling of watches, gold, alcohol, and Indian currency. CASCADE's latest report 'Illicit Markets: A Threat to Our National Interests', estimated tax loss to the government due to illicit goods at ₹58,521 crore in 2019-20, with two highly regulated and taxed industries, tobacco products, and alcoholic beverages, accounting for nearly 49 per cent of the overall tax loss.

# Youth Awareness

Over the past several years, CASCADE has been working closely with school and college children to create a youth movement through various programmes and competitions.

Over the years several CASCADE has sensitised youngsters in shunning fake products and saying no to smuggled goods. Adding thrust to its Anti-Smuggling Day programme, CASCADE has also invited students across India to

participate in a Digital Art Competition themed 'Stand Against Smuggling'.

Like any complex problem, there is no silver bullet to address the insidious threat of smuggling. CASCADE will continue to appeal at both the national and international platforms for the need to come together and recognise Anti-Smuggling Day as a globally important date and chart an effective course of action in tackling this socio-economic scourge.

## Strengthening the fight to curb illicit trade

**Anil Rajput**

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### YOUTH AWARENESS

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The writer is Chairman, FICCI CASCADE. Views expressed are personal

# BEATING THE BLACK ECONOMY



**NAJIB SHAH**

Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, and Think Tank Member, FICCI- CASCADE

*Consumer awareness on the ill-effects of counterfeit and smuggled goods is central to curbing the black economy; policies and enforcement alone can't move the needle*

It is universally agreed that smuggling and counterfeiting are bad. They result in the evasion of laws, leading to loss of revenue, generation of unaccounted money used for nefarious purposes, and loss of legitimate jobs. Per a 2020 World Economic Forum report, illicit trade is estimated to result in a loss to the extent of \$2.2 trillion to the global economy—a humongous 3% of the global GDP.

India has not been spared from this menace. Its geographical location makes it vulnerable to the smuggling of drugs. India continues to be a major consumer of gold, and the insatiable demand for gold and the ingenious methods of concealment being adopted mean challenges for the enforcement agencies. Smuggling of small quantities of other sundry goods also takes place, ranging from household to electronic goods. There is also the problem of evasion of local taxes by

the domestic industry. The enforcement agencies under GST have been regularly in the news for huge detections of cases—from the use of fake invoices to illegally discharge duty liability to outright removal of goods without documentation.

Counterfeiting also poses problems for the country. This involves the misuse of trademarks and logos—goods meant to resemble the original with neither the safety standards nor guarantee of the original, and sold at lower prices. This is no better than the theft of intellectual property. In this case, too, there is a loss of revenue and employment. Genuine industry gets hurt in all these cases.

Professor Arun Kumar, a leading authority on the black economy, has estimated the size of India's black economy to be about 62% of GDP, generating (2016-17 prices) about '93

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trillion of revenue. To put this in context, this is larger than the income generated by agriculture and industry put together and than the size of government spending (both the Centre and the states). Kumar estimates that, because of its size, the country's economy has been losing on an average 5% growth since the mid- 1970s. What this means is that India could have been the world's second-largest economy; per capita income would have been \$11,000 instead of \$1,500.

What are the reasons for tax evasion? Is it the tax and legal structure, the lack of simplicity of the laws and the consequential difficulty in complying with their requirements, the lure of easy money, inflation, a significant informal economy, social and educational levels of the population, and the lack of integrity-or a combination of all these factors? In India's case, it would indeed appear to be a combination of all these factors.

Enforcement agencies are doing a splendid job of detection, but they will be hard-pressed to eradicate this danger. This will require the concerted effort of all the stakeholders-the policymakers, the enforcement agencies, the judiciary, and most importantly, the general population at large-the consumer.

It is in this context that FICCI's think-tank, Committee against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE), held its annual two-day conference, Movement against Smuggled and Counterfeit trade (MASCRADe) in late September 2022. The theme of the conference, 'Unleashing the power of consumers in the fight against smuggling and counterfeiting', was a clear recognition of the reality that it is the consumer's demand that fuels supply-and where there is a gap between demand

and supply, it is met by illicit supplies. The focus of all the sessions was on understanding and addressing the psyche which drives the consumer to satisfy their requirements through the purchase of illicit goods.

The conference highlighted the need to engage consumers, influence public opinion, and understand demand behaviour. It underscored the need to have in place measures for safeguarding consumers from spurious and fake foods-goods, which in the absence of any manufacturing standards, could pose health and safety issues. There was a recognition that India could not lose the revenue that illicit activities generate. Given the security challenges that the country faces, this is money that can be used for anti-national activities. The conference emphasised the need for urgent action against organised crime-a close consequence of illicit trade.

Most citizens would not like to break the law or be associated with anti-national activities. It is essential that we acknowledge this, hence the need for consumer awareness. Something as simple as insisting on a bill would sound a death knell for these illicit activities. These activities thrive on the consumer's desire to save money without thinking of their own safety, or worse, the nation's security. If we can ensure that we can jagoo the grahah, empower them, and shake them up from their slumber into realising that they can be active partners in the fight against illicit trade and nation-building, then the war can be won.

It is not going to be easy. But conferences such as MASCRADe 2022 help in creating the enabling environment. This is a fight that the nation cannot afford to lose.

## Beating the black economy



**NAJIB SHAH**  
Former chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, and member FICCI-CASCADE

Consumer awareness on the ill-effects of counterfeit and smuggled goods is central to curbing the black economy; policies and enforcement alone can't move the needle

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**IT IS UNIVERSALLY** agreed that smuggling and counterfeiting are bad. They result in the evasion of laws, leading to loss of revenue, generation of unaccounted money used for nefarious purposes, and loss of legitimate jobs. Per a 2020 World Economic Forum report, illicit trade is estimated to result in a loss to the extent of \$3.2 trillion to the global economy—a humongous 3% of the global GDP.

India has not been spared from this menace. Its geographical location makes it vulnerable to the smuggling of drugs, India continues to be a major consumer of gold, and the insatiable demand for gold and the ingenious methods of concealment being adopted mean challenges for the enforcement agencies. Smuggling of small quantities of other sundry goods also takes place, ranging from household to electronic goods. There is also the problem of evasion of local taxes by the domestic industry. The enforcement agencies under CIT have been regularly in the news for huge detections of cases—here the use of fake invoices to illegally discharge duty liability to smuggle removal of goods without documentation.

Counterfeiting also poses problems for the country. This involves the misuse of trademarks and logos—goods meant to resemble the original with neither the safety standards nor guarantee of the original, and sold at lower prices. This is

no better than the theft of intellectual property. In this case, too, there is a loss of revenue and employment. Genuine industry gets hurt in all these cases.

Professor Arun Kumar, a leading authority on the black economy, has estimated the size of India's black economy to be about 6.2% of GDP, generating (2016-17 prices) about ₹93 trillion of revenue. To put this in context, this is larger than the income generated by agriculture and industry put together and than the size of government spending (both the Centre and the states). Kumar estimates that, because of its size, the country's economy has been losing on an average 3% growth since the mid-1970s, when this means that India could have been the world's second largest economy; per capita income would have been \$11,000 instead of \$1,500.

What are the reasons for tax evasion? Is it the tax and legal structures, the lack of simplicity of the laws and the consequential difficulty in complying with their requirements, the lure of easy money, inflation, a significant informal economy, social and educational levels of the population, and the lack of integrity—or a combination of all these factors? In India's case, it

would indeed appear to be a combination of all these factors.

Enforcement agencies are doing a splendid job of detection, but they will be hard-pressed to eradicate this danger. This will require the concerted effort of all the stakeholders—the policymakers, the enforcement agencies, the judiciary, and most importantly, the general population at large—the consumer.

It is in this context that FICCI's think-tank, Committee against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE), held its annual two-day conference, Movement against Smuggled and Counterfeit trade (MASCRADe) in late September 2022. The theme of the conference, "Unleashing the power of consumers in the fight against smuggling and counterfeiting", was a clear recognition of the reality that it is the consumer's demand that fuels supply—and where there is a gap between demand and supply, it is met by illicit supplies. The focus of all the sessions was on understanding and addressing the psyche which drives the consumer to satisfy their requirements through the purchase of illicit goods.

The conference highlighted the need to engage consumers, influence public

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opinion, and understand demand behaviour. It underscored the need to have in place measures for safeguarding consumers from spurious and fake foods-goods, which in the absence of any manufacturing standards, could pose health and safety issues. There was a recognition that India could not lose the revenue that illicit activities generate. Given the security challenges that the country faces, this is money that can be used for anti-national activities. The conference emphasised the need for urgent action against organised crime—a close consequence of illicit trade.

Most citizens would not like to break the law or be associated with anti-national activities. It is essential that we acknowledge this, hence the need for consumer awareness. Something as simple as insisting on a bill would sound a death knell for these illicit activities. These activities thrive on the consumer's desire to save money without thinking of their own safety, or worse, the nation's security. If we can ensure that we can jagoo the grahah, empower them, and shake them up from their slumber into realising that they can be active partners in the fight against illicit trade and nation building, then the war can be won. It is not going to be easy, but conferences such as MASCRADe 2022 help in creating the enabling environment.

This is a fight that the nation cannot afford to lose.

# Dealing with the Smuggling Menace



**Rameesh Kailasam & Madhabi Sarkar**  
(CEO, and Senior Manager, Public Policy, Indiatech.org)

*Smugglers are using sophisticated methods and technologies, and there is a need for law enforcement to up the game with better cross-border coordination and trade-data reconciliations, beside in-country crackdowns on the grey market*

**S** muggling is a multidimensional issue that has a detrimental impact on the economy and national security. It can further destabilise countries by instigating crime, funding terrorism, and generating and circulating black money globally. A growing threat to Atmanirbhar Bharat today is the deadly combination of smuggling and massive amounts of misdeclaration that leverage existing treaties and Free Trade Agreements. The signs of it can be noticed on the streets and local markets, when one sees people smoking a thin cigarette pulled out from an attractive looking pack that does not have the dreadful images that are mandatory under the 'Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act' (COTPA) guidelines. These are imported and openly flout the Legal Metrology Act and the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules as they carry no name or address of the manufacturer, importer or

packer, quantity of the product, month, year of manufacture or pre-packing/importation, nor the retail sale price, and so on.

Another example are the tiny sewing needles. The rate at which these imported sewing needles brought into the country through misdeclaration are flooding the market is bound to cause severe harm to the Indian manufacturers who produce high-quality needles and form part of the country's SME and MSME ecosystem. Most of the imported sewing needles in the market today even contain names of the manufacturers/brands who do not seem to actually exist in the FTA countries with which India has an agreement as they are manufactured in non-FTA countries but shipped via FTA countries. Despite clear requirements with regard to labelling, most imported sewing machine needles that use the FTA route clearly violate legal metrology, apart from

avoiding taxes using the FTA leverage. Whether it is cigarettes or sewing needles, the loose-selling options are also leveraged through intelligent packing. For example, in the 100-needle pack, it would state "Contents are not to be sold in loose" to circumvent the Legal Metrology conditions. The 100-pack consists of ten 10-needle packs, which are sold in the retail market per customer requirements, thus openly flouting legal metrology compliances. All of the above damage local manufacturing, enjoy cost arbitrage due to tax avoidance, leverage misdeclarations, and create an opportunity for tax evasion. This has unfortunately created an uneven playing field, and works counter to the vision of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

Recently, FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) launched a comprehensive report titled *Illicit Markets: A Threat to Our National Interests*, which examines the impact of illicit trade in five key industries in India—mobile phones, FMCG-household and personal goods, FMCG-packaged foods, tobacco products, and alcoholic beverages. According to the report, the size of illicit markets in these industries was Rs 2.6 trillion, with household and personal goods, and packaged foods together accounting for three-fourths of the total illicit value of goods. The report estimates that unlawful trade in these industries results in a total estimated legitimate employment loss of 15.96 lakh. The tax-loss to the Centre from illicit trade has jumped by 163% over 10 years.

Smugglers are using sophisticated methods and technologies to smuggle goods across borders, and there is a need for law enforcement and tax authorities to up their game with better cross-border coordination and trade-data

reconciliations, apart from in-country crackdown on grey markets. This is necessary because once the controls at the border are violated either through smuggling, misdeclaration, or leveraging FTAs, the goods still can be caught while being sold inside the country by increasing the manpower in departments like legal metrology under the ministry of consumer affairs.

Higher taxes are another cause for customers looking for overseas sources. Let us take the case of online travel startups, which are now losing a large chunk of business from Indian customers to overseas travel operators due to a proposed 20% tax collection at source on foreign travel packages. Indian customers are shifting to overseas platforms to avoid this tax as well as GST, which creates a cost arbitrage opportunity resulting in revenue-loss to the country.

Today, on the one hand we are seeing technology, analytics and artificial intelligence being deployed to track and trace consignments, patterns, and modules to prevent smuggling. But, on the other, there are many hardware-based interventions. For example, Europe is deploying a new set of high-tech anti-smuggling tools, including a machine that fires part of an atom at containers that helps analyse their contents. There are also deployments such as the electronic sniffer dog that sniffs particles inside the container but would never get tired like a real dog. There are also unmanned surface vessels for marine monitoring, surveying, and chasing smugglers in deep seas.

It is time for India to crack down, both internally and at the borders, to curb this menace. Prime minister Narendra Modi should take the lead and declare an Anti-Smuggling Day and work with other countries to make this a global effort.



**Dealing with the smuggling menace**

**RAMEESH KAILASAM & MADHABI SARKAR**  
Research, Writing, CEO, and Senior Manager, Public Policy, Webinars & Events

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**Europe is deploying a new set of high-tech anti-smuggling tools, including a machine that helps analyse contents of containers**

# Getting more from Taxation



**Rameesh Kailasam & Madhabi Sarkar**  
(CEO, and Senior Manager, Public Policy, Indiatech.org)

*The government needs to expand the tax base and not tax the already-taxed some more. Sustainability and realisation of tax must be made the focus of the regime*

Every year, budget planners are confronted with raising more taxes to increase the government's revenue while keeping taxpayers satisfied. However, more often than not, this exercise ends up loading more taxes onto the handful of sincere taxpayers as there is certainty about them paying up, and there is an assumed belief that they will be able to bear additional taxes given their profile. As a corollary to this, it is a tough call to bring the untaxed into the tax net; however, there is enough evidence that this approach is losing steam. In a country of more than 135 crore people, till July 31, 2022, only a little over 5.8 crore income tax returns (ITRs) were filed for 2022-23, which is just above 4% of India's population. Further, the number of people who declare their annual income as being above ₹1 crore is just 131,390. This brings to light the stark reality of how a sizeable chunk of Indians who should be paying taxes

avoid paying them. This leads us to ponder over mopping up tax revenue without further taxing the taxed and by bringing tax evaders under the tax ambit. Even fractional rates of taxes on the untaxed can mop up significant revenue.

For corporate taxes, the number of legal business entities in India is staggering. However, those paying taxes make for a low number. Besides, we have a growing problem of online businesses operating from outside Indian territory and are yet allowed to sell competing goods and services in India. Regarding personal taxes, high taxpayers are only a small fraction of the total. The number of luxury cars far exceeds the number of taxpayers. This anomaly means the goods are funded by the evaders. No country can build a strong foundation with this.

India had 8.22 crore taxpayers, which includes individuals and corporates in FY20. In contrast, the two-wheeler



population is about 18 crore, with the cheapest scooters costing about `50,000. Industry estimates show that around 17,000 luxury vehicles were sold in the country between January-June 2022 alone. But this kind of expense hardly matches actual income tax returns by rich Indians. Clearly, scooter or luxury car ownership numbers do not tally with the number of people honestly filing taxes. So, there is an urgent need for stringent compliance, with technology playing a critical role in tracking the expenditures of individual taxpayers.

In India, the tax-to-GDP ratio is around 20%, which is below par if we compare it with other rapidly developing economies. It is because only a small percentage of the population pays taxes. Enhanced compliance in tier II cities, targeting professionals as well as businesses who do not avail of presumptive taxation, will enhance the tax base. Such measures will enable the government to remove cess and surcharges that individuals and corporates pay on top of tax paid on earned income. These add to the total tax payout, and can go as high as 42% in the case of individuals as the surcharge on individual taxation is around 10 to 35%.

Per a recent FICCI study, *Illicit Markets: A Threat to Our National Interests*, the estimated tax loss to the government in two highly regulated and taxed industries—tobacco products and alcoholic beverages—is over `28,500 crore. Goods with higher profit margins, like gold, tobacco, and alcohol, are highly taxed and lead to massive tax evasion and smuggling. The need of the hour is to parallelly arm enforcement agencies with cutting-edge technologies to catch smugglers and underground operators. Second, lowering the tax rates in these industry segments will

eradicate tax evasion, resulting in more tax collection.

The focus should be on the quantum of tax and making the incidence of tax lower to fuel growth and wealth creation as against the rate of tax and making that number bigger. For example, we are witnessing huge investments in startups and the emerging innovative and disruptive technology space. For this sector to become India's next tech boom and create more wealth, we should ideally look at a 10-year liberal tax approach around capital gains, backed by enabling regulations that can open the floodgates for wealth creation, taking India towards becoming a \$10-trillion economy by 2030.

Sustainability and realisation of tax need to be considered. Many science companies have shifted their IPRs to tax heavens and remit royalties to these regions to evade taxes. A consistent and less complex taxation system will not only reduce tax evasion but also encourage domestic and foreign investors. To enable better profitability and encourage investments, taxes should be moderate for new emerging sectors, particularly the technology sector. The government needs to expand the tax base and not tax the already taxed some more and leave some totally out of the net. This will lead to the collection of more taxes, bring relief to the honest taxpayer, and also enable the government to showcase visible development of public infrastructure and facilities like health and education. Let's focus on compliance and simplify and expand the tax base. It will require an overhaul in the Indian taxation system, and what better time than the upcoming Union budget to start on this task that will put a smile on both the honest taxpayers' and the exchequer's faces?

## Getting more from taxation



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Respectively, CEO and senior manager (taxes, policy), IndiaMint

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**A moderate tax regime for tech start-ups will be in keeping with the goal of increasing the quantum and incidence of tax without having to increase the rate**

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MEDIA COVERAGE



Govt suffers tax loss of Rs 58,521 cr due to illicit trade in 5 key industries: FICCI

Phalaged foods, alcoholic beverages and tobacco products cause maximum revenue loss to exchequer



FICCI has recently released a report assessing illicit trade in 5 key industries...

According to the report, the illicit trade in 5 key industries...

फिक्की कास्केड पटना में करेगा अंतर-विद्यालयी प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन

अंतर-विद्यालयी प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन...

Stringent actions taken by the state have resulted in reduction smuggling: Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Tamil Nadu

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कैसर और कोविड बीमारियों से ज्यादा खतरनाक है तस्करी एवं जालसाजी: उद्योग मंत्री

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Tax loss from illicit goods up by ₹25 cr

Smuggling, counterfeiting more dangerous than cancer, COVID: Bihar minister Samir Kumar Mahaseth



Stringent action taken by Tamil Nadu have resulted in reduction of smuggling: Minister

CHENNAI: R Sakkarrani, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Tamil Nadu on Tuesday said...

CHENNAI: The prevalence of counterfeit products and smuggling in various such as mobile phones and fast-moving consumer goods...

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Volume of counterfeiting spiked 100 times globally: FICCI



চোবাং ব্যবসায়-নকল সামগ্রীর ব্যবসায় বৃদ্ধিয়ে অর্থনৈতিক বিপদ সৃষ্টি করে

অসম বাইকলজৰ সামৰ্থ বিকাশ শিবিরত উপ-মহাপৰিৱৰ্তক



Smuggling and counterfeits hinder progress, economic growth: Brigadier S K Sheoran

Dimapur: Brigadier S K Sheoran, YSM, SM, Deputy Inspector General, Assam Rifles Training Centre and School on Tuesday said...

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# MEDIA COVERAGE



## अवैध कारोबार अर्थव्यवस्था को कर रहे बाधित : नीलाब्जा चौधरी

संवाद: मुंबई

संवाद: मुंबई। निर्यात नीली, सड़क दुर्घटना, आग और अपराधों के साथ ही मुंबई में एक अवैध कारोबारों से भी अर्थव्यवस्था को बाधित कर रहे हैं। अवैध कारोबारों को रोकना और सड़क दुर्घटनाओं को रोकना ही अर्थव्यवस्था को बढ़ावा देने का एकमात्र तरीका है। अवैध कारोबारों को रोकना ही अर्थव्यवस्था को बढ़ावा देने का एकमात्र तरीका है।

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## Trade body's cry to stop illicit trade on Anti-Smuggling Day

ASHOK CHATTERJEE

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## कैंसर व कोविड जैसी जानलेवा बीमारियों से भी ज्यादा खतरनाक है तस्करी और जालसाजी

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## 20 वर्षों में 100 गुना बढ़ी जालसाजी की गतिविधियां

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## नकली और तस्करी वाले उत्पादों की आयी बाढ़

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## UP Police playing significant role in ensuring protection of legitimate businesses from illicit market operators

Lucknow: Mr Nilabja Chaudhary, Joint Commissioner of Police, Crime and Hq, Lucknow today said, "The Police Department plays a significant role in ensuring the protection of legitimate businesses from illicit market operators. The Uttar Pradesh police actively seize products such as fake medicines, currency notes, cigarettes and liquor, which have direct repercussions on the law and order and public health and safety."

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## India's march to \$40 tn economy under Amrit Kaal can be seized by smuggling, says FICCI CASCADE Report

NEW DELHI: The surge in smuggling and counterfeit trade is a major threat to India's economic growth. The FICCI CASCADE Report highlights the need for a comprehensive anti-smuggling strategy to protect the country's economic interests. The report also calls for a 2007 FICCI CASCADE campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of smuggling and counterfeiting.

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MEDIA COVERAGE

MEDIA COVERAGE



बीच जलोती में तमपना सरकार की 58.521 करोड़ के टैक्स का घना-निर्देय

आर्थिक विकास में गैरकानूनी व्यापार बाधक : अमरजीत भगत

समस्या को दूर करने के लिए... आर्थिक विकास में गैरकानूनी व्यापार बाधक... अमरजीत भगत...



तस्करी, जालसाजी न केवल भारत बल्कि पूरे विश्व के लिए एक गंभीर समस्या : रतन लाल डांगी

रतन लाल डांगी... तस्करी, जालसाजी न केवल भारत बल्कि पूरे विश्व के लिए एक गंभीर समस्या... रतन लाल डांगी...



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1,000 करोड़ की प्रतिबद्धित वस्तुएं हर माह होती हैं जब्त दुग्ध तस्करी बड़े पैमाने पर : DRI

दुग्ध तस्करी बड़े पैमाने पर... 1,000 करोड़ की प्रतिबद्धित वस्तुएं हर माह होती हैं जब्त... DRI...



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India's march to \$40 trillion economy under Amrit Kaal can be seized by smuggling: Report

India's march to \$40 trillion economy under Amrit Kaal can be seized by smuggling: Report... PTI / Feb 10, 2023



NEW DELHI: The magnitude of smuggling and the consequent loss to the country's economy might become a roadblock in India's march towards a \$40 trillion economy under the government's vision of Amrit Kaal, a report said.

While last year FICCI CASCADE took the initiative to mark February 11 as Anti-Smuggling Day, it has appealed to the government to highlight the issue of smuggling on the world stage and work with

Media coverage snippet showing a news anchor and a headline: 'आर्थिक अपराध और साइबर अपराधों में भारी वृद्धि- भगत'.

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Media coverage snippet showing a news anchor and a headline: 'खाद्य मंत्री अमरजीत भगत होइन सागिल'.

Media coverage snippet showing a news anchor and a headline: 'जालसाजी-तस्करी के उपर सेमिनार'.

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MEDIA COVERAGE

# SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

#LetUsStartNow

#GenuineHappinessThisDiwali



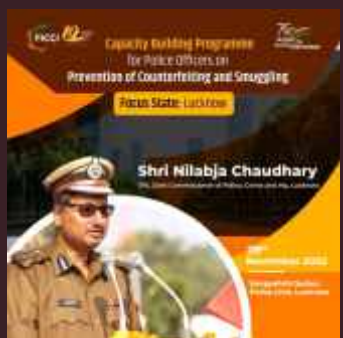
#SmartConsumer

Seminar on 'Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting & Smuggling' in Chennai

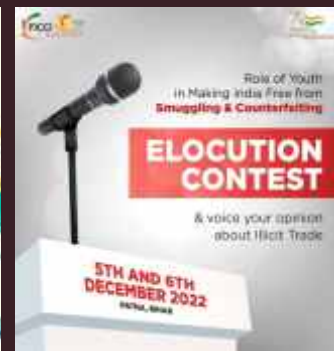


Capacity Building Programme for Police Officers on 'Prevention of Counterfeiting & Smuggling' in Lucknow

Important Days



Awareness Programme on 'Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting & Smuggling' & Role of Youth in Making India Free from Smuggling & Counterfeiting in Bihar



MEDIA COVERAGE

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**1. Eight million illegal cigarettes worth €6.3m seized at Dublin Port**

14 FEB, 2023

Eight million illegal cigarettes with a retail value of more than €6m have been seized at Dublin Port. The smuggled cigarettes, branded 'Lambert & Butler' have an estimated retail value of €6.32m, representing a potential loss to the Exchequer of almost €4.95m.

<https://www.irishe Examiner.com/news/courtandcrime/arid-41071361.html>

**2.8 people charged after Edmonton police seize \$1.1M worth of contraband cigarettes, drugs, cash**

Global News | November 3, 2022

Eight people have been charged after an Edmonton police investigation led officers to seize more than \$1.1 million worth of contraband cigarettes, drugs, cars and cash.

The Edmonton Police Service's drug and gang enforcement section (EDGE) began an investigation last fall into the suspected drug trafficking of two Edmonton men.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8875246/edmonton-police-drug-trafficking-contraband-cigarette-investigation/>

**3. Indianapolis CBP Sees 55 Percent Increase in Counterfeit Goods in FY 2022**

1 Jan 2023

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Indianapolis saw a record number of fraudulent counterfeits during Fiscal Year 2022. CBP officers in Indianapolis seized 7,901 counterfeits that would have been worth a Manufacturer's Suggest Retail Price more than \$115.53 million, had they been real, during Fiscal Year 2022, which runs from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/indianapolis-cbp-sees-55-percent-increase-counterfeit-goods-fy-2022>

**4. Gold Nuggets and Bars Worth \$67,830 Seized by Cincinnati CBP**

15 March 2023

On March 9, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers stationed at the Port of Cincinnati seized an outbound shipment declared as containing clothing after they discovered it also contained loose gold and gold bars worth far more than the declared value of \$125 USD.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/gold-nuggets-and-bars-worth-67830-seized-cincinnati-cbp>

**5. Gold seized by NCA at Heathrow as part of international cartel investigation**

National Crime Agency: Gold worth around £4 million has been seized by the National Crime Agency as part of an international investigation into a suspected South American drugs cartel. Officers from Border Force, acting on intelligence from the NCA, moved in to detain the shipment at Heathrow on 1 June.

It was being transported from the Cayman Islands to Switzerland, having earlier been shipped to the Caymans on a private jet which had arrived from Venezuela.

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/gold-seized-by-nca-at-heathrow-as-part-of-international-cartel-investigation>

**6. Slovakia: Seizure of electronic devices in investigation**

The Financial Administration Criminal Office (Kriminálny úrad finan?nej správy) in Slovakia has carried out searches and seized electronic devices and accounting documents in an investigation led by the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) into the non-payment of customs taxes on imported goods. Mobile phones, PCs, tablets, memory cards and documents relating to suspected criminal activities were seized, and will be examined by experts. The estimated losses resulting from the non-payment of customs duties and other charges levied on the importation of goods amount to €2 650 000.

<https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/slovakia-seizure-electronic-devices-investigation-tax-fraud-losses-eu2-650-000>

**7. Mozambique makes record seizure of smuggled cell phones**

Mozparks | 31 May 2022

Mozambican authorities yesterday announced the biggest seizure of mobile phones this year, after intercepting a container with more than 60,000 devices and other equipment smuggled in the port of Nacala, Nampula province northern Mozambique. Investigation teams "detected and seized a total of 60,990 mobile phones", the "biggest seizure" recorded this year, João Saltiel, director of customs in Nacala, told reporters.

<https://clubofmozambique.com/news/mozambique-makes-record-seizure-of-smuggled-cell-phones-217920/>

**8. Bangladesh police bust Pakistan-run fake Indian currency racket, Rs 73.5 million seized**

WION | November 28, 2022

Acting on a tip-off, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) recovered fake Indian currency notes (FICN) valued at Rs 73.5 million from a house in Dhaka on Saturday. The police arrested one lady identified as Fatema Akhtar Opi from the Khilkhet area, and after prolonged examination, they were led to a house in the Dakshinkhan area where they recovered the FICN concealed in a secret chamber of the house.

<https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/bangladesh-police-bust-pakistan-run-fake-indian-currency-racket-rs-735-million-seized-432486>

**9. CBP Officers Seize \$2.4 Million in Methamphetamine at Eagle Pass International Bridge**

03/07/2023

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations (OFO) at the Eagle Pass Port of Entry seized more than \$2.4 million in alleged methamphetamine in a single enforcement action.

"This impressive seizure of methamphetamine underscores the reality of the drug threat we face at the port of entry and the determination of our frontline officers to apply officer experience to keep our border secure," said Acting Port Director Michael Martinez, Eagle Pass Port of Entry.

**10. Over 285,000 medicines and medical devices seized UK-wide in global action**

Officers from the MHRA have seized large quantities of illegally traded medicines and medical devices in an Interpol week of action known as "Operation Pangea". Medicines and medical devices valued at over £850,000, totalling more than 285,000 items, have been seized by officers from the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) as part of a global operation to tackle the illegal sale of medical products, with UK seizures estimated to be worth around 9 per cent of the global total.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-285000-medicines-and-medical-devices-seized-uk-wide-in-global-action>

# NATIONAL NEWS

## 1. Two held with fake foreign cigarettes worth ₹5.90 crore

Hindustan times | 1 Dec 2022

A joint team of Special Operations Group and Tharwai police arrested two persons with a truck loaded with fake foreign cigarettes worth ₹5.90 crore. Questioning the accused revealed that fake cigarettes in the name of a popular foreign brand was being manufactured and supplied by a gang based in Bihar.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/others/two-held-with-fake-foreign-cigarettes-worth-rs-5-90-crore-101669918688734.html>

## 2. Mizoram: Foreign-origin cigarettes worth Rs 97.5 lakhs recovered from Champhai

by NE NOW NEWS February 15, 2023

AIZAWL: Troopers of the Assam Rifles have recovered and seized 65 cases of foreign-origin cigarettes at Champhai district of Mizoram. The seized consignment of foreign-origin cigarettes has been estimated to be worth Rs 97.5 lakhs in the markets. The recovery and seizure was made at Zokhawthar in Champhai district of Mizoram, officials informed on Wednesday. The smuggled consignment of foreign-origin cigarettes were seized by the Assam Rifles in a joint operation with the Mizoram customs department.

<https://nenow.in/north-east-news/mizoram/mizoram-foreign-origin-cigarettes-worth-rs-97-5-lakhs-recovered-champhai.html>

## 3. Kolkata Police busts second fake currency racket within a week

India Today | Jan 15, 2023

A team of the Kolkata Police Special Task Force busted the second fake currency racket within a week, operating near Howrah Bridge. A person, identified as Selim Sekh, has been arrested and a notable cache of fake currency notes was recovered from him. Fake notes worth Rs 43,000 were recovered by the authorities from the accused.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/cities/kolkata/story/kolkata-police-busts-fake-currency-racket-howrah-2321672-2023-01-15>

## 4. Mumbai: Fake currency notes of Rs 80 lakh face value seized, farmer held

Press Trust of India | Mumbai | December 28, 2022

The Mumbai Police have arrested a 31-year-old farmer and seized from him 16,000 fake currency notes of Rs 500 denomination with the face value of Rs 80 lakh in suburban Powai, an official said on Wednesday. The seizure was made by the crime branch on Monday, he said. "The crime branch got a tip-off that a gang was active in circulating fake notes. A trap was laid and the accused was nabbed. Police seized 160 bundles of Rs 500 fake currency notes from him," the official said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/mumbai-fake-currency-notes-of-rs-80-lakh-face-value-seized-farmer-held-122122801273\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/mumbai-fake-currency-notes-of-rs-80-lakh-face-value-seized-farmer-held-122122801273_1.html)

## 5. Over 5,500 litres of smuggled illicit liquor destroyed: Delhi excise dept

Business Standard | October 15, 2022

The Excise department of Delhi government on Saturday destroyed 5,516 litres of smuggled illicit liquor seized by its enforcement teams in recent months, officials said. According to the Excise department, 3,267 litres of illicit liquor was destroyed in Mayur Vihar, 1,285 litres in Sarita Vihar and 964 litres in Tilak Nagar.

A large number of liquor bottles were spread on concrete stretches and a road roller was used to crush them, they said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/over-5-500-litres-of-smuggled-illicit-liquor-destroyed-delhi-excise-dept-122101500925\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/over-5-500-litres-of-smuggled-illicit-liquor-destroyed-delhi-excise-dept-122101500925_1.html)

## 6. Uttar Pradesh: Police in Chandauli destroys 13,000 litres of illegal liquor

28 Dec 2022 | Economic Times

13,000 litres of illegal liquor seized in 114 cases between 2020-21 was destroyed by a road roller on NH-02 at Chandauli in Uttar Pradesh on December 28. Chandauli ASP Vinay Kumar Singh said, "An operation is being carried out in the Chandauli region by the police under the leadership of Chandauli SP for the pending cases at different police stations. Under this operation, illegal liquor seized in 114 cases between 2020-21 was destroyed under the Syadraja police station of the district. A total of 13,423 litres of illegal liquor was destroyed."

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/uttar-pradesh-police-in-chandauli-destroys-13000-litres-of-illegal-liquor/videoshow/96577333.cms?from=mdr>

## 7. DRI foils attempts of gold smuggling; seizes 36 kg gold worth Rs 21 crore in Mumbai

India TV | January 24, 2023

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) Mumbai has successfully foiled attempts of organised gold smuggling through air routes and recovered more than 36 kg of unaccounted gold worth Rs 21 crore at various stages of processing on Tuesday.

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/maharashtra/mumbai-dri-foils-attempts-of-gold-smuggling-seizes-36-kg-gold-worth-rs-21-crore-at-mumbai-airport-2023-01-24-841848>

## 8. Mumbai Airport Customs Seize 8.3 Kilograms Of Gold In Wax Form Worth Rs 4.14 Crore

Republic World | 27th January, 2023

Mumbai Airport Customs on January 27 seized 8.3 kilograms of gold in the form of wax, with an estimated value of Rs 4.14 crore from 11 foreign nationals who came from Sharjah to Mumbai. The gold was hidden in their body cavities.

<https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/mumbai-airport-customs-seize-8-dot-3-kilograms-of-gold-in-wax-form-worth-rs-4-dot-14-crore-articleshow.html>

## 9. Four held for selling fake apple products

TNN/31 Dec 2022

Coimbatore: The Kattoor police arrested four mobile shop owners at Gandhipuram on Thursday evening for selling fake accessories and parts of Apple phones. The arrested were identified as B Mohammed Afsarkani 24, from Madurai; P Vardharam Choudhary, 23, from Rajasthan; B Noushad, 39, from Palakkad in Kerala; from Palakkad in Kerala; and B Mahendra Singh, 28, from Raja sthan. They run I Connect, B-One Mobile, Spencer Mobile Accessories and Mataji Mobile & Electronics, at Gandhipuram, respectively.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/four-held-for-selling-fake-apple-products/articleshow/96635575.cms>

## 10. 3 held with imported expired cosmetics in Mumbai

MUMBAI: City crime branch raided a godown at Masjid Bunder and seized a huge quantity of imported expired cosmetics and e-cigarettes with which the syndicate were altering expiry dates and supplying them to beauty shops here.

Police have seized deodorants, healthcare products, foams, shower gels, air-fresheners, shampoos and 590 e-cigarettes worth more than Rs21 lakh

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/3-held-with-imported-expired-cosmetics-in-mumbai/articleshow/96750361.cms>



## Youth Engagement Programme

Focus State:  
Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand



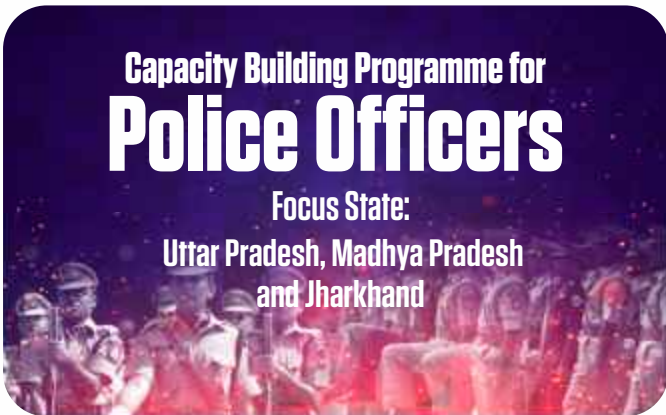
## Seminar on Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting & Smuggling

Focus State:  
Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand



## Capacity Building Programme for Police Officers

Focus State:  
Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand



## In Conversation Programme with Chairman CBDT, & Police Commissioner



In the recent past India's economic growth story has attracted world's attention bringing new challenges for the domestic economy. One of the challenges currently faced is the growing illicit trade in counterfeits, pass offs and smuggled goods. These activities are also threatening brands not only in every region of the country but across the globe. Contraband and counterfeit products hurt the integrity of the brand, further diluting the brand owner's reputation. This not only results in erosion of sales of the legitimate product but further [CASCADE]s onto affect the consumers in the form of health and safety hazards. With the above insight the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) took the initiative to dedicate a forum by establishing the Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy - CASCADE on 18th January, 2011.

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