



# Smuggling & Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy

Annual Report  
(August 2020 - May 2021)





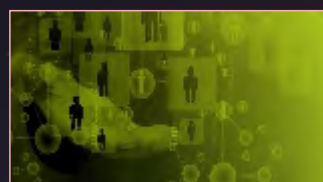
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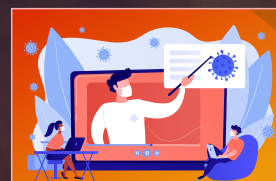
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CASCADE

Committee Against Smuggling and  
Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy



# Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy

**I**llicit Trade in terms of smuggling, counterfeiting and piracy is considered as one of the world's fastest growing 'industry'. It is an enduring problem that escalates each day in scope and magnitude and thus impacts industries, consumers, governments and economies. Smuggling and counterfeiting can have broad economy-wide effects on trade, foreign investment, employment, innovation, criminality, environment and most importantly on the health of the consumers.

8%-15% of global GDP is impacted due to illicit trade and criminal activities. It is estimated that the total economic and social costs globally due to counterfeiting and piracy world-wide stood between USD 737 to USD 898 billion in 2013 and this is expected to go up to USD 1.54 to USD 1.87 trillion by 2022, suggesting an increase of 108 per cent. In addition the total employment losses globally due to counterfeit and piracy stood at 2 to 2.6 million jobs in 2013 and is expected to rise to 4.2 to 5.4 million jobs in 2022, suggesting an approximate increase of 110 per cent.

For some time now illicit trade is also known to provide the fuel that energizes the terror machine. Many prominent terrorist organisations like the

Hezbollah, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Al-Qaida, ISIS, Irish Republican Army rely on illicit trade for financing 20 per cent of their operations. In Italy, the mafia are also known to run illicit trade supply chains and at times the foreign organized crime groups manage day-to-day operations with mafia authorization and oversight. The perpetrators of the Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris were found to have actively indulged in the illicit trade of cigarettes. The list goes on and we are racing against time to effectively counter this multi-dimensional evil force that is going from strength to strength and has total disregard for human life.

With a growing economy, India also faces the challenge of countering illicit trade in smuggled & counterfeit goods. In India, the estimated loss to the industry, and just for 7 sectors only, which are automobile parts, FMCG personal goods, FMCG packaged goods, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, mobile phones and computer hardware, is about Rs. 105,381 Crs and a loss of revenue to government is about Rs. 39,239 Crs for the year 2013-14. It is notable here that average increase in these losses have been as much as 45 %, and in just two years!!

Given the emphasis on India's economic development and the much anticipated growth trajectory; technology, invention, and innovation will play a key role in charting out India's growth strategy. However, illegal trade practices will prove to hinder this progression. India today has the potential to become a global manufacturing hub. However, in the absence of an adequate enforcement mechanism to stop counterfeiting and smuggling, can act as a dampener in achieving this goal.

Despite several efforts undertaken to curb smuggling, counterfeiting and piracy, the illicit markets continue to thrive across all industry segments. Hence, a proactive strategy should be in place to fight this serious menace to public health and safety, and to the national exchequer. Cooperation amongst stakeholders (including international and domestic regulatory and investigative agencies), streamlining of complex tax structures, stringent governance practices and enforcement of existing laws are required to curb this tumorous threat.

## Major Issues/Concerns

- » The challenge of counterfeited and smuggled goods has emerged as a global problem
- » Low barriers to the market entry and infiltration, no country is immune from the impact of counterfeiting and smuggling and no single sector can be said to be an exception
- » The market for fake or counterfeit or smuggled products is one of the biggest challenges faced by Indian industry, impacting 'Brand India' globally
- » Consumers receive poorer quality products that are unregulated and unsafe
- » Businesses suffer lower income and damaged brands, they may have to cut jobs and reduce investment leading in turn to lower economic growth

Set up on 18th January 2011, '**Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy' (CASCADE)** by FICCI is a unique forum working towards facing and countering the challenge of growing illicit trade in counterfeits, pass offs and smuggled goods in the domestic economy.

### **FICCI CASCADE is pursuing the Agenda of Highlighting:**

- » Legitimate industry is adversely affected
- » Consumers' health and safety is being jeopardized
- » Illegitimate industry is flourishing
- » Loss to the exchequer
- » Burden on welfare costs and enforcement cost
- » Black money being generated
- » Increased criminalization



# Mandate



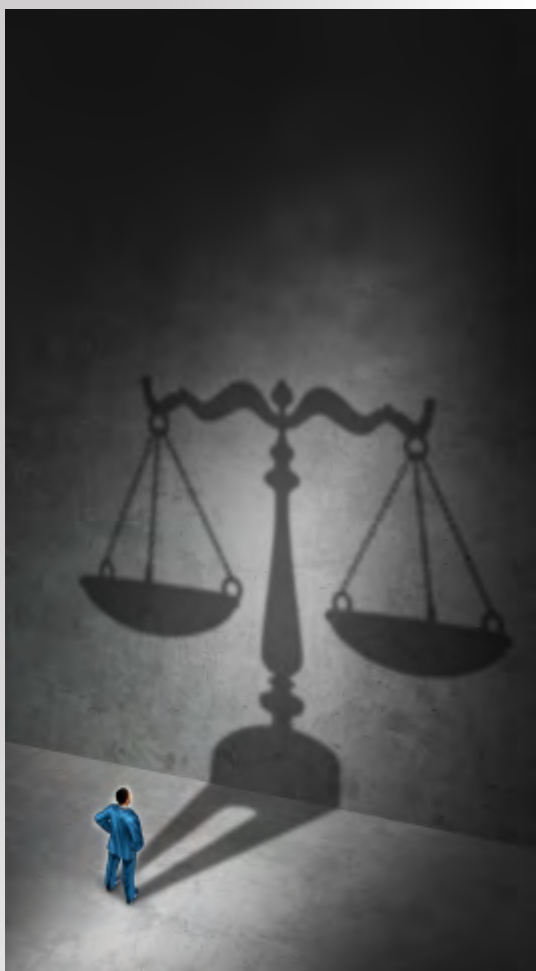
## Awareness Generation

- » To put the issue of smuggled, contraband and counterfeit products high on the social agenda
- » To generate and spread awareness on the hazardous impact of smuggled, contraband and counterfeit products
- » To interact with the law enforcement authorities to emphasize on the importance of continued awareness and seriousness of the impact of smuggled and counterfeit goods
- » To achieve a high "issue recall" on anti-smuggling and anti-counterfeiting in the minds of consumers and to sensitize the supply chain personnel towards the harm that smuggled, contraband and counterfeit products cause and to emphasize the importance of their role in grappling with the social issue

## Knowledge Management

- » To engage in systematic assimilation and dissemination of enforcement techniques, procedures and strategies for the guidance of its members through various interactive events
  - » To commission research and propose law and policy reforms to Government and other relevant stakeholders through knowledge papers, report, studies on issues related to counterfeiting and smuggling
  - » To provide a platform for sharing the best practices followed globally for combating contraband, smuggled and counterfeit products
- To engage in capacity building activities for the benefit of law enforcement agencies and other CASCADE stakeholders including Judicial, Police and Customs Officers
- » To tap into initiatives of various international fora such as ICC, BASCAP, WIPO Advisory Committee on Enforcement, WCO and others to identify existing gaps in India and building synergies in collaborative mode
  - » To study and have full appreciation of the enforcement initiatives of developed countries as well as developing countries





## Policy Advocacy

- » To assist the Government in formulating its response to regional and multilateral agreements and model laws being proposed by international organizations such as INTA, WIPO, WCO etc
- » To assist the Government of India in formulating its position in ongoing bilateral negotiations having an impact on enforcement issues related to counterfeiting and smuggling

## Networking

- » To work in synergy with other foreign institutions and bodies working in the realm of anti-counterfeiting and anti-smuggling
- » To identify and facilitate CASCADE stakeholders to network with legal services providers and investigators who have excellent relationships in the local law enforcement machinery and who have consistently delivered high yield counterfeiting raids across India





7<sup>th</sup> edition

The logo for MASCRADE 2021. It features a stylized 'M' icon on the left, composed of two overlapping triangles, one blue and one red. To the right of the icon, the word 'MASCRADE' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'MAS' in blue and 'CRADE' in red. The year '2021' is written in a larger, bold, blue font to the right of 'MASCRADE'.

# MASCRADE 2021

MOVEMENT AGAINST SMUGGLED & COUNTERFEIT TRADE  
**IMPACT OF COUNTERFEITING & SMUGGLING ON  
PERSONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

# MASCRADE 2021

MOVEMENT AGAINST SMUGGLED & COUNTERFEIT TRADE



It has long been known that illicit trade in terms of counterfeiting and smuggling makes up a vast 'global businesses', representing a multibillion-dollar illegal industry that creates a significant drain on the world economy. Further, it negatively impacts legitimate economic activity and facilitates an

underground economy and organized crime that deprives governments of revenues for vital public services, forces higher burdens on taxpayers, dislocates hundreds of thousands of legitimate jobs and exposes consumers to dangerous and ineffective products.



The COVID-19 pandemic has called for greater focus on addressing the growing hazards of counterfeiting and smuggling which are severely impacting the economy and endangering lives of consumers. While the government is continuously intensifying efforts to combat the spread of the coronavirus by enacting various measures to support public health systems, safeguard the economy and ensure the safety of its citizens, illegal operators are taking advantage of the pandemic by providing illicit alternatives of items, both online and offline.

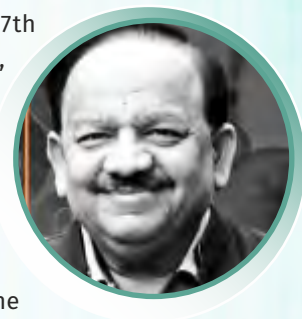
Even before the onset of the pandemic, OECD in 2019 stated that trade in counterfeits and pirated goods has risen steadily over the last few years and stood at 3.3% of global trade. Unfortunately, the pandemic not only complicated it but has made matters worse with estimates from The World Economic Forum stating that over US\$2.2 trillion (3% of global GDP) would be lost due to illicit trade leakages in 2020.

The current environment most certainly presented a new opportunity for all stakeholders to tackle this long-standing problem. It is with the above background that FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCAD E) organized the 7th edition of its annual programme MASCRAD E (Movement Against Smuggled and Counterfeit Trade) 2021 on

January 21-22, with the theme 'Impact of Counterfeiting and Smuggling on Personal Health and Safety'. MASCRAD E 2021 focused on addressing the debilitating impact of counterfeiting and smuggling on global economies. This conference was a conscious and well directed attempt to bring in the best minds from the fields of policy making, law, brand protection, industry, enforcement agencies and media to find a holistic and permanent solution to the problem of counterfeiting and smuggling, which if left unchecked, threatens to subvert the economic and societal stability of countries across the world.

**Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare,** inaugurating the 7th

Edition of MASCRAD E 2021, emphasized the challenges of COVID 19 pandemic and illegal operators of drugs. He stated, "Amid the chaos created by the Covid-19 pandemic and the various policy responses designed to contain its spread, illicit players have used the pandemic as an opportunity to increase their nefarious activities, causing significant damage to the economy of the nation, and health and safety of people worldwide."



**Dr. Harsh Vardhan** also called for greater focus on coming together to address the growing hazards of counterfeiting and smuggling. In this regard, he said, "Businesses and industry must come together and partner with the government to become a greater force in fighting this growing threat with the ultimate goal of keeping consumers safe. The methods by which spurious, misbranded and adulterated drugs enter the distribution channel have become increasingly complex. Weak points in the distribution processes of pharmaceutical products provide an avenue for entry of such products in the supply chain. This is an issue where industry players can and must play an active role to help identify and plug these loopholes," he said.

**Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General, World Customs Organization**, in his keynote address said, "While the movement of people has been severely restricted at the borders, customs has been working tirelessly to ensure the smooth cross border movement of essential goods including medicines and medical supplies. On the other hand, we are mindful that criminal organizations could exploit the current pandemic to obtain illegal profits. Hence, Customs-Business Partnership in addressing together the

scourge of counterfeiting and smuggling is imperative."

In a special address, **Hon'ble Justice Manmohan Sarin**, Former Lokayukta, NCT of Delhi, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, Judge, High Court of Delhi and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE, highlighted the harmful effects of smuggled and counterfeit goods, and elaborated on the importance to introduce and enhance laws related to such crimes and create the requisite deterrents to dissuade those indulging in it.

**Mr. Uday Shankar, President, FICCI** welcomed the dignitaries and complimenting the government's call for Vocal for Local said, "an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' will not only increase share of manufacturing in the country's GDP, create job opportunities in India and drive home the value of indigenously produced goods, but will also build 'Brand India' and deter cross border illicit trade."



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The perpetrators of illicit trade have made deep inroads into popular pandemic products like sanitizers, face masks, PPE Kits, medicine, disinfectants, toiletries and much more. The fake FMCG market is growing at an annual rate of 44.4% which is higher than the growth rate of the overall FMCG market. Moreover, 3 lakh crore of FMCG products circulated in India are counterfeit.



Highlighting this challenge, **Mr. Anil Rajput**, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE said, "It is a fact that the Industry is reeling under the impact of the COVID pandemic with some sectors expected to make faster recovery. While for many others, it will be a slow and painful way back to the pre-COVID levels." Drawing similarities between illicit trade and the COVID pandemic, Mr. Rajput said, "COVID virus and illicit trade have a lot in common as both cause immense economic, social and individual distress. While we are at a point of countering the virus, it is illicit trade that has and continues to damage humankind in a massive manner".

**The two-day long event, which was held virtually on 21-22 January:**

- » Looked at the economic consequences of

counterfeiting and smuggling and the policies needed to deter this activity.

- » Contributed to an integrated vision of security and public safety.
- » Deepened the understanding of "grey markets" for smuggled and counterfeit goods which has seen a surge during COVID times.
- » Assessed the impact of the growing illicit trade worldwide and tried to provide practical recommendations and effective strategies to mitigate this challenge especially in a post COVID era.

Various issues such as Illicit trade amid public health crisis; placing public health and safety at the heart of the fight against smuggling and counterfeiting; and quarantining counterfeiting and smuggling to accelerate action against criminals, among others, were deliberated in the two-day dialogue. The need for a systematic treatment and persuasion by global community for stronger enforcement to combat this menace was reiterated by a host of notable international speakers from World Customs Organization, INTERPOL, OECD, TRACIT, UKIPO, Italian Law Enforcement Agency, senior enforcement officers from the field and captains from the industry.



# Way Forward



» Continuous awareness generation on the ill impact of counterfeit, fake, spurious and smuggled products will educate the consumers about the potential risks and detrimental impact of buying and using such products on oneself and on the society. In order to undertake this activity, further impetus is needed to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs campaign "Jago Grahak Jago", by including a campaign with reference to fake, smuggled and spurious products. The campaign could highlight the following:

- Taking a bill on every purchase. This will ensure that the product is genuine and tax paid.
  - Every time a counterfeit or smuggled good is purchased, the country is cheated of revenue and the consumer is fooled into believing that what he or she is buying is genuine as only genuine and authentic products ensure quality, purity and safety.
  - Illegal trade involving counterfeiting and smuggling has far reaching impact on the economic growth of the country, increases black money, has linkages to terrorism, leads to environmental degradation, and lowers research and development.
  - With every purchase on bill consumers are making this nation tax compliant and doing their part towards progressive nation building.
- » All stakeholders must take advantage of opportunities to raise awareness of the dangers of illicit goods especially among the younger

generations who are still forming their purchasing habits. The youth of India being the country's future, it becomes imperative to understand the power of the consumers of tomorrow. With youngsters becoming a key stakeholder for advocating socially responsible behaviour, it is important to teach them on this subject as a part of their school education by including a chapter on smuggling and counterfeiting in their curriculum.

- » The temptation of acquiring counterfeit and smuggled goods is given an impetus by the low prices at which these goods are available to the detriment of the genuine products manufactured by the domestic and legitimate industry. It is therefore necessary, that we reduce this gap and make dealing in and possessing illicit goods not economically viable. This is to be achieved by introducing and enhancing, in law, the requisite deterrents to dissuade those indulging in it.
- An essential element for an effective enforcement of any law is expeditious investigating of cases and ensuring prosecution in a time bound manner. To ensure expeditious completion of adjudication proceedings in such cases, it may be prescribed that adjudication proceedings as far as possible must be completed within one year after its initiation. With a view to reduce the number of adjudication and prosecution proceedings there is a need to put in place the ADR (alternate dispute resolution) mechanism whenever the offence is compoundable.
- The police face a limitation with the storage capacity of seized products. However, for conviction, prosecution of the offenders, these have to be produced in the court which becomes an issue. The court procedure must be simplified. Photographs or some alternatives, rather than producing the entire lot of seizures for evidence could be considered.

- Recognize counterfeiting as a criminal offence under IPC. Extant bail provisions are not severe - bail to be granted on execution of exorbitant security so that it becomes very difficult for illegal operators to undertake such activity. It is important to note that some of these crimes involves loss of lives. Hence, where lives are getting affected, non bailable provision needs to be brought in. For repeat offenders making the offence non-bailable may be considered.
- The tenure for punishment is also from 6 months to 3 years where criminals are hardly given a 3-year sentence. Imprisonment should be more rigorous than at present. Could be enhanced the punishment to 1-5 years.
- The conviction rate is also very low because trial period is long. A summary or short trial with greater punishment is needed which will act as a deterrent against such crimes.
- There is a need to further and continual sensitisation of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies on the menace of counterfeiting and smuggling so that the violators do not take advantage of technicalities.

“ A co-ordinated action is the need of the hour. No single company or sector can fight counterfeiting and smuggling alone. Legitimate manufacturers hold the information necessary to distinguish their products from the fakes on the market. E-commerce platforms hold information about the third-party sellers dealing in fake/spurious products. Search providers have a broad view of how actors can move across different platforms. Payment providers are a critical piece of tracing illicit gains to the criminals and cutting off their access. Input from each of these sources is necessary to allow both the government and private sector to have full insight into the paths of illicit goods and to track those responsible. In order to achieve this, we need to:

- Develop new mechanisms for collaborative information sharing on any illicit (counterfeiting & smuggling) activity online.
  - Create new programs or certifications, such as "verified" product listings.
  - "Know Your Customer" policy can have a positive effect on ensuring safety and legitimacy.
  - When sites are found to be peddling counterfeit or illicit products or false information, domain name registrars should, immediately upon notice from law enforcement or trusted third parties, lock and suspend those domain names.
  - From a policy perspective, it is imperative that we develop jurisprudence on contributory trademark infringement. By fixing liability on an entity that may be held liable for selling counterfeits even though they do not actually engage in the actual offending activity
- » The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has set up SCord, national anti-smuggling coordination

centre, with 21 agencies to coordinate their activities against smuggling. This is a unique example to improve inter-agency cooperation. In case of narcotics and fake Indian currencies, there are similar coordination mechanisms. There is a need for setting up a similar setup for counterfeit goods, calling it CCord with all the stakeholders to battle counterfeiting effectively.

» The Government of India at all levels has introduced laws that are not only compliant with our international obligations but are in many ways progressive. However due to the complexity and alarming growth of the illicit trade more intergovernmental efforts and public private alliances are needed to identify approaches leading to the development of a holistic strategy. Reviewing current legislations relating to smuggling counterfeiting piracy, using latest technology to aid security forces and enforcement agencies and allocating of more financial and human resources to counter this activity are some areas where adequate thrust can be given.





# Media Coverage

**BusinessWorld**

## 'Vocal For Local' Will Be Potent Tool In Fight Against Illicit Trade, Says Harsh Vardhan

by ANI

21 January 2021

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New Delhi (ANI) January 21 (ANI): Reiterating the call for 'Vocal for Local' (VFL) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday said that the coronavirus (COVID-19) and VFL could provide solutions to a host of challenges that lie ahead of the country.

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He said MASGRADE 2021 is to foster a healthy discussion on legal and practical strategies to mitigate the challenges of counterfeiting and smuggling especially in a post-COVID era. Chief among them should be focus on generating awareness. "The pandemic has placed unprecedented demands on our health system. Health care providers are receiving existing delivery models to bring healthcare closer to the patient."

**BusinessWorld**

## Need For Close Cooperation Between Police & Customs Organizations To Combat Menace Of Illicit Trade: Former Pr. Director-General, DRI

by ANI

The discussions deepened the understanding of grey markets for smuggled and counterfeit goods which has seen a surge during COVID times and assessed the impact and tried to provide practical recommendations and effective strategies to mitigate this challenge especially in a post-COVID era.

**FICCI CASCADE**

**'Need for close cooperation between police & customs bodies to combat illicit trade'**

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**millenniumpost**

## 'Vocal for Local' will be extremely potent tool in fight against illicit trade'

Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates the 7th Edition of MASGRADE 2021 organized by FICCI

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**R. REPUBLICWORLD.COM**

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**the pioneer**

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**Outlook**

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## 'Vocal for Local' will be potent tool in fight against illicit trade, says Harsh Vardhan

Speaking at the 7th edition of "MASCRADE" - Movement against Smuggled and Counterfeit Trade, Harsh Vardhan said, "The call for an Atma Nirbhar Bharat...

January 21, 2021 | 1:40 PM IST



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### CORPORATE NEWS

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## Dr Harsh Vardhan at FICCI MASCRADE

Published on January 21, 2021

New Delhi: Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare today said that the 7th edition of MASCRADE will deliberate and discuss actionable, innovative policy initiatives that can reverse the rising rate of counterfeit, smuggled and spurious products. He also emphasized the challenge of COVID-19 pandemic and illegal operator of drugs.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 7th edition of "MASCRADE" - Movement against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade, organized by FICCI-CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities: Destroying the Economy), Dr Vardhan said, "As we are all aware, amid the chaos created by the COVID-19 pandemic and the various policy responses designed to contain its spread, illicit players have used the pandemic as an opportunity to increase their nefarious activities, causing significant damage to the economy, the patient, health and safety of people worldwide."

Mr Kamal Mishra, Secretary General, World Customs Organization said, "While the movement of people has been severely restricted at the borders, customs has been working tirelessly to ensure the smooth cross border movement of essential goods including medicines and medical supplies. On the other hand, we are mindful that criminal organizations could exploit the current pandemic to obtain illegal profits. Hence Customs-Business Partnership in addressing together the scourge of counterfeiting and smuggling is imperative."

Hon'ble Justice Hanumanth Lal, Former Solicitor General, SC of India, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, Jodhpur, High Court of Delhi and Thakur Tashir Singh, FICCI CASCADE while emphasizing the harmful effect of smuggled and counterfeit goods highlighted the importance to introduce and enhance laws related to such crimes and make the requisite deterrents to demands those indulging in it.

## 'Vocal for Local' will be potent tool in fight against illicit trade, says Harsh Vardhan



New Delhi, January 21 (ANI) Addressing the call for 'Vocal for local' (VFL) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday said that the Atmanirbhar Bharat and VFL could provide solutions to a host of challenges that lie ahead of the country.

## Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates the 7th Edition of MASCRADE 2021 organized by FICCI

SMUGGLING AND COUNTERFEIT TRADE HOLD BACK PROGRESS, JEOPARDISE HEALTH OF THE ECONOMY AND CREATE SAFETY HAZARDS FOR CONSUMERS



## Vocal for Local extremely potent tool in fight against illicit trade: Vardhan

2 min read | Updated: 21 Jan 2021, 06:06 PM IST

- Harsh Vardhan said as India starts to produce strong domestic brands, profiteering by smugglers and counterfeiters will sooner become limited
- He said the methods in which spurious, substandard and adulterated drugs enter the distribution channel has become increasingly complex.

128 128 128 128

Noting that healthcare products are one of the most commonly targeted industry for counterfeiters, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday said, "Vocal for Local will be an extremely potent tool in India's fight against illicit trade."

## DTN NEXT

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

## Vocal for Local will be extremely potent tool in fight against illicit trade: Vardhan

Updated: 21 Jan 2021, 06:06 PM IST

128 128 128 128

Noting that healthcare products are one of the most commonly targeted industry for counterfeiters, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday said vocal for local will be an extremely potent tool in India's fight against illicit trade.



Health Minister Harsh Vardhan (File Photo)

New Delhi: Addressing FICCI Cascade's international conference on the 'Impact of Counterfeiting and Smuggling on Personal Health and Safety', Vardhan said businesses and industries must come together and partner with the government in becoming a greater force in fighting this growing threat with the ultimate goal of keeping consumers safe.

Speaking on the benefits of self-reliant India, Vardhan said as India starts to produce strong domestic brands and gradually reduces its dependence on foreign products overseas for profiteering by smugglers and counterfeiters will sooner become limited. "Vocal for Local will be an extremely potent tool in our fight against illicit trade," he said.

"Illegal operators are taking advantage of the pandemic by providing illicit alternatives of essentials and non-essential items both online and offline. As the current pandemic has sadly illustrated that healthcare products will continue to be one of the most commonly targeted industries for counterfeiters. This is the problem that impacts patients and consumers across the globe," he said.

## Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates the 7th Edition of MASCRAGE 2021 organized by FICCI

By India EducationDiary.com



New Delhi: Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare today inaugurated the 7th Edition of MASCRAGE 2021-- Movement against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade organized by FICCI, Gurgaon.

In his address, the Union Health Minister expressed pleasure that the 7th edition of MASCRAGE will deliberate and discuss actionable, innovative policy solutions that can reverse the rising tide of counterfeit, smuggled and spurious products.



## SMUGGLING AND COUNTERFEIT TRADE HOLD BACK PROGRESS, IMPACT HEALTH OF THE ECONOMY AND CREATE SAFETY HAZARDS FOR CONSUMERS- DR HARSH VARDHAN

New Delhi, 21 January 2021: Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare today said that the 7th edition of MASCRAGE will deliberate and discuss actionable, innovative policy solutions that can reverse the rising tide of counterfeit, smuggled and spurious products. He also addressed the challenges of COVID-19, its pandemic and legal aspects of drugs.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 7th edition of MASCRAGE 2021-- Movement against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade, organized by FICCI Gurgaon (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Subsector Destroying the Economy), Dr Vardhan said, "We are all aware, and the citizens around the world are aware, that the COVID-19 pandemic and the various policy responses, designed to contain the spread, will have a huge impact on the economy. It is an opportunity to increase their meticulous activities, causing significant damage to the economy of the nation, health and safety of people worldwide."

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister, Health and Family Welfare said: "While the requirement of unmet has been reviewed, monitored at the border, customers have been working towards to ensure the smooth cross border movement of essential goods including medicines and medical supplies. On the other hand, we are mindful that unmet opportunities could expand the current patterns to other legal products. Hence Customs and Excise, Patents and Trademark are working together to address the challenge of smuggling and counterfeiting."

Hon'ble Justice Manoj Kumar, Former Lok Sabha, NCT of Delhi, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, Jodhpur, High Court of Delhi and Term, Member, FICCI Gurgaon while emphasizing the harmful effect of smuggled and counterfeit goods, highlighted the importance of address and emphasize the need to take action and take the required steps to ensure that the economy is not impacted.

## 'Need for close cooperation between police & customs to combat illicit trade'

Addressing the concluding session of MASCRAGE 2021 (Movement Against Smuggled and Counterfeit Trade) organized by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare today said that the 7th edition of MASCRAGE will deliberate and discuss actionable, innovative policy solutions that can reverse the rising tide of counterfeit, smuggled and spurious products.

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## Harsh Vardhan backs Modi's 'Vocal for Local' stance to fight illicit trade

By Asia News International, Fri, 22 Jan 2021



New Delhi (India): Restating the call for 'vocal for local' (VFL) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday said that the Atmanirbhar Bharat and VFL could provide solutions to a host of challenges that lie ahead of the country.

By Asia News International

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Speaking at the 7th edition of MASCRAGE-- Movement against Smuggled and Counterfeit Trade, Harsh Vardhan said, "The call for an Atmanirbhar Bharat and Vocal for Local could indeed provide solutions to a host of challenges that lie ahead of us."



## Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates 7th MASCRAGE 2021 held by FICCI

In his address, the Union Health Minister expressed pleasure that the 7th edition of MASCRAGE will deliberate and discuss actionable, innovative policy solutions that can reverse the rising tide of counterfeit, smuggled and spurious products.

By Asia News International, Fri, 22 Jan 2021

Country: India

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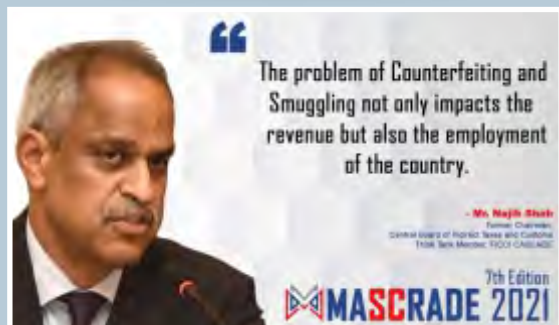
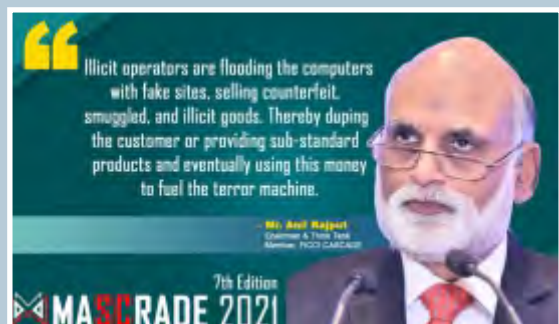
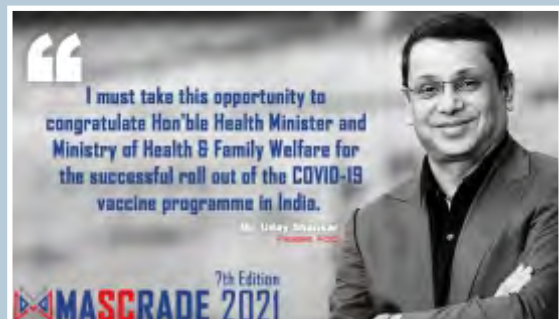


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# Social Media Creatives



**DISCUSSION**  
22 January 2021 | 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM IST  
VIRTUAL EDITION

**Quarantining Counterfeiting and Smuggling**  
– Accelerate Action Against Criminals

**7<sup>th</sup> Edition**  
**MASCRADE 2021**  
Movement Against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade

**Speakers:**

- Welcome Address**  
**Mr. Anil Rajput**  
Chairman, FICCI MASCRADE
- Session Chair**  
**Mr. D P Dash**  
Former PI Director General, DRI & Former Chairman, Enforcement Committee (WCO) and Trade Task Member, FICCI MASCRADE
- Mr. Suvashis Choudhary, IPS**  
JL Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police
- Mr. David M. Luna**  
President & CEO, Luma Global Networks and Chair, Executive of OECD Anti-Bribe Trade Export Group
- Mr. Donald Bruckschen**  
Criminal Intelligence Officer, Organized and Emerging Crime, Directorate, FBI/USA
- Col T. ISSMI Vincenzo Tuzi**  
Giustizia di Finanza Attaché, Embassy of Italy

**SPEAKERS**

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**7<sup>th</sup> Edition**  
**MASCRADE 2021**  
Movement Against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade  
21-22 JANUARY 2021 | VIRTUAL EDITION

**IMPACT OF COUNTERFEITING AND SMUGGLING ON PERSONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**Guest of Honor**  
**Dr. Harsh Vardhan**

**Speakers:**

- Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI MASCRADE
- Mr. D P Dash, Former PI Director General, DRI & Former Chairman, Enforcement Committee (WCO) and Trade Task Member, FICCI MASCRADE
- Mr. Suvashis Choudhary, IPS, JL Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police
- Mr. David M. Luna, President & CEO, Luma Global Networks and Chair, Executive of OECD Anti-Bribe Trade Export Group
- Mr. Donald Bruckschen, Criminal Intelligence Officer, Organized and Emerging Crime, Directorate, FBI/USA
- Col T. ISSMI Vincenzo Tuzi, Giustizia di Finanza Attaché, Embassy of Italy
- Mr. Jeffrey P. Hardy, Director General, Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade
- Ms. Ulla Sieber, IP Council, PUMA Group
- Mr. Huw Watkins, Head of Asia Policy, UK Intellectual Property Office

**2 Days | 25 Speakers | 5 Sessions | 1 Conference**

**7<sup>th</sup> Edition**  
**MASCRADE 2021**  
Movement Against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade

**MEET**  
**Mr. Jeffrey P. Hardy**  
Director General  
Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade

**21 JANUARY 2021**

**7<sup>th</sup> Edition**  
**MASCRADE 2021**  
Movement Against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade

**MEET**  
**Col T. ISSMI Vincenzo Tuzi**  
Giustizia di Finanza Attaché, Embassy of Italy

**22 JANUARY 2021**

**7<sup>th</sup> Edition**  
**MASCRADE 2021**  
Movement Against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade  
IMPACT OF COUNTERFEITING AND SMUGGLING ON PERSONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**MEET**  
**Ms. Ulla Sieber**  
IP Council, PUMA Group

**Panelist on:**  
Placing Public Health and Safety at the heart of the fight against Smuggling and Counterfeiting

**22 JANUARY 2021**

**7<sup>th</sup> Edition**  
**MASCRADE 2021**  
Movement Against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade  
IMPACT OF COUNTERFEITING AND SMUGGLING ON PERSONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**MEET**  
**Mr. Huw Watkins**  
Head of Asia Policy, UK Intellectual Property Office

**Panelist on:**  
Illicit trade amid public health crisis – Global perspectives

**21 JANUARY 2021**





<b>Mr. Kunio Mikuriya</b> Secretary General, World Customs Organization	<b>Mr. Jeffrey P. Hardy</b> Director General, International Centre for Counterfeit Trade	<b>Mr. Huw Watkins</b> Head of Asia Policy, UK Intellectual Property Office	<b>Mr. Renaud Gaillard</b> Counsellor for Intellectual Property, India & South Asia, Embassy of France in India	<b>Ms. Ulla Sieber</b> IP Counsel, INMA SE	<b>Ms. Delphine Sarfati</b> Sofrona, CEO, UNIP AB, Union des Fabricants	<b>Mr. David M. Luna</b> President & CEO, Latin Global Networks and Chair, Business at OECD Anti-Bribe Trade Export Group	<b>Mr. Donald Bruckachen</b> Criminals Intelligence Officer, Organized and Emerging Crime Directorate, INTERPOL	<b>Col T. ISSMI Vincenzo Tuzi</b> Giulio di Firenze, Academi, University of Italy
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**SEE YOU TOMORROW!**

**7<sup>th</sup> Edition**  
**MASCRADE 2021**  
 Movement Against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade  
 IMPACT OF COUNTERFEITING AND SMUGGLING ON PERSONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

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“With the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 coming into effect, it has also provided the necessary impetus to consumer rights and protection along with punishments for illegal trade practices and the manufacture and sale of spurious goods.”

**Mr. Hans Kumar Pareek**  
Former Member, Dept. of Consumer Affairs, Govt and State Bank Member, FICCI CASCADE


**7<sup>th</sup> Edition**  
**MASCRADE 2021**

“One of the ways to combat cyber counterfeiting is to co-operate with the actors of the means of online payments.”



**Mr. Renaud Gaillard**  
Counsellor for Intellectual Property, India & South Asia, Embassy of France in India

**7<sup>th</sup> Edition**  
**MASCRADE 2021**




“Some criminal groups offered counterfeit or substandard food items more widely due to increased demand during COVID19 restrictions.”

**Col T. ISSMI Vincenzo Tuzi**

**7<sup>th</sup> Edition**  
**MASCRADE 2021**

“In the coming days, one of the major problem, we are going to face is of counterfeit Vaccine.”



**Mr. Suvashis Choudhary IPS**  
Joint Commissioner of Police, Central Police

**7<sup>th</sup> Edition**  
**MASCRADE 2021**

“Illicit products have an adverse impact on the environment, in particular with the discharge of toxic waste of illegally manufactured illicit products into the environment.”



**Ms. Delphine Sarfati**  
Sofrona, CEO, UNIP AB, Union des Fabricants

**7<sup>th</sup> Edition**  
**MASCRADE 2021**

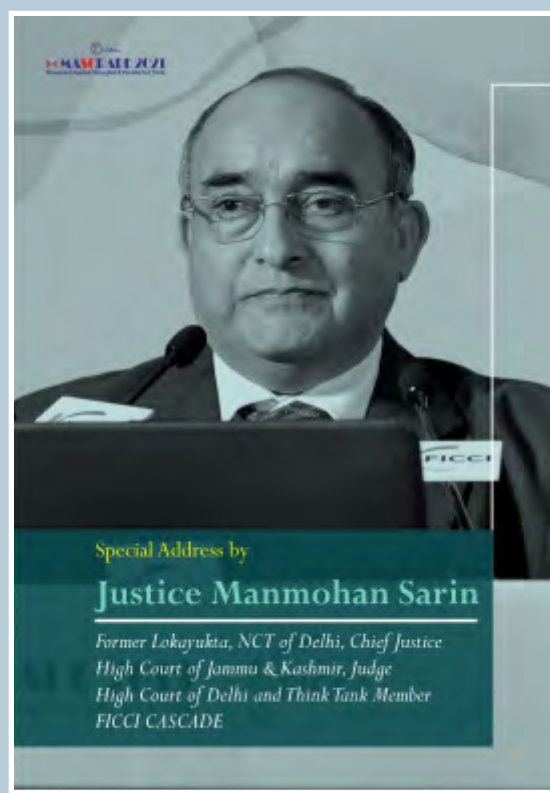
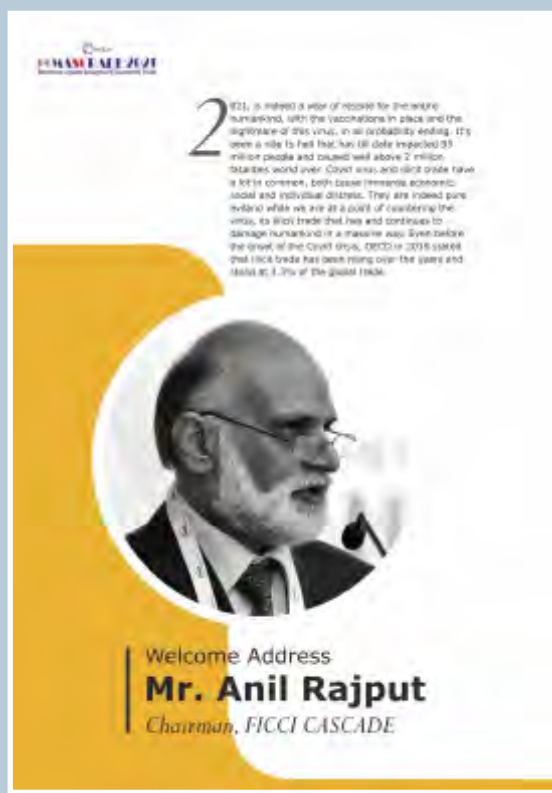
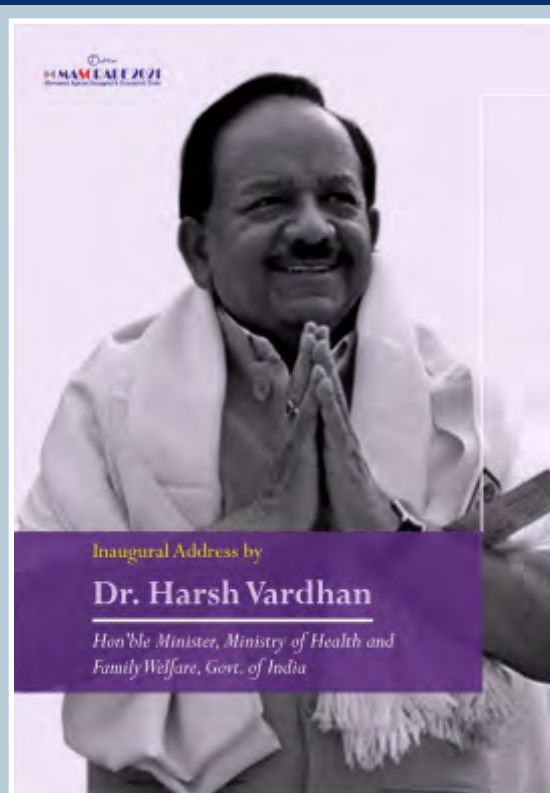
“In 2019 alone, Amazon invested half-billion dollars globally and has more than 8000 employees worldwide protecting our marketplace from fraud and abuse.”



**Mr. Chetan Bruckachinsky**  
Vice President, Policy Public Affairs

**7<sup>th</sup> Edition**  
**MASCRADE 2021**

# MASCRADE PUBLICATION



# MASCRAD E PUBLICATION



**Welcome Address by**  
**Mr. Uday Shankar**  
 President, FICCI

A very warm welcome to the 7th edition of MASCRAD E - Movement Against Smuggled and Counterfeit Trade organized by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities (CASCAD E). Over the years MASCRAD E has focused on different facets of illicit and has tried to address it in the best possible manner. After the onslaught of the pandemic, it is only befitting that we understand and gauge the impact of smuggling and counterfeiting on public health and safety. It is also



important to realize that if the spread of illicit trade is not checked, the consequences will be disastrous for societies and economies alike. It is with this backdrop that MASCRAD E 2021 will seek tangible solutions to address this rising menace.

I am delighted to have with us Dr. Manish Vardhan, Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India. I must take this opportunity to also congratulate you and your ministry for the successful roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine programme in India which promises to be the world's biggest and most successful immunisation programme.

I welcome Justice Manmohan Sanyal, Former Lokayukta, NCT of Delhi, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, Judge, High Court of Delhi. Thank you for being with us today and we look forward to hearing your perspective on the subject. I also welcome Mr. Kuntal Misra, Secretary General, World Customs Organisation for taking out time from his schedule and joining us today.

Ladies and gentlemen, illicit trade in terms of smuggling and counterfeiting, is one of the biggest challenges facing nations across the world. As per OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development), trade in counterfeit and pirated goods has risen steadily in the last ten years and now stands at 3.7% of total global trade. A recent study by FICCI CASCAD E has estimated that due to smuggling, Indian economy incurred a loss of Rs. 1,17,253 crore, and further loss of 16.36 lakh livelihood opportunities during 2017-18 in just five key sectors namely - Textiles, Tobacco Products (Cigarettes), Ready-made Garments, Capital Goods (Machinery and Parts) and Consumer Electronics (Electronics) Domestic.

It is also important to highlight the fact that while smugglers and counterfeiters have tried to exploit the current situation by supplying illicit alternative of goods and

products both offline and online, in India there have been a record number of seizures during the Covid-19 period. I take this opportunity to extend FICCI's and our members appreciation for law enforcement agencies who despite the challenging situation have seized large numbers of smuggled, spurious and counterfeit sanitary masks, PPE kits, disinfectants, tablets and cosmetics, electronic goods, cigarettes, packaged food, spices, alcohol and several other items across various states.

Realising the magnitude of this problem, FICCI CASCAD E has been consistently working with the government, enforcement agencies, industry, media, legal experts and consumers focusing on the need to combat this issue. In addition, CASCAD E has undertaken a nationwide campaign in combating counterfeiting and smuggling during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the aim to sensitize the people on the ill effects and involve the government at the centre and the states to deal with this challenge in the best and most effective manner. It is clear that collective actions and public-private partnership have become more critical than ever before, be that in the form of information sharing, capacity building, training, or joint public-awareness campaigns.


The current environment most certainly presents a new opportunity for all stakeholders to tackle this problem. MASCRAD E 2021 will ensure a multi-stakeholder dialogue for actionable and innovative solutions that can reverse the rising tide of counterfeit, smuggled and spurious products. We are delighted to have an array of distinguished speakers from across the globe, senior officers from the field and leading industries to discuss this global issue, and so chart out concrete recommendations and strategies for prevention and management of the problem.

I welcome you all once again and look forward to an engaging five days.



**Col T. ISSMI Vincenzo Tuzi**  
 Guardia di Finanza Attache  
 Embassy of Italy

Popular criminal dynamics have been noticed during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Covid-19 pandemic has been a historical moment characterized by the rapid spread of the pandemic, that took the civil society and crime by surprise.



**Session Chair**  
**Mr. D P Dash**  
 Former Pr. Director-General, DRJ and  
 Former Chairman, Enforcement Committee  
 World Customs Organisation (WCO) and



**World Customs Organization**  
**Organisation Mondiale Des Douanes**

# WCO

stresses the  
importance of  
partnership with the  
business community  
to tackle the  
negative effects  
of illicit trade on  
citizens' Health  
and Safety

**January 25, 2021**

**A**t the invitation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the WCO Secretary General, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, delivered a virtual opening speech at the 7th Edition of "MASCRADE 2021" - Movement against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade which was held on 21 January 2021.

The aim of the meeting was to foster a healthy discussion on the latest practical strategies to mitigate the challenges posed by counterfeiting and smuggling, especially in the post- COVID-19 era.

Together with the Union Minister of Health and Family

Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, and other dignitaries, Dr. Mikuriya stressed the importance of Customs-Business Partnership in

the fight against smuggling and counterfeiting, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Secretary General Mikuriya described the role of Customs during the pandemic, under the WCO's leadership, in ensuring the smooth cross-border movement of essential goods, including medicines and medical supplies. He explained that the Organization's robust partnership with its stakeholders had resulted in the issuance of guidance documents and in proactive joint actions with partner international organizations in trade and transport, aimed at addressing bottlenecks and also at assisting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) at the peak of the crisis.

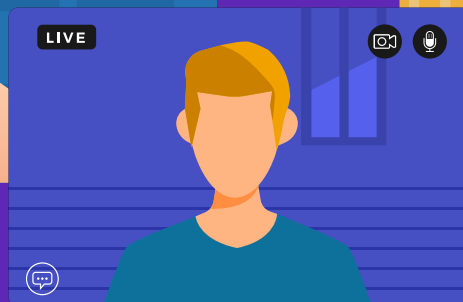
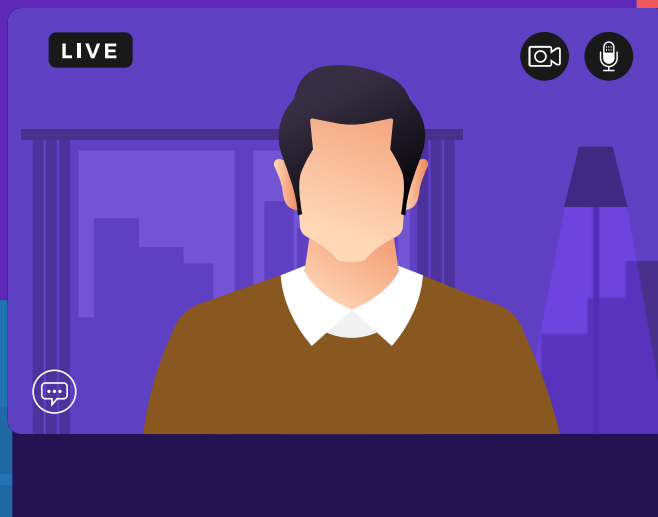
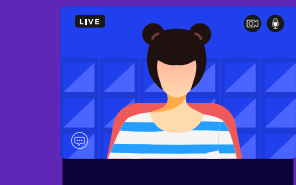
To counter the various security risks exacerbated by the pandemic, namely counterfeiting and smuggling, Dr. Mikuriya emphasized the need for Customs officers to base their risk analysis on accurate and advance electronic data on each cargo shipment as well as on information provided by business. Accordingly, Customs and the private sector should work hand in hand to adapt to the new



business environment. He also informed the audience about WCO Operation STOP to combat illegal trafficking linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some 99 WCO Members had taken part in the Operation, which had resulted in substantial seizures of medicines and medical supplies. Dr. Mikuriya noted that according to data obtained from seizures, small packages linked to E-Commerce were one of the main ways of transporting illicit goods. He therefore recommended implementation of the WCO Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce for enhanced partnership and use of advance information to tackle this risk. He added that data also revealed that free trade zones were being exploited for illicit activities, taking advantage of a lack of appropriate oversight. In this regard, he referred to the new WCO Guidelines on Free Zones to address this issue.

Secretary General Mikuriya concluded by stating that given the challenges ahead, the WCO would dedicate 2021 to Recovery, Renewal and Resilience for a sustainable supply chain, with the support of the Customs community.







# WEBINAR

# Webinar on **Communication, Coordination & Collaboration**

**STRENGTHENING THE FIGHT AGAINST COUNTERFEITING AND SMUGGLING**

26<sup>th</sup> November 2020



**I**t has long been known that counterfeiting and smuggling make up a vast 'global businesses', representing a multibillion-dollar illegal industry that creates a significant drain on the world economy. Further, it negatively impacts legitimate economic activity and facilitates an underground economy and organized crime that deprives governments of revenues for vital public services, forces higher burdens on taxpayers, dislocates hundreds of thousands of legitimate jobs and exposes consumers to dangerous and ineffective products. It is the world's largest growing industry, and its size is estimated to range between \$650 million to \$3 trillion according to multiple studies.

No country is immune to the impact of counterfeiting and smuggling and no single sector can be said to be an exception. The wide availability of such products is one of the biggest challenges faced by Indian industry, impacting 'Brand India' globally.

FICCI has been focusing on the need to curb the problem of counterfeits, pass offs and smuggled goods, and accordingly has dedicated a forum by establishing CASCADE - Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy. FICCI CASCADE works closely with industry, consumers, media, legal experts, consumer organizations and government to create awareness on how counterfeiting and smuggling have become a serious menace to public health and safety, and why all concerned must make a concerted effort to contain this menace.

in spite of several measures taken by all stakeholders to contain counterfeiting and smuggling, further steps are required, both in the form of policy intervention and awareness generation to address this socio-economic scourge. It is with the above background, FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the

Economy (CASCADE) organized a webinar on 'Communication, Coordination and Collaboration - Strengthening the fight against counterfeiting and smuggling' on 26 November 2020.

Dr. Amar Patnaik, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha in his keynote address at the webinar elaborated that in order to drive India's economic resurgence, the parallel economy in counterfeiting and smuggling has to be addressed. This would help if India wants to achieve a \$ 5 trillion economy in 2025 and aim to take it to \$ 10 trillion by 2027. He further added that measures such as public policy and strong enforcement are much needed to address this twin threat.

Mr. Anil Rajput, Chair, FICCI CASCADE in his welcome address said that despite several measures taken by all stakeholders, further steps are required, both in the form of policy intervention and awareness generation to address this socio-economic scourge. Mr. Rajput further reiterated the need for establishing a coordinated national strategy to share intelligence, best practices, and cooperation on cross-border investigations to contain smuggling and counterfeiting.

While highlighting the need for all the stakeholders to work in sync to combat this menace, Mr. Deepankar Aron, Commissioner, GST (Appeals), Dehradun, Uttarakhand said, "Right data sharing with the right people at the right time is important in order to address this issue." Further, on the enforcement scenario, Mr. Aron said, "In just one-year, fraudulent imports exports worth Rs 2000 crore were detected leading to 200 arrests on white-collar crimes by the DRI, Eastern region."

FICCI CASCADE has been over the years conducting multi-stakeholder dialogues focusing on identifying opportunities for joint actions between governments, enforcement agencies, industry and

consumer organizations to combat this menace. The webinar brought together policymakers, think tanks, enforcement agencies, industry, and consumer organizations to deliberate on industry issues in tackling the flow of counterfeit, smuggled, and spurious products not only in the offline markets but on the online market space too.

The webinar saw participation from the e-commerce giant, Amazon who's Director for Category Management, India, Mr. Noor Patel discussed measures that Amazon employs to check the proliferation of the issue and highlighted their

innovative mechanisms and advanced technology solutions in blocking and tracing bad actors. Mr. Milind Palany, Global Brand Protection Lead - India & South Asia, Johnson & Johnson discussed the collaborative role of government and industry in thwarting this

menace such as the need for collaboration with customs through data sharing mechanisms and knowledge dissemination. Speaking on the role of consumers, Prof. Bejon Kumar Misra, International Consumer Policy Expert, JAGO GRAHAK JAGO stated that there is a need to engage consumers more effectively if counterfeiting and smuggling needs to be tackled successfully.

It is unfortunate that the problem of smuggling and counterfeiting has only compounded in the current situation where the world is facing severe disruptions due to COVID-19. The criminals, on the other hand have used the pandemic as an opportunity to exploit the vulnerable consumer and organizations causing significant damage. Mr. Deep Chand, Former Spcl. Commissioner of Police, New Delhi and Advisor, FICCI CASCADE in his concluding remarks said that it is imperative that businesses take proper steps to protect consumers from the proliferation of scammers and infringers that seek to take advantage of the current crisis.



# Media Coverage



Public policy, strong enforcement needed to address counterfeiting, smuggling: Rajya Sabha MP

New Delhi (India), November 27 (ANI): The parallel economy in counterfeiting and smuggling has to be addressed if India wants to achieve a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025 and aim to take it to USD 10 trillion by 2027, said Dr Amar Patnaik, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha.

"Measures such as public policy and strong enforcement are needed to address the problem of counterfeiting and smuggling," said Patnaik while elaborating on India's economic resurgence on Thursday.

He was speaking at a webinar on 'Communication, Coordination and Collaboration: Strengthening the fight against counterfeiting and smuggling' organised by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADSE).



## Public policy and strong enforcement are needed to address counterfeiting and smuggling

Dr Amar Patnaik, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, elaborating on India's economic resurgence strategy said the parallel economy in counterfeiting and smuggling has to be addressed if India wants to achieve a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025 and aim to take it to USD 10 trillion by 2027.

Addressing the webinar on 'Communication, Coordination and Collaboration: Strengthening the fight against counterfeiting and smuggling' organised by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADSE), Dr Patnaik said, "Measures such as public policy and strong enforcement are needed to address the problem of counterfeiting and smuggling."

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While inaugurating the event, he said the stakeholders in India are keen to combat this menace. He said the government, industry, and academia are working together to address this issue.

Further, on the enforcement scenario, Dr Patnaik said, "In just one year, the government has taken steps to strengthen the enforcement scenario."

## Public policy, strong enforcement needed to address counterfeiting, smuggling: Rajya Sabha MP



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November 30, 2020

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## Public Policy, Strong Enforcement Needed To Address Counterfeiting, Smuggling: Rajya Sabha MP

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27 November, 2020  
by ANI

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## जालसाजी एवं तस्करी से निपटने के लिए बेहतर नीति की जरूरत

नई दिल्ली, जेएनएन। अगर भारत 2025 तक 5 ट्रिलियन डॉलर और 2027 तक 10 ट्रिलियन डॉलर की अर्थव्यवस्था बनना चाहता है तो जालसाजी एवं तस्करी को समानांतर अर्थव्यवस्था की समस्या से निपटना जरूरी है। यह बात राज्यसभा सदस्य डॉ. अमर पटनायक ने भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के पुनरुत्थान पर चर्चा करते हुए कही।

फिक्की की अर्थव्यवस्था को नुकसान पहुंचाने वाली तस्करी एवं जालसाजी की गतिविधियों के खिलाफ कमेटी (कास्केड) द्वारा जालसाजी एवं तस्करी के खिलाफ लड़ाई को मजबूत करने के लिए संवाद, समन्वय एवं सहयोग विषय पर आयोजित वेबिनार को संबोधित करते हुए डॉ. पटनायक ने कहा, जालसाजी एवं तस्करी की समस्या से निपटने के लिए जन नीति और मजबूत प्रवर्तन जैसे कदमों की सख्त जरूरत है।

फिक्की कास्केड के प्रमुख अनिल राजपूत ने कहा कि इस सामाजिक-आर्थिक संकट से निपटने के लिए अभी नीतिगत हस्तक्षेप एवं जागरूकता दोनों की मोर्चे पर कई कदम उठाने की जरूरत है।



## PUBLIC POLICY AND STRONG ENFORCEMENT ARE NEEDED TO ADDRESS COUNTERFEITING AND SMUGGLING: DR AMAR PATNAIK, MP, RAJYA SABHA

President's Office | President's Office | President's Office | President's Office

**NEW DELHI, 27 November 2020:** Dr Amar Patnaik, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha elaborating on India's economic resurgence yesterday said that parallel economy in counterfeiting and smuggling has to be addressed if India wants to achieve a \$ 5 trillion economy in 2025 and aim to take it to \$ 10 trillion by 2027.

Addressing the webinar on 'Communication, Coordination and Collaboration- Strengthening the fight against counterfeiting and smuggling' organized by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADÉ), Dr Patnaik said, "Measures such as public policy and strong enforcement are needed to address the problem of counterfeiting and smuggling."

**Mr Anil Rajput**, Chair, FICCI CASCADÉ said that despite several measures taken by all stakeholders to contain smuggling and counterfeiting, further steps are required, both in the form of policy intervention and awareness generation to address this socio-economic scourge. "Establishing a coordinated national strategy to share intelligence, best practices and cooperation on cross-border investigations is the need of the hour," he added.

While highlighting the need for all the stakeholders to work in sync to combat this menace, **Mr Deepankar Aron**, Commissioner, GST (Appeals), Dehradun, Uttarakhand said, "Right data sharing with the right people at the right time is important in order to address the issue of smuggling and counterfeiting."

Further, on the enforcement scenario, **Mr Aron** said, "In just one-year, fraudulent imports/exports worth Rs 2000 crore were detected leading to 200 arrests on white-collar crimes by the DR, Eastern region."

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## THE NEWS STRIKE

VOCAL FOR LOCAL NEWS

## PUBLIC POLICY AND STRONG ENFORCEMENT ARE NEEDED TO ADDRESS COUNTERFEITING AND SMUGGLING: DR AMAR PATNAIK, MP, RAJYA SABHA

Editor | November 27, 2020 | News Update, Policy | 0 Comments



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Further, on the enforcement scenario, **Mr Aron** said, "In just one-year, fraudulent imports/exports worth Rs 2000 crore were detected leading to 200 arrests on white-collar crimes by the DR, Eastern region."

Discussions took place on the additional role of government agencies in strengthening enforcement as the need for coordination with citizens through strong mechanisms and knowledge dissemination. View of Internet in national safety and home protection was also highlighted.



# State Series

## State Series

### Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling during the COVID-19 pandemic & beyond

August 31, 2020

**Focus State – Chhattisgarh**

**F**ICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) organized the next edition of its state specific webinars on Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond' for the state of Chhattisgarh on August 31, 2020.

**Mr. Kawasi Lakhma, Minister, Commerce and Industry, Govt. of Chhattisgarh**, was the Chief Guest at the programme. Mr. Lakhma said, "Effective actions to eliminate smuggling and counterfeiting from the State is a focus area for our government and the concerned departments are extremely vigilant in dealing with such cases." In his address Mr. Lakhma highlighted that the Chhattisgarh government has taken unprecedented reforms to create an enabling environment and is committed to offering investor a friendly infrastructure. He also added that it is imperative that we must all collaboratively check and substantially reduce the

illicit market operations and create an eco-system for growth and development in the State.

As cases related to smuggling and counterfeiting rise steeply during the past few months, this webinar was organized to discuss and understand the disruptions caused by the pandemic, which have opened multiple avenues for criminals to prey upon susceptible organizations and consumers. **Mr. Manoj Kumar Pingua, Principal Secretary Department of Commerce & Industry, Government of Chhattisgarh** said, "India's role as a global economic powerhouse is increasingly linked to its ability to ensure that rights of legitimate business holders are protected with strong rules, and strong enforcement of the laws and regulations". He further underscored the need for effective coordination between central and state agencies, strengthening domestic manufacturing, addressing the demand and supply gap and leveraging technology, which will make markets free from illicit products.

Sharing enforcement perspectives, **Mr. R. K. Vij, Additional Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh** said, "During COVID times the Chhattisgarh police has taken strict action against people who have been involved in smuggling and have dealt strongly against those who have indulged in the black marketing of consumer goods". Mr. Vij also suggested that a nodal agency comprising of representatives from different government departments could be formed to ensure coordinated actions against this menace.

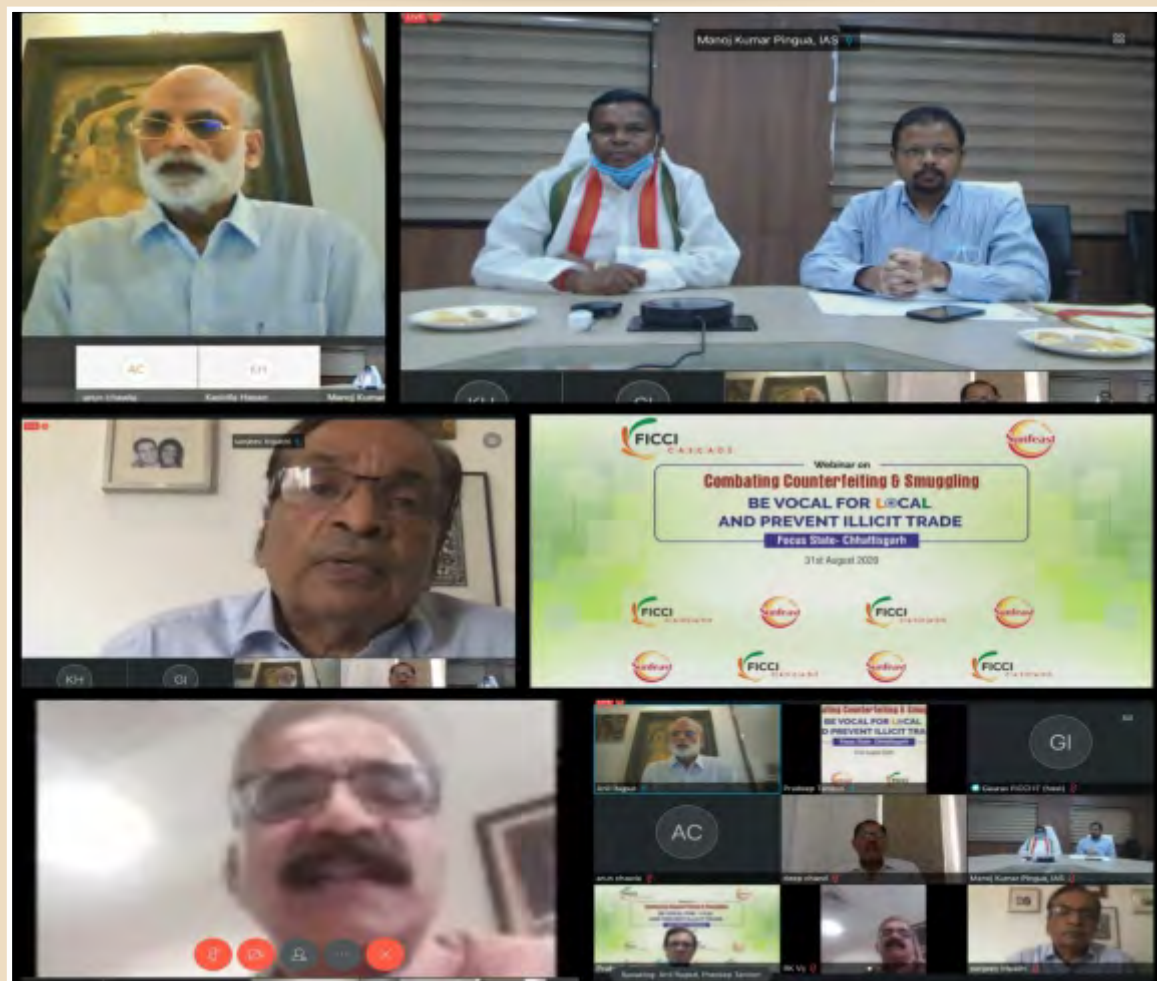
Complimenting the Chhattisgarh government and the enforcement agencies for relentlessly pursuing the perpetrators of illicit trade, **Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE** said that under the



leadership of the commerce and industries minister, promotion of local goods and legitimate businesses will create a conducive environment for the economy of the state government and play a major role in strengthening India.

The session was chaired by **Mr. Sanjeev Tripathi**,

**Former R&AW Chief and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE.** The concluding remarks were made by **Mr. Pradeep Tandon, Chairman, FICCI Chhattisgarh State Council and President, Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.** The webinar was attended by industry, government officials, officers from the enforcement agencies and stakeholders in this segment.





## हरिभूमि

### राज्य में घरेलू उत्पादों को बढ़ावा देने और अवैध कारोबार को खत्म करने प्रतिबद्ध है सरकार

लोकेश गुप्ता का कलकत्ता

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## नव भारत

### स्थानीय उत्पादों को बढ़ावा देने, नवकालों की नकेल कसने के लिए सरकार कृतसंकल्पित : कवासी लखमा

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### Chhattisgarh govt committed to promote local products, eliminate illicit trade in the State: Chhattisgarh Industry Minister, Kawasi Lakhma

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## प्रधानमन्त्री

### राज्य में घरेलू उत्पादों का बढ़ावा देने सरकार तैयार : लखमा

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## The Cambay Post

Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh

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### Chhattisgarh govt committed to promote local products, eliminate illicit trade in the State

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# State Series

## State Series

### Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling during the COVID-19 pandemic & beyond

September 15, 2020

Focus – North East

The problem of illicit trade has only compounded in the current situation, where criminals have used the pandemic as an opportunity to cause significant damage on the economy of the nation, health and safety of the consumers. FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) in its series of state specific webinars on Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond', organized the next edition in the series for the state of Assam and other north eastern states of India on September 15, 2020. The webinar discussed and underscored the efforts that the Industry & government have taken and could further take in tackling the flow of illicit products during the current crisis.

**Mr. Debajyoti Dutta, Secretary, Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Government of Assam** during his special address at the webinar said, "The criminals who are indulging in smuggling and counterfeiting activities are promoting crime and economic instability and the consumers are bearing the brunt of it. It is important that we instill pride for Indian brands and goods amongst the consumers. This will play a pivotal role in putting counterfeit and

smuggled products out of the market." Mr. Dutta further said that the menace of illicit trade is to be dealt in a dedicated and systematic manner with concerted efforts from all central and state enforcement agencies along with the paramilitary forces.

**Mr. Pabitra Khaund, Secretary, Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Assam** in his address reiterated the importance of supporting local manufacturing and goods and said that the Prime Minister's call on 'Vocal for local' will be a potent tool in our fight against counterfeiting and smuggling. It will create a conducive environment for the economy of the state government and play a major role in strengthening India. He also shared that the government of Assam has launched several schemes in this direction, which has immensely benefitted local artisans and small enterprises.

The webinar shared insights on the role of enforcement agencies such as the customs, play to thwart criminals who are cashing in during the crisis.

**Mr. G. M. Kamei, Commissioner, Commissionerate of Customs, North Eastern Region** shared that during the Covid period they have successfully conducted 710 seizures of goods worth Rs. 110 cr. The Commissioner said that the Custom officers have kept watch on the various areas of smuggling in the Indo-Myanmar border. As the lockdown restrictions are easing, the customs have increased their vigil along with increased coordination work with other agencies such as the DRI, Assam Rifles and state police to make the task of smuggler a difficult one. However they agree that much more can be done in the area and welcomed inputs and suggestions from industry and members of trade for reducing the



# Media Coverage

## The Sentinel Local goods promoted to counter illicit trade

NEW DELHI, Sept 16: The menace of illicit trade will be dealt with in a systematic manner with concerted efforts by central and state enforcement agencies along with the paramilitary forces, said Debajyoti Dutta, Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Assam.

"The criminals who are indulging in smuggling and counterfeiting activities are promoting crime and economic instability and the consumers are bearing the brunt of it. It is important that we instil pride for Indian brands and goods amongst the consumers. This will play a pivotal role in putting counterfeit and smuggled products out of the market," he added.

Dutta was addressing a webinar 'Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond', organized by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADe).

Pabitra Khandu, Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Assam, said that the Prime Minister's call for 'Vocal for local' will be a potent tool in the fight against counterfeiting and smuggling. It will create a conducive environment for the economy of the state and play a major role in strengthening India.

He added that the government of Assam has launched several schemes in this direction, which has immensely benefited local artisans and small enterprises.

G.M. Kamei, Commissioner, Commissionerate of Customs, northeastern

region, highlighted the role of Customs in addressing this menace in the northeastern region. He said, "The custom officers are working in close coordination with DRI, Assam Rifles and State Police to make the task of a smuggler a difficult one." The Prime Minister's call for 'Vocal for local' will be a potent tool in the fight against counterfeiting and smuggling. It will create a conducive environment for the economy of the state and play a major role in strengthening India.

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## eastern chronicle Assam govt promotes local goods to counter illicit trade

**AGENCIES**

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## NORTHEAST TIMES Customs seized goods worth Rs 110 cr in NE during COVID-19 pandemic

GUWAHATI, Sept 16: The customs officials have seized various goods worth Rs 110 crore in 710 operations in North East since the COVID-19 pandemic, but the country and the region, a senior official said on Wednesday.

Addressing a webinar on 'Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond' organized by Assam chapter FICCI, Commissioner of Customs North East G.M. Kamei said that the officials are continuing their efforts to curb the menace of illicit trade.

During the COVID-19 period, he has successfully conducted 710 operations and seized goods worth Rs 110 crore. He said at the webinar by FICCI, Commissioner Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADe).

The customs officials are working in close coordination with DRI, Assam Rifles and State Police to make the task of a smuggler a difficult one." The Commissioner shared that during the COVID period they conducted 710 seizures of goods worth Rs. 110 cr.

Congratulating the Assam government and the enforcement agencies, Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADe said, "The enforcement officials have redoubled their efforts in the northeastern region and over the last few months seized contraband and illicit cigarettes, liquor, drugs, currency and consumer goods."

## THE HILLS TIMES Customs seized goods worth ₹ 110 cr in NE during Covid-19 pandemic

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During the COVID-19 period, he has successfully conducted 710 operations and seized goods worth ₹ 110 crore. He said at the webinar by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADe).

The customs officials are working in close coordination with Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Assam Rifles and various state police to make the task of smugglers difficult, Kamei said.

Debajyoti Dutta, Secretary of Assam's Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, said, "The criminals indulging in smuggling and counterfeiting activities are promoting crime and economic instability, and the consumers are bearing the brunt of it."

The menace of illicit trade is to be dealt in a dedicated and systematic manner with concerted efforts from all central and state enforcement agencies along with the paramilitary forces, he added.

Lauding the efforts of the state from various agencies, FICCI CASCADe Chairman Anil Rajput said, "The enforcement officials have redoubled their efforts in the northeastern region and over the last few months seized contraband and illicit cigarettes, liquor, drugs, currency and consumer goods."

## MORNING INDIA Assam promotes local goods to counter illicit trade

NEW DELHI: The menace of illicit trade will be dealt with in a systematic manner with concerted efforts by central and state enforcement agencies along with the paramilitary forces, said Debajyoti Dutta, Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Assam.

"The criminals who are indulging in smuggling and counterfeiting activities are promoting crime and economic instability and the consumers are bearing the brunt of it. It is important that we instil pride for Indian brands and goods amongst the consumers. This will play a pivotal role in putting counterfeit and smuggled products out of the market," he added.

Dutta was addressing a webinar 'Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond', organized by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADe).

Pabitra Khandu, Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Assam, said that the Prime Minister's call for 'Vocal for local' will be a potent tool in the fight against counterfeiting and smuggling. It will create a conducive environment for the economy of the state and play a major role in strengthening India.

He added that the government of Assam has launched several schemes in this direction, which has immensely benefited local artisans and small enterprises.

G.M. Kamei, Commissioner, Commissionerate of Customs, northeastern

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## BW BUSINESSWORLD Assam Government Boosts Promotion Of Local Goods To Counter Illicit Trade

The problems of illicit trade has only compounded in the current situation, where consumers have used the pandemic as an opportunity to cause significant damage to the economy of the nation, health and safety of the consumers.

The criminals who are indulging in smuggling and counterfeiting activities are promoting crime and economic instability and the consumers are bearing the brunt of it. It is important that we instil pride for Indian brands and goods amongst the consumers. This will play a pivotal role in putting counterfeit and smuggled products out of the market."

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# State Series

State Series

## Combating Counterfeit and Smuggled and Pirated goods During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond

27th October 2020

Focus State – Kerala

Illicit trade, smuggling and counterfeiting have been a huge challenge for humankind for many decades where they rob the government of its rightful revenue, pose health and security hazards to citizens and create a plethora of problems for the society at large. While the centre and state governments have been playing a proactive role in dealing with this issue, **FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE)** has also been highlighting the ill effects of this adversary and eliciting response from stakeholders to concertedly address this problem especially during the current crisis. It is with the above background that FICCI CASCADE organized a webinar on **'Combating Counterfeit and Smuggled and Pirated goods**

**During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond'**, on 27th October 2020 focusing on the State of Kerala. The webinar was a part of a series of such events which are being organised across the country as part of a nation-wide awareness campaign to highlight the issue and focus on the growing menace of illegal trade.

**Mr. P Thilothaman, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Govt. of Kerala**, was the Chief Guest at the webinar. In his inaugural address, Mr. P Thilothaman said, "We need to create consumer awareness and substantially reduce the illicit market operations for a conducive environment for growth and development in the country." He further added, "Consumer awareness on fake and smuggled goods is low and hence many consumers are unaware that they are buying such goods and equally unaware of the consequences. Protecting and promoting the welfare of consumers has become one of the major concerns of our government and organizing awareness programs such as these will help to educate and sensitize the consumers."

**Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE** welcomed the dignitaries and during his address, complimented the Kerala Government for their high levels of vigil to deter any illicit activities in the state. He said, "Despite having multitude of challenges owing to COVID-19, the enforcement agencies of Kerala have seized large number of illicit liquor, fake



sanitizer products, gold, tobacco products and much more." Highlighting the Prime Minister's Vocal for Local initiative, Mr Rajput emphasised, "I could not imagine a better time for the Hon'ble Prime Ministers clarion call of Vocal for Local-Atmanirbhar Bharat, which to my mind could alleviate the pain and catapult India to even greater heights in the future."

**Dr. M I Sahadulla, Co-Chair, FICCI Kerala State Council and MD, KIMS Healthcare Management Ltd.** said, "Kerala being a consumer state, the opportunity is more for illicit traders. Hence, it is essential to create awareness and put an end to such nefarious activities."

**Mr. P. C. Jha, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs** in his address said that among the different aspects of economic activity, manufacturing in small and medium enterprises which engages large number of people has been severely impacted because of COVID-19 and lockdowns and hence there is an urgent need to put it back on its feet. Promoting local manufacturing and use of indigenous products will not only increase share of manufacturing in the country's GDP, create job opportunities in India and drive home the value of indigenously produced goods, but will also build 'Brand India' and deter cross border illicit trade.

Perspectives from Kerala Police was shared by **Mr. S Sreejith**, IG, Crime, Kerala Police; **Mr. Sumit Kumar**,

Commissioner of Custom, Preventive, Kerala Customs shared the custom department's vision in addressing the issue. Some of the key suggestions included:

- » Need for a wide scale programme to educate both industry and citizens about the dangers of smuggled and counterfeit goods.
- » Convergence of the stakeholders to address the menace of counterfeiting and smuggling.
- » Information based preventive action is a key tool to catch the perpetrators of illicit trade.

The webinar was also addressed by industry leaders from diverse sectors including **Mr. Deepak L Aswani**, Co-Chair, FICCI Kerala State Council and Managing Partner, Lachmandas & Sons; **Mr. V Noushad**, Managing Director, VKC Group Companies; **Mr. Varkey Peter**, Managing Director, Mothers Agro Foods Pvt Ltd.; **Mr. Paul Francis**, Managing Director, KLF Nirmal Industries (Pvt) Ltd and **Mr. Dileep Narayanan**, Head-Bullion & Treasury, Malabar Gold Private Ltd. They highlighted that the problem of illicit trade has only compounded in the current situation, where criminals have used the pandemic as an opportunity to cause significant damage on the economy of the nation, health, and safety of the consumers. The speakers also reiterated that consumer safety, safeguarding legitimate businesses while promoting indigenous production will play a significant role in the path to our economic recovery.



**FICCI CASSADE**

Webinar on

# Combating Counterfeit, Smuggled & Pirated Goods

during the COVID - 19 pandemic & beyond

**BE VOCAL FOR LOCAL AND PREVENT ILLICIT TRADE**

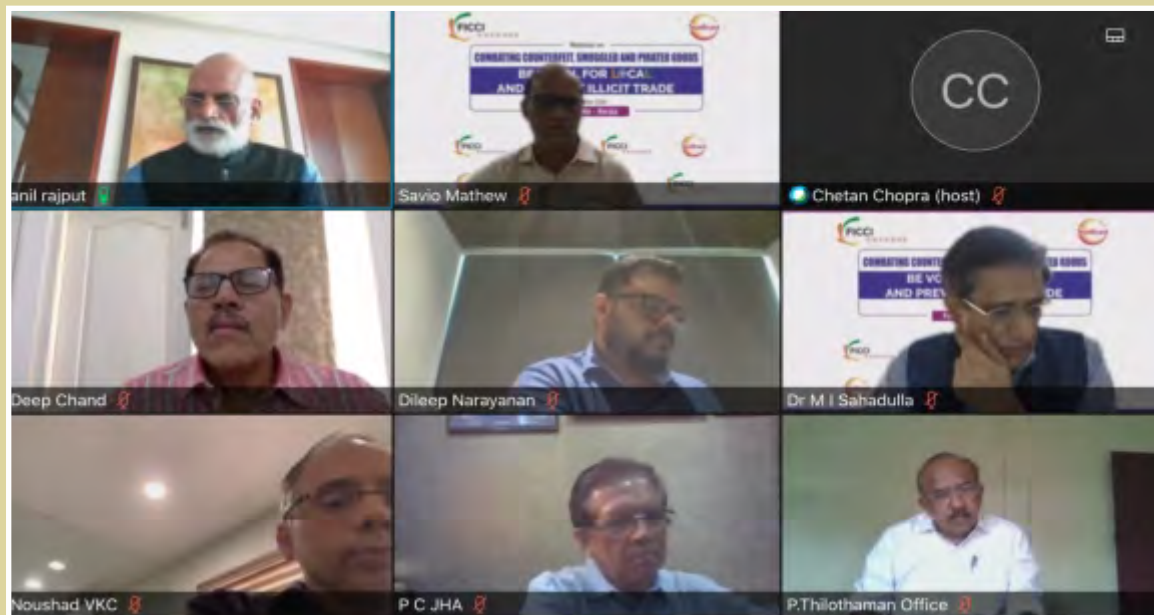
Focus State : Kerala

Date : 27 October 2020 Time : 3 PM onwards Supported By: Sunfeast

Speaking: Sri P. Thilothaman

Chief Guest: Sri P. Thilothaman  
Minister of Commerce, Industries, Food & Civil Supplies, Govt. of Kerala

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## 'Create consumer awareness, reduce illicit market ops for conducive environment for growth'

**NEW DELHI:** "Create consumer awareness and substantially reduce the illicit market operations for a conducive environment for growth and development in the country", said P. Thilothaman, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Kerala at the Webinar held today on Combating Counterfeit and Smuggled and Pirated goods During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond, organized by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADe) focusing on the state of Kerala. The Minister further added, "Consumer awareness on fake and smuggled goods is low and hence many consumers are unaware that they are buying such goods and equally unaware of the consequences. Protecting and promoting the welfare of consumers has become one of the major concerns of our government and organizing awareness programs such as these help to educate and sensitize the consumers."

Complimenting the Kerala Government, Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADe said, "despite having multitude of challenges owing to COVID-19, the enforcement agencies of Kerala have seized large number of illicit liquor, fake sanitizer products, gold, tobacco products and much more." Highlighting Prime Minister's Vocal for Local initiative, Rajput emphasised "I could not imagine a better time for the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision in addressing this issue. Some of the key suggestions included:

1. Need for a wide scale programme to educate both industry and citizens about the dangers of smuggled and counterfeit goods.
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Perspectives from Kerala Police was shared by S. Sreejith, IPS, IG, Crime, Kerala Police. Sumit Kumar, Commissioner of Customs, Preventive, Kerala Customs shared the custom department's vision in addressing this issue.

**BW BUSINESSWORLD**

## Creating Consumer Awareness And Reducing Illicit Market Operations- Vital For A Conducive Environment For Growth And Development

Several steps are being taken by FICCI CASCADe and the government to create large-scale awareness among the most impacted segment of this menace: the consumer.

**FICCI CASCADe**

28 October 2020  
In: BW Online Bureau

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**THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS**

## FICCI organises webinar on tackling grey market

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
@ Kochi

**CONSUMER** awareness on fake and smuggled goods is low and protecting the interests of consumers is one of the major concerns of the state government, said Food and Civil Supplies Minister P Thilothaman. There is a need to educate and sensitise consumers to reduce illicit market operations, he said.

The minister was speaking at a webinar organised by the Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADe) of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

Complimenting the Kerala Government, Mr Anil Rajput, chairman, FICCI CASCADe, said that, despite the challenges posed by Covid-19, the enforcement agencies in Kerala have seized huge quantities of illicit liquor, fake sanitiser products, gold and tobacco products. FICCI Kerala state council co-chair M I Sahadulla Crime Branch IG S Sreejith, Customs Commissioner Sumit Kumar and others shared their views.

**India EducationDiary.com**

## Creating consumer awareness and reducing illicit market operations- vital for a conducive environment for growth and development in the country

**PRICE DIFFERENCE DOUBLE RETURN**

**New Delhi:** "Create consumer awareness and substantially reduce the illicit market operations for a conducive environment for growth and development in the country", said Mr. P. Thilothaman, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Govt. of Kerala at the Webinar held today on Combating Counterfeit and Smuggled and Pirated goods During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond, organized by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADe) focusing on the state of Kerala. The Minister further added, "Consumer awareness on fake and smuggled goods is low and hence many consumers are unaware that they are buying such goods and equally unaware of the consequences. Protecting and promoting the welfare of consumers has become one of the major concerns of our government and organizing awareness programs such as these help to educate and sensitize the consumers."

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# State Series

## State Series

### Combating Counterfeit and Smuggled and Pirated goods During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond

31st March 2021

Focus State – Telangana

Counterfeit and smuggled goods have infiltrated everyday avenues of commerce, making their way into supply chains and consumers' homes. The rise of smuggled and counterfeit products threatens manufacturers' competitiveness, undermines consumer confidence, and poses a threat to individuals' health and safety. While the centre and state governments have been playing a proactive role in dealing with this issue, **FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE)** has also been highlighting the ill effects of this adversary and eliciting response from stakeholders to concertedly address this problem especially during the current times. It is with the above background that FICCI CASCADE organized a

webinar on '**Combating Counterfeit and Smuggled and Pirated goods During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond**', on 31st March 2021 focusing on the State of Telangana. The webinar was a part of a series of such events which are being organised across the country as part of a nation-wide awareness campaign to highlight the issue and focus on the growing menace of illegal trade.

**Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government of Telangana, Industries & Commerce, Information Technology, Electronics and Communications Department** was the Chief Guest at the webinar. In his keynote address, Mr Ranjan said, "long time multiplier effect of crimes like counterfeiting and smuggling is very harmful to the society at large and impacts effective governance." He further added that it was unfortunate that some people were trying to take advantage of this pandemic and thinking of counterfeiting and faking even the COVID19 vaccines. The Telangana government is extremely cautious in protecting the larger public interest and is using blockchain and AI technology to create a deterrent environment against such crimes.

**Mr. T. Muralidharan, Chairman, FICCI Telangana State Council & Chairman, TMI Group** welcomed the dignitaries and during his address, said, "Discussions on combating smuggling and counterfeiting are even more important in the context of COVID19 which is impacting the economy and is endangering lives of people. Illicit trade adversely impacts the manufacturing strength of the nation and if not checked will act as barrier to the government's vision of making India a global manufacturing hub". Mr Muralidharan also suggested that the crimes pertaining to counterfeiting should be treated as cases of revenue evasion and not only as a consumer protection and quality issue. Moreover, colluders including the retailers should be treated like counterfeiters. It will be also important that one should name and shame the colluders and report them to the GST and IT authorities. This will prove to be a bigger deterrent than consumer court actions. Today most consumers believe that counterfeiting happens at a small scale

and hence it is not seen as a serious issue while buying. Reports being published regularly reports on the scale of the menace with statistics will help in generating greater public awareness.

**Mr. Anil Sinha, Former Director, CBI and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE** in his address emphasized on the need for policies and regulations which disincentivizes such illegal activities. He suggested the need for a nodal agency comprising of representatives from different government departments to ensure coordinated actions against this menace. He informed that FICCI CASCADE had recently recommended to the Govt. of India for setting up of an umbrella body i.e., a multi-agency centre to ensure proper coordination amongst the concerned Ministries/Departments/Enforcement agencies to address the problems arising out of Illicit trade. This nodal agency could share intelligence and enhance cooperation among national and international bodies. Further, it could

make policy recommendations and build capacities to address the menace of counterfeiting and smuggling.

The webinar was also addressed by industry leaders - **Mr. Milind Palany, Global Brand Protection Lead - India & South Asia, Johnson & Johnson**; **Mr. Amit Bhasin, General Manager, Legal- Customer Development and Corporate Secretarial, Hindustan Unilever Ltd.**; and **Mr Devendra Surana, Managing Director, Bhagyanagar India Ltd.** They emphasized that the illicit trade problem has only compounded in the pandemic situation with criminals using it as an opportunity to cause significant damage on the economy of the nation, health, and safety of the consumers. All the speakers underlined the need for safeguarding the consumers' health and safety, and the interest of genuine businesses, while promoting indigenous production should be a fundamental strategy to India's growth and development.





THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Telangana nod for StaTwig's blockchain solution

NEW DELHI, Apr 1, 2021, 08:52 PM



HYDERABAD: To ensure safe delivery of Covid-19 vaccines, the Telangana government has recommended to the Union health ministry that it can explore the usage of Blockchain solution — Vaccine Ledger — by Hyderabad-founded startup, StaTwig. Telangana Industries principal secretary Jayesh Ranjan said on Wednesday.

**HOW IT WORKS**

- Telangana Industries principal secretary Jayesh Ranjan recently met StaTwig's founder at Union to Centre.
- It can record journey of a vaccine from the manufacturer to the consumer.
- The platform captures serial numbers, expiry dates as well as other manufacturing data using 2D bar codes.
- It will allow them to scan the vaccines at various touch points along their journey.



United News of India  
India's Multi Lingual News Agency

### Long term multiplier effect of crimes very harmful to society, impacts effective governance : Ranjan

Hyderabad, Apr 1 (UNI) Telangana Principal Secretary of Information Technology Jayesh Ranjan has said that "Long term multiplier effect of crimes such as counterfeiting and smuggling is very harmful to the society at large and impacts effective governance."

Addressing a webinar on 'Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond', organised by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE), Ranjan added that it is very unfortunate that some people are trying to take advantage of this pandemic and thinking of counterfeiting and faking the COVID-19 vaccines.

"The Telangana government is extremely cautious in protecting the larger public interest and is using Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to create a deterrent environment against such crime," he added.

FICCI Telangana State Council Chairman and TMI Group Chairman, T. Muralidharan, said, discussions on combating smuggling and counterfeiting are even more important in the context of COVID-19 which is impacting the economy and is endangering lives of people. Illicit trade adversely impacts the manufacturing strength of the nation and if not checked will act as a barrier to the government's vision of making India a global manufacturing hub, he said. CBI former Director and FICCI CASCADE Think Tank Member Anil Sinha, emphasised on the need for policies and regulations which disincentivises such illegal activity. Suggesting that how a social agency comprising of representatives from different government departments will ensure coordinated actions against this menace, he said FICCI CASCADE recently had recommended to the Government of India for setting up of an umbrella body, a multi-modal agency centre to ensure proper coordination amongst the concerned Ministries / Departments / Enforcement agencies to address the problems arising out of illicit trade. This modal agency could share intelligence and enhance cooperation among National and International bodies. Further, it could also make policy recommendations and build capacities to address the menace of counterfeiting and smuggling, Mr Sinha added.



# Blockchain, AI to deter counterfeiting: Jayesh

**BUSINESS BUREAU**  
Hyderabad

The Telangana government is extremely cautious in protecting the larger public interest and is using blockchain and artificial intelligence (AI) to create a deterrent environment against counterfeiting, said Jayesh Ranjan, principal secretary to the Government of Telangana, Industries & Commerce, Information Technology, Electronics and Communications Department.

Addressing a Webinar "Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond", organised by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE), Ranjan added that it is very unfortunate that some people are trying to take advantage of this pandemic and thinking of counterfeiting and faking the Covid-19 vaccines.

Long-time multiplier effect of crimes such as counterfeiting and smuggling is very harmful to the society at large and impacts effective governance, he noted.

T. Muralidharan, chairman, FICCI Telangana State Council said, "Discussions on combating smuggling and counterfeiting are even more important in the context of Covid-19 which is impacting the economy and is endangering lives of people. Illicit trade adversely impacts the manufacturing strength of the nation and if not checked will act as a barrier to the government's vision of making India a global manufacturing hub."

### Policies, regulations

Anil Sinha, former Director, CBI and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE emphasised on the need for policies and regulations which disincentivises such illegal activity. FICCI CASCADE recently had recommended to the Government of India for setting up of an umbrella body i.e., a multi-agency centre to ensure proper coordination amongst the concerned ministries, departments and enforcement agencies to address the problems arising out of illicit trade.



## Multiplier Effect Of Counterfeiting, And Smuggling Harms Society And Impacts Effective Governance: Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Govt Of Telangana

By BW

Discussions on combating smuggling and counterfeiting are even more important in the context of COVID-19 which is impacting the economy and is endangering lives of people.








01 April, 2021  
By BW Business Bureau





## 'Fake COVID-19 vaccine taking toll on govt's efforts to curb pandemic'

Chaitanya Mishra  
April 2021

**Telangana  
Tribune**



Hyderabad: Rise in fake COVID-19 vaccines is taking a toll on the Telangana government's efforts to curb the ongoing pandemic, said principal secretary (IT and industries) Jayesh Ranjan on Thursday. He added that in order to counter it, the state will use blockchain and AI technology to create a barrier against such crimes.

"Long time multiplier effect of crimes such as counterfeiting and smuggling is very harmful to the society at large and impacts effective governance," said Ranjan, while addressing a webinar on 'Combating counterfeiting and smuggling during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond'. It was held by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

## Telangana Today

### TS govt using blockchain and AI to deter counterfeiting: Jayesh Ranjan

Addressing a webinar 'Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond', organised by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy.

By Telangana Today | Business Bureau | Published: 1st Apr 2021 | 12:08 pm | Updated: 1st Apr 2021 | 1:10 pm



Hyderabad: The Telangana government is extremely cautious in protecting the larger public interest and is using blockchain and artificial intelligence (AI) to create a deterrent environment against counterfeiting, said Jayesh Ranjan, principal secretary to the Government of Telangana, Industries & Commerce, Information Technology, Electronics and Communications Department.

## TS government uses blockchain and AI to prevent counterfeiting: Jayesh Ranjan



Hyderabad: The Telangana government is extremely cautious in protecting the larger public interest and is using blockchain and artificial intelligence (AI) to create a deterrent environment against counterfeiting, said Jayesh Ranjan, principal secretary to the Government of Telangana, Industries & Commerce, Information Technology, Electronics and Communications Department.

Addressing a webinar on combating counterfeiting and smuggling during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond, organised by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCAD), Ranjan emphasised it is a well-understood fact that some people are trying to take advantage of the pandemic and forcing of counterfeiting and smuggling the COVID-19 vaccines.

## APN NEWS

Thursday, April 2021 Today's Market / Current Time: 08:45:49

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Hyundai Motor India registers cumulative sales of 64.64 units in March 2021

### Multiplier effect of counterfeiting, and smuggling harms society and impacts effective governance: Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Govt of Telangana

Published on April 4, 2021

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## Multiplier effect of counterfeiting, and smuggling harms society and impacts effective governance: Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Govt of Telangana

Industry Update

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Hyderabad: Rise in fake COVID-19 vaccines is taking a toll on the Telangana government's efforts to curb the ongoing pandemic, said principal secretary (IT and industries) Jayesh Ranjan on Thursday. He added that in order to counter it, the state will use blockchain and AI technology to create a barrier against such crimes.

"Long time multiplier effect of crimes such as counterfeiting and smuggling is very harmful to the society at large and impacts effective governance," said Ranjan, while addressing a webinar on 'Combating counterfeiting and smuggling during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond'. It was held by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Addressing a webinar on combating counterfeiting and smuggling during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond, organised by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCAD), Ranjan emphasised it is a well-understood fact that some people are trying to take advantage of the pandemic and forcing of counterfeiting and smuggling the COVID-19 vaccines.

Hyderabad: The Telangana government is extremely cautious in protecting the larger public interest and is using blockchain and artificial intelligence (AI) to create a deterrent environment against counterfeiting, said Jayesh Ranjan, principal secretary to the Government of Telangana, Industries & Commerce, Information Technology, Electronics and Communications Department.

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# IN CONVERSATION SERIES

# In Conversation Series

In Conversation Series

*In Conversation with*

**Prof Arun Kumar**

Malcolm Adiseshiah, Chair Professor,  
Institute of Social Sciences

November 13, 2020

**S**muggling and counterfeiting which are termed as illicit trade is the world's largest growing economic menace. Owing to its rather complex nature, its size is hard to determine. However, various estimates suggest that over the last ten years, the magnitude of illicit trade has grown from USD 650 billion to about USD 3 trillion, and this criminal activity represents 10 per cent of the global trade, being rightly termed by the FBI as the 'crime of the 21st century'.

FICCI CASCADE organized an "In conversation with Prof Arun Kumar, Malcolm Adiseshiah Chair Professor, Institute of Social Sciences" on 13th November 2020. Conversation between Prof Kumar and Mr. Najib Shah, Former Chairman, CBIC and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE, was focused on the multifaceted aspects of illicit trade, understanding the risks caused by such activities and the remedial measures to contain the menace.

Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE in his remarks said that illicit trade is undeniably one of the greatest risks globally. Unfortunately, the problem has only compounded in the current COVID crisis, where criminals have used the pandemic as an



opportunity to increase their nefarious activities, causing significant damage on the economy of the nation, health and safety of the consumers. There is a need to check and substantially reduce the illicit market operations and create a conducive environment for growth and development.

Structural changes, simple tax system and accountability at all levels will help in the reduction of black income, suggested Prof Arun Kumar while addressing the in-conversation series. A holistic view of black market is required, and it needs the involvement of law-and-order machinery. Prof Kumar added that the potential rate of growth of the economy in the absence of black money will be 5 % higher.

Mr. Najib Shah, Former Chairman, CBIC and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE said that the manifestation of black money in social, economic

and political space of our lives has a debilitating effect on the institutions of governance and conduct of public policy in the country and the connection between black economy and illicit trade is also palpable. It is evident that the hazards of illicit trade are serious which needs to be dealt with sincere commitment leading to result-oriented effective steps addressing this challenge.

Mr. Arun Chawla, Deputy Secretary General, FICCI while delivering the concluding remarks said that in spite of several measures which are being undertaken by the government, steps are required, both in the form of policy intervention and awareness generation to combat the problem of illicit trade and the related underground economy. There is a need to work towards an effective strategy to strengthen our systems and increase enforcement against such mal-practices.

# In Conversation Series

In Conversation Series

*In Conversation with*

**Mr. Balesh Kumar**

Pr. Director General

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

23rd December 2020

**I**llicit trade in terms of smuggling and counterfeiting is undeniably one of the greatest risks globally impacting legitimate economic activity and facilitating an underground economy and organized crime that deprives governments of revenues for vital public services, forces higher burdens on taxpayers, incurs job losses and exposes consumers to dangerous and ineffective products. Unfortunately, the problem has only compounded in the current COVID crisis, where criminals have used the pandemic as an opportunity to increase their nefarious activities, causing significant damage on the economy of the nation, health, and safety of the consumers.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), which is the country's premier counter-smuggling agency has consistently and effectively adapted to the new challenges brought in due to change in the economic scenario. Even in this challenging scenario, DRI officers have been fulfilling their responsibilities with utmost dedication and zeal and are playing a vital role in strengthening the economic and physical security of the country.

In order to discuss the threats posed by smuggling to India's security and economy and the pattern of smuggling due to COVID-19, FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) organized an 'In Conversation with Balesh Kumar, Pr. Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence' on 23rd December 2020.

Mr. Balesh Kumar, Pr. DG, DRI emphasised that "National security needs to be looked at holistically. We must understand that economic security cannot be treated as something separate from physical security." Speaking on the challenging security environment that India faced, Mr Kumar underlined the need for all law enforcement agencies to have a constant vigil to prevent smuggling as well as to ensure that necessary inputs were available to prevent potential terror attacks funded both externally and internally.



"Sealing of borders is not enough to secure the hinterland. Issues relating to security can travel across the borders very quickly into India and for that we must have a clear strategy of comprehensive approach of looking at the internal security in conjunction with external security as well as physical security along with economic security," he added. Highlighting the unwavering efforts of DRI officers during the unprecedented coronavirus crisis, Mr. Kumar informed that DRI has strategically focused on smuggling of cigarettes and gold this year seizing illicit cigarettes worth Rs. 45 crores and gold worth Rs. 275 crores in the last 9 months.

While having a conversation with Mr. Balesh Kumar on various aspect of the problem along with the preparedness of enforcement agencies in terms of adequacy of manpower and resources, and terrorism financing through the proceeds of smuggling, Mr. PC Jha, Former Chairman, CBIC and Advisor, FICCI CASCADE said, "Smuggling of items such as cigarettes, narcotics, substandard food items and medicines leads to severe health hazards.

The unaccounted profit generated through smuggling is also utilised to finance global terror activities."

**Mr. Anil Rajput**, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE welcomed Mr. Balesh Kumar and **Mr. P C Jha** and said that It is indeed heartening to see the efforts made by the officers of DRI to protect infiltration of illicit goods surreptitiously into our marketplaces. However, with increasing number of seizures being reported every day, it is highly possible that the total seizures may just be the tip of the iceberg of a much larger network. Mr. Rajput also urged the enforcement agencies to keep up their already impressive work and ensure that such mischievous elements are kept at bay.

**Mr. Deep Chand**, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi in his concluding address thanked the Director General and his team who have over the years gone from strength to strength in preventing outright smuggling and safeguarding the economic frontiers of our country.

# In Conversation Series

In Conversation Series

*In Conversation with*

**Dr. Muktesh Chander IPS**

Special Commissioner- Operations

Delhi Police

8th January, 2021

**F**ICCI CASCADE organized an "In conversation with Dr. Muktesh Chander, Special Commissioner, Delhi Police," on 8 January 2021. The objective of this session was to throw light on the scenario of counterfeiting and smuggling in India, increasing cyber-crime during the pandemic, and strengthening enforcement & surveillance mechanism to address the issue of counterfeiting and smuggling in the current crisis.

Dr. Muktesh Chander, Special Commissioner, Delhi Police said that "Actual occurrences of cases of counterfeiting and smuggling are much more than reported." He further added that the increasing surveillance, creating public awareness and coordination amongst law enforcement agencies and stakeholders are vital to counter the problem of counterfeiting and smuggling effectively.

Speaking at the 'In Conversation Series', Dr. Chander discussed the scenario of counterfeiting and smuggling in India, need for greater cyber security & cyber hygiene and strengthening enforcement & investigation mechanism to address illicit trade.

Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE said, "In India, since lockdown, our enforcement agencies have raided and seized smuggled, spurious and counterfeit sanitizers, masks, PPE Kits, disinfectants, toiletries and cosmetics, electronic goods, cigarettes, packaged food, spices, alcohol and several other items across various states. They not





only put a spoke in illicit trader's wheels but remained in an absolutely perfect state of alertness, thereby thwarting many attempts by them to spread their illegal, illicit, and sub-standard products."

Mr. Deep Chand, Former Special Commissioner, Delhi Police and Advisor, FICCI CASCADE said, "Counterfeiting and smuggling are serious crimes damaging the world economy while the common consumer faces health and safety issues and the genuine industry suffers a huge loss due to illicit products." He further emphasised that COVID-19 has provided opportunity to criminals to exploit the current situation to find new ways to make money. They are increasing and diversifying their activities through a wide range of crimes and scams which

exploit the fear and uncertainty surrounding the virus.

FICCI CASCADE has been over the years working closely with government, industry, enforcement officials, legal fraternity, consumer organizations and the youth to create awareness on the adverse impact of the problem of counterfeiting and smuggling. One of FICCI CASCADE's mandate is capacity building of law enforcement agencies and it has worked extensively and intensively in this area; organizing training programmes for police officers across India and interactions with the law enforcement authorities to emphasize on the importance of awareness and seriousness of the impact of counterfeit and smuggled goods.

# In Conversation Series

In Conversation Series

*In Conversation with*

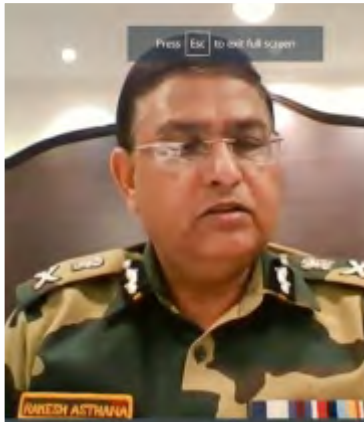
**Shri Rakesh Asthana, IPS**

Director General, Border Security Force &  
Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau

23rd April 2021

Smuggling activities generate large amount of money and the money generated is further funnelled into various anti-social activities in our country", said Mr. Rakesh Asthana, Director General, Border Security Force and Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau. Mr Asthana was speaking at the 'In Conversation Series' an initiative of FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) to share insights and deepen understanding on the various facets of illicit trade with subject matter experts. Speaking on the menace of drug smuggling, Mr Asthana said, "according to a recent survey by Govt. of India, it is found that nearly 2.1% of the Indian population is addicted to heroin, and 1.44 lakh crore of illicit revenue is generated every year through it". He further added that in 2019, the MHA has constituted a 4 tier coordinated mechanism which is a robust system of inter-agency coordination led by DG, Narcotics Control Bureau to address the menace of smuggling.

Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE in his address said, "In India, since the onset of the pandemic, our paramilitary forces and enforcement agencies have raided and seized smuggled, spurious and counterfeit sanitizers, masks, PPE Kits, toiletries and cosmetics, electronic goods, cigarettes, packaged food, spices, drugs, alcohol and several other items across various states". Speaking on the increasing number of seizures being reported every day, Mr Rajput said, "it is highly possible that the total seizures may just be the tip of the iceberg of a much larger network. We cannot afford to lower our guard and therefore it is extremely important that




**FICCI CASCADE**  
presents  
**In Conversation With**  
**Mr. Rakesh Asthana, IPS**  
Director General, Border Security Force  
Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau

23 April | 3:00 p.m. Supported by 

Watch Live on  **ficclindia**

**Mr. Anil Sinha**  
Former Director, CBI and  
Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE

our enforcement agencies keep up their already impressive work and ensure that such mischievous elements are kept at bay".

Mr. Anil Sinha, Former Director, CBI and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE while in conversation with Mr Asthana said, "On one hand, we have a raging pandemic where criminals have used it as an opportunity to increase their nefarious activities, causing significant damage on the economy of the nation, health, and safety of the consumers while on the other hand there is smuggling and how it is funding and terrorism and undermining the security of a nation". Strengthening of inter-agency coordination and the need for successful prosecution of criminals in smuggling and counterfeiting cases were also highlighted in his discussion with Mr. Asthana.

Border forces face key challenges in preventing illicit trade and disrupting transnational smuggling operations. It is certain that border officers are critical stakeholders in combating cross border illegal trading activities. As border control becomes challenging due to newer forms of cross border crimes it becomes vital that officers at the borders are prepared to identify possible suspects and their victims in such crimes. FICCI CASCADE, has been over the years working closely with government, industry, enforcement officials, legal fraternity, consumer organizations and the youth to create awareness on the adverse impact of the problem of counterfeiting and smuggling. Among other activities, FICCI CASCADE has been regularly engaging with law enforcement agencies including police, customs and paramilitary organizations engaged in border protection in sensitizing them on the gravity of the problem.





# **CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME**

# Capacity Building Programme

## Capacity Building Programme

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

16th October 2020  
PCR, Jammu and Kashmir

Over some time now, trade in counterfeit, smuggled and pirated goods has developed into a substantial threat to the economy of our country and pose serious safety and security hazards to the society at large. Different government agencies are involved at various stages in tackling such crimes, right from detection, investigation, prosecution and prevention of such offences, often including the recovery of the proceeds of crime. The Police department is the primary law enforcement agency in our country. With low barriers to market entry and infiltration, the Police play a very significant role in ensuring the protection of right owners. There are adequate laws available, but enforcement of the laws makes the role of police officers even more important in the fight against counterfeiters and smugglers.

FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy [CASCADE] in its endeavor to combat crimes related to smuggling and counterfeiting has over the years been sensitizing the country's enforcement agencies on this issue, equipping them to understand and take requisite action against the various economic offenders. Keeping the above in view, FICCI CASCADE organized a training programme on Prevention of Counterfeiting and Smuggling for the Police Officers of Jammu and Kashmir on 16th





October 2020. A key objective of the program was to sensitize the officers on the seriousness of the socio-economic impact of counterfeited and smuggled goods, in terms of the huge revenue losses to the government and industry as well as the significant health & safety consequences faced by consumers.

The training was inaugurated by Mr. Manish K Sinha, IPS, Inspector General, Crime, Jammu and Kashmir Police. Mr. Sinha in his address said, "Tackling the crimes of smuggling and counterfeiting of goods has been a major concern of nations since decades.

Jammu and Kashmir forces have always been on toes to capture these wrong doers. We are also planning to develop advancements for better enforcement." He further said that illegal trade not only leads to revenue loss to the government but also leads to unemployment amongst the youth in Jammu and Kashmir, who may be then tempted to join undesirable and illegal activities.

Mr. Deep Chand, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE, in his address informed about FICCI CASCADE's mandate of capacity building of law enforcement agencies including Judges, Police and Customs Officers, and



how CASCADE had been working extensively and intensively in this area nationally, organizing training programmes and seminars along with continuous Interactions with the law enforcement authorities to emphasize on the importance of increased awareness on the gravity of the problem.

Mr. Chand emphasized that India, as a rising economic superpower need to take offences related to counterfeiting and smuggling very seriously and police has a significant role in fighting this menace. He further reiterated that although such offenses are looked at as a victimless crime, it has many far-reaching consequences and is extremely important for a police officer to understand the consequences before taking actions on ground. Only then will an officer investigating a case related to smuggling and counterfeiting be able to understand and take suitable actions

Mr. Irfan Ahmad, Chairman, FICCI Jammu & Kashmir State Council and Managing Director, IA Multiventure Pvt. Ltd in his address said that the perpetrators of illicit trade are always looking at new ways to fool the people and damage the society. In Jammu and Kashmir this year itself the police and other enforcement authorities in the state have uncovered and arrested people engaged in illicit trade. Appreciating the efforts made by the enforcement officers during such unprecedented times, he reiterated that we cannot afford to lower our guard and therefore it is extremely important that our enforcement agencies keep up their already impressive work and ensure that such mischievous elements are kept at bay.

The training programme provided a useful platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences in the enforcement of laws and practices while dealing with the perpetrators. This workshop was extremely helpful in sensitizing the police officers about the relevant laws and procedures to be followed while dealing with the cases related to smuggling and counterfeiting. The technical sessions were followed by an Interactive-Session with the police officials with industry representatives. Industry members highlighted the on-ground practical issues which

they faced with regards to the availability of spurious goods and discussed collaborative actions needed with police to counter this menace.

Among the speakers who discussed the wide-ranging concerns on the issue of counterfeiting, piracy and smuggling with the participating police officials were, Advocate Ferdous A Mohammed; Mr. Milind Palany, Global Brand Protection Lead - India & South Asia, Johnson & Johnson; Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Co Chair, FICCI Jammu & Kashmir State Council and Managing Director, Skipper Overseas Pvt. Ltd; Mr. Wani Gowhar, Managing Director, Vowcare Products; Ms. Shilpi Jha, Senior Legal Counsel for Intellectual Property-South Asia, United States Patent and Trademark Office; Mr. Hugh Austin ,Attaché, ICE and Mr. John Kapitzke, Attache, US Homeland Security Investigations

All speakers unanimously agreed that the issue of illicit trade is needed to be addressed as a high priority issue with the government. An orchestrated strategy including communication, coordination and close cooperation amongst various government agencies, law enforcement officials and private sector to combat this menace is imperative. In pursuance of our mandate, FICCI-CASCADE will continue to hold similar programmes across the country in briefing enforcement agencies on procedural and enforcement issues while tackling illicit trading activities.





# Capacity Building Programme

## Capacity Building Programme

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

6 March 2021  
Old CP office, Gurugram

**F**ICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) organized a capacity building programme on Prevention of Counterfeiting and Smuggling for the police officers of Gurugram on 6th March 2021. Mr. Maqsood Ahmed, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Gurugram in his address said, “Activities like smuggling and counterfeiting are causing huge damage to the society and the nation's economy. Gurugram has recently seen a spike in white collared crime hence increasing surveillance, creating awareness and coordination amongst law enforcement agencies are key to counter this menace effectively.

Mr. Deep Chand, Advisor FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi during his presentation of the overview on Socio-Economic Impact of Counterfeiting, Smuggling & Piracy highlighted that the COVID19 provided an opportunity to criminals to exploit the current situation and found new ways to make money be it counterfeit or smuggled goods, fraud and cybercrime. Applauding the enforcement officers, Mr. Deep Chand said “even as the country is grappling with the coronavirus crisis, the resolve of officers to protect infiltration of illicit goods surreptitiously into our market-places while maintaining law and order is indeed laudable.





However, continued thrust of enforcement activity is essential to keep the offenders at bay.”

The programme was also addressed by Mr. Dharamveer Singh, Asst. Commissioner of Police, Gurugram Police. Sharing his wide experience on investigation of such cases, Mr. Singh emphasized that how the increasing number of seizures may just be the tip of the iceberg of a much larger network and hence this calls for continued focus on tackling the widespread threat.

This capacity building programme aimed to sensitize

the police officers and underscore the importance of continued awareness and seriousness of the impact of counterfeit and smuggled goods. It was emphasized that such illicit trading practices not only causes huge losses to the government and industry but is also causing significant economic and health & safety consequences for the society at large. Mr. Shashank Singh, Partner, K&S Partners informed the officers about the relevant laws and procedures to be followed while dealing with such cases. Industry representatives- Mr. Milind Palany, Global Brand Protection Lead, India & South Asia,



Johnson & Johnson, Dr. Pravin Singh, Lead-Public Policy & Advocacy and Mr. Manish Bathri, Consultant, Brand Protection, Marico Ltd. and Mr. Rajiv Suri, Partner, RNA Technology & IP Attorneys who spoke on behalf of Puma discussed the collaborative role of police and industry in thwarting this menace.

FICCI CASCADE has been successful in stirring an active debate on the topic nationally through various awareness programmes. Among other activities, FICCI CASCADE has been organizing capacity building programs for police officers in various states, focusing on economic offences related to counterfeiting and smuggling, equipping the officers to understand the laws and take requisite action against the perpetrators.



# Media Coverage

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Page : 10

## 'Surveillance, awareness & coordination among agencies key to counter smuggling menace'

**GURUGRAM:** Maqsood Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Gurugram on Saturday said, "Activities like smuggling and counterfeiting are causing huge damage to the society and economy."

Addressing the FICCI CASCAD (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) capacity building programme on 'Prevention of Counterfeiting and Smuggling for the police officers of Gurugram', Ahmed remarked that Gurugram has recently seen a spike in white collared crime hence increasing surveillance, creating awareness and coordination amongst law enforcement agencies are key to counter this menace effectively.

Deep Chand, Advisor FICCI CASCAD and Former Special

Commissioner of Police, New Delhi said, "COVID-19 provided opportunity to criminals to exploit the current situation to find new ways to make money be it counterfeit or smuggled goods, fraud and cybercrime."

Applauding the enforcement officers, Chand added, "Even as the country is grappling with the Coronavirus crisis, the resolve of officers to protect infiltration of illicit goods surreptitiously into our market-places while maintaining law and order is indeed laudable. However, continued thrust of enforcement activity is essential to keep the offenders at bay." Dharamveer Singh, Asst. Commissioner of Police, Gurugram Police emphasized that how the increasing number of seizures may just be the tip of the iceberg of a much larger network and hence this calls for

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This capacity building programme aimed to sensitize the police officers to emphasize on the importance of continued awareness and seriousness of the impact of counterfeit and smuggled goods. It was emphasized that such illicit trading practices not only causes huge losses to the government and industry but is also causing significant economic and health & safety consequences for the society at large. This workshop was also helpful in sensitizing the officers about the relevant laws and procedures to be followed while dealing with the cases related to smuggling and counterfeiting. Discussions revolved around the collaborative role of police and industry in thwarting this menace.

MP/ST

## APN NEWS

Increased surveillance, creating awareness, coordination amongst law enforcement agencies key to effectively counter smuggling & counterfeiting menace: Dy Commissioner of Police, Gurugram

3 min ago

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INCREASED SURVEILLANCE, CREATING AWARENESS, COORDINATION AMONGST LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES KEY TO EFFECTIVELY COUNTER SMUGGLING & COUNTERFEITING MENACE: DY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, GURUGRAM



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# **CAMPAIGN ON #MYCOVIDSTORY**

# Campaign on Campaign on **#MyCovidStory**

October, 2020

**S**haring is caring, and there is no better time to share inspiration, ideas, and stories than now! The #MyCovidStory and #PeopleofCASCADE campaign was a storytelling initiative and a part of FICCI CASCADE's (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a story-telling competition where participants shared their experiences on: how they felt, acted, and thrived from their encounter with counterfeit, fake and smuggled products during the challenging Covid-19 times. The objective of this competition was not only to generate awareness on the issues of counterfeiting and smuggling but also to inspire people to shun illicit products.

FICCI CASCADE has been actively working towards consumer awareness by highlighting the menace of fake, counterfeit and smuggled products, besides emphasizing how such illicit trade activities has become a serious threat to

public health and safety. The COVID-19 pandemic has unfortunately seen a surge in the availability of fake, falsified and substandard medical, healthcare and other consumer products. Many people are day-in-day-out proving to be key actors when it comes to finding solutions to global problems such as counterfeiting and smuggling. My COVID Story was an open invitation to all to share their stories by means of written testimonials to amplify their

voices; CASCADE received an overwhelming response from people and shared their impactful stories on its social media handles.

Esteemed member of FICCI CASCADE Think Tank: Mr. Najib Shah, Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Mr. Hem Kumar Pande, Former Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Ms. Kameswari Subramanian,

International Expert, Customs Law, Procedures & Trade Facilitation judged the competition. Winners of the competition were:





**FICCI CASCADE** *Meet the Jury*

*Last Call for Entries!*

**#MyCovidStory**

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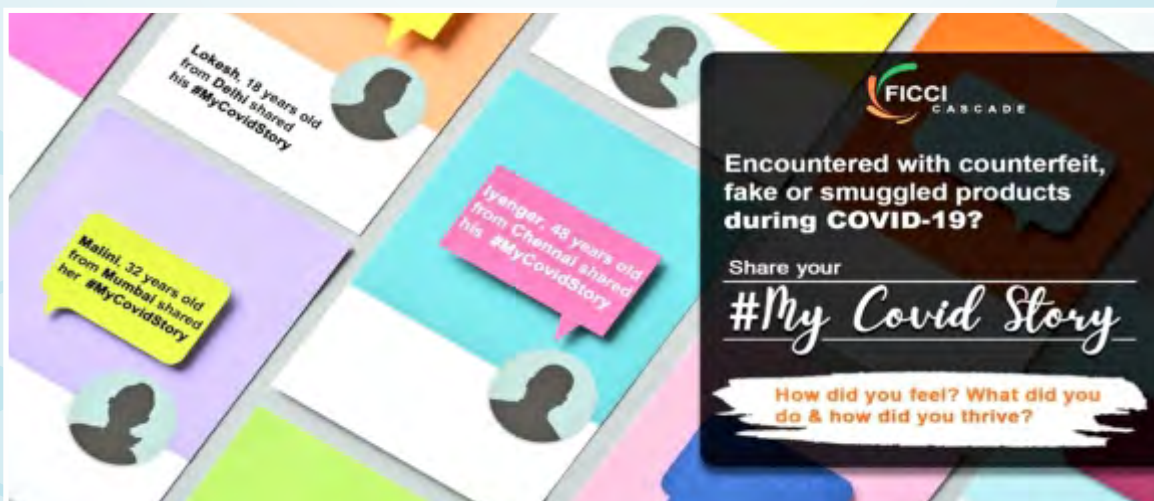
**Mr. Najib Shah**  
Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs



**Mrs. Kameswari Subramanian**  
Former Chief Commissioner of Central Excise, Customs and Service Tax, Bangalore Zone



**Mr. Hem Pande**  
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution



**FICCI CASCADE**

Encountered with counterfeit, fake or smuggled products during COVID-19?

Share your **#My Covid Story**

How did you feel? What did you do & how did you thrive?

Lokesh, 18 years old from Delhi shared his **#MyCovidStory**

Malini, 32 years old from Mumbai shared her **#MyCovidStory**

Iyenger, 48 years old from Chennai shared his **#MyCovidStory**



**FICCI CASCADE**

**#MyCovidStory**

**Akhilesh Kumar**  
Sasaram, Bihar  
2nd Position  
Rs. 10,000/-

**Afreen Khan**  
Noida, UP  
1st Position  
Rs. 15,000/-

**Manan Batra**  
Dehradun, Uttarakhand  
3rd Position  
Rs. 7,000/-

**Congratulations Winners!**

The background of the page features a dark, textured pattern of interlocking puzzle pieces in shades of blue and green in the top left corner. The main background is a dark red with vertical stripes. On the left side, there is a portrait of a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark jacket, looking slightly to the right. The title is prominently displayed in the upper center in large, bold, white and red letters.

# FICCI CASCADE TRIBUTE TO Late Shri Ramvilas Paswan

*5 July 1946 - 8 October 2020*

FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) and the Think Tank Members of CASCADE unanimously passed a resolution, expressing deep grief and sorrow over the demise of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India

The Resolutions States:



Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was a seasoned politician, a highly respected leader with deep understanding of our country's diversity and challenges. Throughout his political career, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan had raised voice for the rights of people. FICCI CASCADE was greatly encouraged by his deep commitment for the cause of the consumers and their safety. In our interactions with him, we were fortunate to have received his valuable guidance to work towards consumer protection. He had also, kindly graced several of our important engagements during the last six years. During his tenure, FICCI CASCADE had extensively worked with Department of Consumer Affair, Govt. of India and had also joined hands for their Jago Grahak Jago campaign. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan will be always remembered by the members of FICCI CASCADE because of his long and fruitful association with us.

The demise of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is a national tragedy and we pray to the almighty to give eternal peace to the departed noble soul and strength to the members of the family and near and dear ones to bear this loss.



# FICCI CASCADE MOU *with* amazon

FICCI CASCADE launches campaign  
to safeguard consumer  
interest

**1** 7 November 2020: FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) launched a campaign to safeguard consumers against counterfeit and fake products and in this endeavour have joined hands with Amazon.in to further the cause of consumer protection and trust.

**Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE** welcomed this collaboration and said, "Counterfeits and smuggled products is an issue that affects consumers, businesses, brands as well as the whole market sentiment. FICCI CASCADE has been working with key stakeholders including the government, law enforcement, and industry to work towards robust mechanisms to guard against this menace. We are committed to work collaboratively to further strengthen systems to deter penetration of such goods and safeguard the consumers.

"We are happy to collaborate with FICCI CASCADE, it underscores our focus on earning and retaining customer trust by enabling access to a wide selection of authentic products on Amazon.in. Our customers expect that when they make a purchase through Amazon's marketplace they will receive authentic products. In order to detect bad actors and potentially counterfeit products, we make significant



investments in machine learning and automated systems. We work with and empower brands and sellers through programs like Brand Registry, Transparency, and Project Zero to ensure only authentic products are sold on our marketplace. We look forward to supporting FICCI CASCADE and contributing to its efforts to stop counterfeits." said **Mr. Chetan Krishnaswamy, Vice President, Public Policy Amazon India.**

FICCI CASCADE has been over the years, actively focusing on curbing the problem of growing illicit trade in smuggled, pass-offs and counterfeit goods. Under this collaboration with Amazon.in, multiple engagement activities are being planned by FICCI CASCADE and supported by Amazon.in to generate awareness on the positive efforts being undertaken to guard against fake and counterfeit products and on the existing tools and mechanisms for protecting consumer interest.







# ARTICLES

# Articles

ARTICLES

## CRACKING DOWN



28th October 2020 | Millennium Post

### Anil Rajput

Chairman, FICCI CASCADE &  
Senior Vice President-Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd.

The year 2020 has had an unfortunate and unprecedented impact on mankind, it will indeed go down in history as a year in which the Covid-19 pandemic unleashed its fury world over, and brought the activities in all spheres of life to a screeching halt. The impact of this pandemic on the economies and societies across the globe is incomparable to any event over the past 100 years, and therefore its bearing on governance and law enforcement too is bound to be intense. While governments of all nations are committed to fighting this adversity, the perpetrators of illicit trade are viewing this current situation as an opportunity to expand and intensify their operations and are finding new ways to make money, largely by exploiting the fear and uncertainty surrounding the prevailing circumstances.

The size of the problem is staggering, even before the onset of the pandemic, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2019 stated that trade in counterfeit and pirated goods has risen steadily over the last few years and stood at 3.3% of global trade. Unfortunately, the pandemic has not only complicated this situation but has made matters worse.

Ever since the World Health Organization (WHO) announced COVID-19 as a global health emergency in March 2020, worldwide reports indicated a surge in the availability of fraudulent medical and consumer sanitary products. Interpol's global operation Pangea XIII, which saw police, customs and health regulatory authorities from 90 countries take part in collective action against the illicit online sale of medicines and medical products, seized large quantities of illicit facemasks, substandard hand sanitizers and unauthorized antiviral medication. Similarly, Europol in its report - 'Pandemic Profiteering' states that the sale of counterfeit and/or sub-standard foods, hygiene items and everyday goods is booming in the pandemic economy and there is a risk that the perpetrators of crime will use shortages in the supply of some goods to increasingly provide illicit alternatives both on and offline. Further, Interpol and Europol have also

warned against frauds in which consumers are tricked into buying non-existent medical supplies or making payments intended for medical care into criminal accounts. Estimates show that tens of millions of dollars have already been lost by victims of such scams.

In India, dealing with the menace of illegal goods during the COVID-19 crisis is a formidable challenge. Sale of such goods have a crippling effects on the nation's economic progress, owing to lower collection of taxes for the government along with adversely impacting the health and safety of the citizens. Also, in India, the opportunities for illicit operators during the pandemic do not end with just sanitary or medical products. Since lockdown, Indian Customs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Police and Paramilitary forces have raided and seized smuggled, spurious and counterfeit sanitizers, masks, PPE Kits, disinfectants, toiletries and cosmetics, electronic goods, cigarettes, packaged food, spices, alcohol and several other items across various states. With increasing number of seizures being reported every day, it is highly possible that the total seizures may just be the tip of the iceberg of a much larger network. With a substantial portion of India's population in the rural and semi-urban areas, the smugglers and counterfeiters find it relatively easy to hoodwink the people and make deep inroads into these areas and generate ill-gotten profits.

Eventually, neither the strict quarantine measures nor an invincible virus could stop this menace, which has, as a matter of fact existed and damaged societies and economies for decades, well before we even heard of the Coronavirus. It needs to be underscored, that these smugglers and counterfeiters see this ongoing adversity as an opportunity as they feel that the enforcement agencies are preoccupied with dealing with the Covid-19 menace and have put this matter on the backburner. However, this could not be further from the truth and this is borne out of the fact that there have been a record number of seizures across different states during the Covid-19 period. Having said this, looking at the new modus operandi of the illicit traders, the policy makers need to escalate this matter and deal with these crimes as nothing short of a national threat. We cannot afford to let complacency get the better of us on this issue which has far reaching ramifications.

Therefore, tackling the global scourge and surge of smuggled and counterfeit goods becomes even

more critical during this ongoing public health crisis and collective steps need to be taken to address this problem. Realizing the magnitude of this problem, FICCI has been consistently focusing on the need to curb the issue of growing illicit trade in counterfeits, pass offs and smuggled goods, and has dedicated a forum CASCADE - Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy for this cause. FICCI CASCADE works in close collaboration with the industry, consumers, media, legal experts, consumer organizations and government to create awareness on how counterfeiting and smuggling have become a serious threat to public health and safety. In addition, CASCADE has undertaken a nationwide campaign in combating counterfeiting and smuggling during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the aim to sensitize the people of its ill effects and increasingly involve the government at the centre and the states to deal with this challenge in the best and most effective manner.

It is an established fact that smuggling, counterfeiting and illicit trade serves only the unlawful elements, it has no place in the civilized world. The sole agenda of the perpetrators of this activity is to make profits at the cost of the health of the people, societies and the legal economic system. It is in the interest of all, that the systems in place only strengthen overtime as there is absolutely no room for laxity. The fact that those involved in this trade have even tried to exploit a worldwide pandemic to make greater profits, leaves no room for ambiguity, and should reinforce our resolve to deal with them with an iron fist.



# Articles

ARTICLES

## Why by 'Vocal for Local'



**P C Jha**

Former Chairman, Central Board of  
Indirect Taxes and Customs & Advisor, FICCI CASCADE

**2 November 2020 | Millennium Post**

An earlier slogan: "Be Indian & Buy Indian" has relentlessly been propagated by the CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy), a forum created by FICCI in 2011 to launch a pan India campaign against the menace of illicit trade in smuggled, counterfeited, pirated goods etc. This cause, no doubt, is of immense significance since it is aimed at minimising the insidious erosion which illicit trade is causing to the revenue of the government, health and life of people, and also security of the state. Further, since these infringing goods remain unaccounted through the supply chain, they are untaxed, and a sizeable portion of the profit generated on them finances insurgency and international terrorism. Moreover, when smuggling takes place, the manufacturing activity shifts abroad, causing job loss in the victim country of smuggling. A study by FICCI CASCADE had estimated that due to smuggling, over 16 lacs jobs were lost in India during 2017-18 in respect of 5 industry sectors only. It is in this background that the CASCADE has been creating public awareness to reject such illicit products.

In this context, it is pertinent to note that the trade in the last five decades, gradually, shifted from being protectionist to globalised, resulting in the world being one integrated market. This also promoted fairness in competition at global level, and gave consumers a fair option to buy better quality products at affordable prices. The world, however, has changed dramatically due to the

unprecedented global health crisis created by COVID. Already, the world has changed unrecognisably, never to become the same again. This has also brought about a sea change in the way businesses are done, and the choices people make for their purchases. Viewed in this background, the Prime Minister's clarion call to "Be Vocal For Local" may, at the first sight, seem to be a retrograde step. However, if analysed critically, this appeal is perceived to be based on pragmatism and expediency to protect the national interest in a critical situation.

We are facing a tsunami not a cyclone. With the country reeling under the impact of the pandemic, the Indian economy, as per the prediction of RBI, is likely to contract by 9.5 percent during FY21. Hence, immediate recovery of economy is crucial, and that cannot happen unless indigenous gets unrestricted preference over the imported - 'Swadeshi' over the 'Videshi'. If the misery of the people, not in million but in billion, is to be mitigated in not too distant a future, faster growth in a shorter time has to become a reality. Therefore, there is no alternative to local manufacturing, local market, and local supply chain. And this cannot happen unless the people buy Indian make goods. PM's call to drive economic resurgence will increase share of manufacturing in the country's GDP as in China, create job opportunities, and will build 'Brand India'. This would also contribute substantially in reducing the cross border illicit trade.

This, however, does not imply stopping imports and violating the WTO rules. For our indigenous manufacturing, we have huge dependence on imports. Value-wise, nearly two thirds of the country's imports are of raw materials, semi-finished goods, and machineries which are all indispensable for the domestic industry. What, in fact, is needed is only a behavioural shift in the preference of people for buying only such ready-to-sell consumer products which are of Indian make. Consumption of such imported items which do not need any more value addition in India has to be curtailed. This would need a motivated proactive response to the PM's call in favour of the local.

During such challenging times, would it be correct to remain generous even for them who consistently create impediments in our efforts to become a secure and prosperous nation? When we deal such hostile attitude towards our vital national interests, reciprocity has to take an upper hand over generosity. As suggested by Sartre, the need of

'existence' has to get preference over 'essence'. Accepting the Prime Minister's suggestion would also help achieve the goal of "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

Now, after lifting of the lockdown, the economy has started to recover faster than expected. But since the setback has been so severe that some sectors like MSME which employs much larger number of people, would, in view of its inherent weaknesses, take much longer time to return even to February, 2020 level. In a situation like this, to make the recovery faster through enhanced sale of local products, it is required that they sell at cheaper prices. This cannot happen unless there is reduction of GST rates. We may recall that the central excise rates were drastically cut from 12.5 to 8 percent in 2008 during the then global slowdown. Now, it seems the right time has arrived when responding to the consistent representations from the Indian industry since 2017, the government rationalises the GST rates, and fixes only four rates may be at 0, 5, 15, and 25 percent. This, no doubt, would give boost to the industry, increase sale of domestic products, augment revenue through enhanced compliance, and also minimize illicit trade, the last one is the main objective that CASCADE has been pursuing for long. The onus to make contribution during this hour of extreme crisis is not only on citizens but on the government also. Sooner the government realises this better would be the results. This would also help in eliciting enthusiastic response of the people to the call made by the PM.



### Why be 'Vocal for Local'

*Buying Indian products and supporting Indian industries will help recover the economy, alongside maximising the revenue of cross-border illicit trade*

**A**t a critical juncture, the Prime Minister's call to "Be Vocal for Local" is a retrograde step. However, if analysed critically, this appeal is perceived to be based on pragmatism and expediency to protect the national interest in a critical situation. We are facing a tsunami not a cyclone. With the country reeling under the impact of the pandemic, the Indian economy, as per the prediction of RBI, is likely to contract by 9.5 percent during FY21. Hence, immediate recovery of economy is crucial, and that cannot happen unless indigenous gets unrestricted preference over the imported - 'Swadeshi' over the 'Videshi'. If the misery of the people, not in million but in billion, is to be mitigated in not too distant a future, faster growth in a shorter time has to become a reality. Therefore, there is no alternative to local manufacturing, local market, and local supply chain. And this cannot happen unless the people buy Indian make goods. PM's call to drive economic resurgence will increase share of manufacturing in the country's GDP as in China, create job opportunities, and will build 'Brand India'. This would also contribute substantially in reducing the cross border illicit trade.

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# LETHAL FOES



16 November 2020 | Millennium Post

### Najib Shah

Former Chairman CBIC and  
Think Tank Members FICCI CASCADE

Smuggling is among the oldest professions, its origins lost in obscurity. As Adam Smith, philosopher and towering figure in the history of economic thought, had noted in his "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations" Customs, meaning customary payments, has existed since time immemorial. (Incidentally he had in his book, defended smuggling as a legitimate activity till ironically by a twist of fate, he was appointed as the Scottish Commissioner of Customs and had to enforce laws to curb smuggling!).

Customs has evolved considerably since; they act as guardians of the economic frontiers of the country. Smuggling has come to mean any act whereby the fiscal laws of the land are sought to be evaded-be it to not pay taxes, to pay lesser taxes than due, to evade restrictions or prohibitions imposed.

India has a 15,200 km long land border contiguous with seven countries, 85 land customs stations, 7516 km long coast line, 13 major ports, 34 international airports, customs freight stations and inland customs depots in excess of hundred. It has an economic policy where there were and are, some restrictions on imports, and a tariff on the higher side. Consequently, it has always been vulnerable to smuggling. Smuggling, after all, at its most basic is an economic activity-movement of goods from one place to another to take advantage of restrictions and cater to demand.

Once the twin criteria of demand and restrictions are met, the range of goods vulnerable to smuggling are mind boggling. From gold, textiles, VCR's, cassettes, silver, zip fasteners in the days of yore, to gold, tobacco, drugs, red sanders wood, violations of CITES, now. This is apart from misdeclaration - of value or description to pay lesser taxes than due or avoid restrictions.

Every time there is smuggling, it triggers a host of other violations. There is loss of revenue and generation of unaccounted money which contributes to the black economy. There is consequent violation of income tax, illegal transfer of funds abroad to settle accounts with the supplier, resulting in violations of the Foreign

Exchange Management Act (FEMA), and Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). And most importantly such illicit money funds terrorist activities.

Closely linked are violations of a different kind- but with the same insidious consequences. Violations of intellectual property rights. At its most basic it is little better than theft-theft of somebody's work. Intellectual property manifests its self as copyright. It manifests its self as patent; an exclusive right granted for an invention. As a trademark, a sign capable of distinguishing the goods or services; as an industrial design which constitutes an ornamental aspect of an article, and sometimes as geographical indication- qualities or reputation because of the origin.

Tragically violations of intellectual property are not viewed seriously- though the consequences are as pernicious as smuggling. Enforcement of intellectual property violations are primarily with the hard-pressed police - and it figures very low in their list of priorities.

The sale proceeds generated out of counterfeit goods, like those of smuggled goods, are outside the pale of taxation. Worse, safety standards are compromised like in the case of auto components or pharma products, responsible for innumerable deaths. Consumers are cheated-buying products which they think are genuine and paying genuine prices for what are imitations of the original.

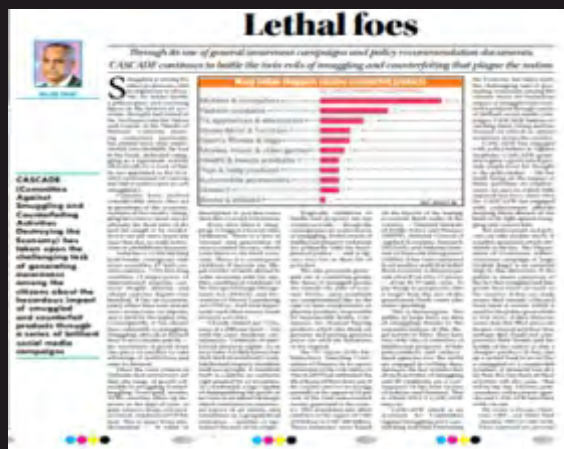
The Seventy Third report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Finance in its report submitted to the Lok Sabha in March 2019 had estimated the illicit financial flows from out of the country were on an average annually in the region of 10% of the total unaccounted money generated in the country. This translated into illicit outflows in the region of USD 219 billion to USD 490 billion. These estimates were on the basis of the reports of the leading economic think tanks of the country- National Institute of Public Policy and Finance (NIPFP), National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM). It has been estimated in yet another study that India's black economy is about 62% of GDP (at 2016-17 prices) - about Rs. 93 lakh crore. To put things in perspective, this is larger than the size of the government (both centre plus states) spending.

This is humongous. The public at large have an idea of smuggling thanks to the romanticization of this illegal activity in films. They have very little idea of violations of intellectual property. While, policy makers and enforcement agencies the world over are engaged in curbing these menaces, the fact

remains that all such activities of smuggling and IP violations are a consequence of the twin factors of policies and demand. This is where FICCI CASCADE steps in. CASCADE which is an acronym for Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy has taken upon the challenging task of generating awareness among the citizens about the hazardous impact of smuggled and counterfeit products through a series of brilliant social media campaigns. CASCADE believes in catching them young and has focused on schools to spread awareness across the country.

CASCADE has engaged with policy makers to tighten loop holes. CASCADE generates regular reports which provide ample food for thought to the policy maker-the last study being on the impact of these activities on employment, an area on which little research has been done thus far. CASCADE has engaged with enforcement officials keeping them abreast of the latest in the fight against smuggling and counterfeits.

But enforcement and policies can only do that much. It is public awareness which ultimately is the key. The Department of Consumer Affairs' awareness campaign of Jaago Grahak Jaago is an essential step in this direction. If the public are made conscious of the fact that smuggled and fake goods hurt them as much as the country ; if they are made aware that money collected from taxes is money which is used for the public good which is lost now ; if they become aware that that illicit proceeds finance criminal activities ,then perhaps they would not compromise their own health and the health of the nation to buy a cheaper product. If they put up a united front to never buy a smuggled or a counterfeit product, if demand can dry up than the very basis of these activities will also cease. That, will be the day. Till then, policy makers, enforcement agencies and CASCADE have their work cut out.



# CURBING THE MENACE



24 December 2020 | Millennium Post

**Hem Kumar Pande**

Former Secretary

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Consumers today must understand the multi-faceted complexities of counterfeit and smuggled market, especially in the context of ongoing pandemic. It's economic impact on businesses, the magnitude and scale of operations, and the consequent adverse impact on consumer health and safety. Manufacturing, altering or distributing a product that is of lesser value than the genuine product with the intention of misleading the buyer about the genuineness of product is unlawful. Fake medicines, food, toys, auto parts and health products including sanitisers and masks can be dangerous and can potentially harm or even kill unsuspecting consumers.

There are reports during the pandemic of fake sanitisers and masks. Unsuspecting users are falling prey to cheaper imitations further compounding threat to their health. Need of the hour is to be more cautious both at the level of a producer and also a consumer. Brands and service providers need to be more aggressive in ensuring that no counterfeit comes in the market, so also a consumer, who should not fall prey to cheaper counterfeits or smuggled products. Regulatory authorities and industry associations need to come forward in a big way to curb the menace of counterfeiting and smuggling especially during a pandemic.

Indian Consumer Protection Act, 2019 provides for six rights of a Consumer. The new Act has a slew of measures and tightens the existing rules to further safeguard consumer rights. The government has set up a three tier institution (NCDRC, SCDRC and DCDRC) to address an important right of a consumer, that is, Dispute Redressal between a buyer and a seller. Out of the remaining five rights, two (educating a consumer about a particular product or service and hearing consumer complaints promptly) come within the exclusive domain of the brands and the industry. Trust that a brand builds with its consumers is consumer empowerment through education and quick learning (accessible brand promoter to hear consumer complaints and provide for speedy redressal). Remaining three rights of a consumer, namely, safety; information and choice of a product or service could be a combined effort of the Governments (including Voluntary Consumer Associations) and brands (Industry Associations).

While the Consumer Protection Act is a stepping-stone towards empowering the consumers; the consumers must also act responsibly and cautiously while making any purchase to avoid being duped by illegal sellers. India needs to focus on two things, namely, consumer awareness and aggressive enforcement. FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) has been at the forefront of generating awareness amongst consumers and sensitizing enforcement agencies on the ill

impacts of such practices. Consumer awareness in India is still in its infancy. Government of India has a multimedia campaign "Jago Grahak Jago" to empower consumers about their rights and duties. What is required is an impetus to this campaign with reference to fake, smuggled and spurious products. However, brands also need to supplement the efforts of the Government (both national and subnational) on consumer awareness, as it is not possible for the Governments alone to carry out this campaign exclusively for industry.

The first step to solving a problem is acknowledging that there is a problem, and this shows that we are on the right path. Although there are enough laws that deal with counterfeits and how to tackle them, improvement in terms of implementation is required, as these laws need to evolve with an ever-evolving environment. Government of India have done good work on its various initiatives including the national IPR policy in 2016; IPR enforcement rules at the border or the establishment of a Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) for spreading awareness and upgrading the understanding environment amongst enforcement authorities.

Having said that, industry and brand owners often face challenge on enforcement issues with cases related to counterfeiting and smuggling. Currently, this matter lacks the desired attention from policy makers and lack of coordination amongst the various departments in the government. A nodal agency, perhaps, could be the answer, where there is seamless flow of information and where enforcement agencies can come together (regulatory, the customs, the law & enforcement) to talk to each other for speedy enforcement so that the issue at hand can be handled efficiently and speedily.

Although CIPAM and industry bodies have been conducting awareness sessions amongst enforcement officers, brand owners indicate that they do not get enough and prompt support from the police in certain cities as solving such crimes fall much below in the priority list of the police. The number of police officers to handle such cases is invariably inadequate and they are tied up in public law & order cases, safety and security of citizens. What is needed is feeding into the police that such crimes are also getting into larger issues of terrorism, trafficking and other illegal activities. In this context it is a fit case to raise a tech savvy Central IP Security Force (CIPSF), to be funded by a corpus contributed by leading brand owners and administered by the Central Government. Also, a provision to reward the police officers for dealing with crimes relating to counterfeiting could be instituted, which may act as an incentive for the authorities to take this up more seriously.

It has been proven statistically and through studies such as the Interpol that counterfeiters and smugglers are hardened criminals. Though there are provisions in the law and actions are taken against the criminals but many times it is seen that these criminals go back and carry on the illegal activity, which proves that the punishment is not deterrent enough. It would be pertinent to bring in rigorous imprisonment, stringent monetary penalties, expeditious investigating of cases and ensuring prosecution in a time bound manner to prevent the resultant damage to brand owners and consumers.

While, laws will evolve to deter this menace, continuous investment on brand protection strategies and anti-counterfeiting activity is required and successful brands, in fact, do that. The problem will not go away, because advanced technology is widely available which helps in copying and making replicas. For brands, market intelligence is also a key area to focus on. It is about knowing the market, the supply chain, understanding where the notorious markets are, profile the likely suspects and develop a strategy of intelligence gathering and enable required action. Hence, in order to protect a brand, brand owners have to make investment; educate and create awareness across the supply chain; use tested service providers; and work in close partnership with the Government, industry associations and other brand owners.

In an age of circular economy (resource efficiency) and artificial intelligence, it is imperative that brand security strategies in the field are robust and dynamic. Challenges in enforcement will always remain a work in progress. However, consumer awareness and empowerment will be the key. A trusted consumer could be the best bet in securing a brand or an industry. Counterfeits and illegal products cannot exist if consumers reject them and regulators come heavily upon the violators.



# Articles

ARTICLES

## From the Roots

30 December 2020 | Millennium Post



**P. C. Jha**

Advisor FICCI CASCADE &  
Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

Across the globe, illicit networks are infiltrating and corrupting legitimate business markets, reducing productivity, and hampering investments in research and development, not to mention, jeopardizing public health and eroding the security of our institutions and governments. We are constantly at war with this invisible enemy, which has visible ramifications. Illicit trade has been around for centuries. However, it is the number of products and people involved, and the nefarious intentions that have increased manifolds in the recent years. Substantial profits derived from trafficking have led perpetrators to continuously develop more sophisticated techniques to carry out their evil activities.

Since, smuggling is a secret, hidden, and risky activity, there are several reasons which act as its determinants. The question whether high tariff rates and excessive regulations on goods are key causes for illicit trade has been much debated, but there is no reason to doubt its substantial reality. High import duty on manufactured and other goods increase price differential, and, therefore, provides financial incentives and motivation for engaging in smuggling activities. The empirical findings by Buehn and Farzanegan point that higher tariffs are important push factors for smuggling.

A case in point is gold which attracts a high import duty. It is estimated that up to one-fourth of the total volume of gold entering India arrives through illicit trade. During the year 2019-20 itself, smuggled gold valued at Rs 1828 crore has been seized

by Indian Customs which is only a small portion of the total quantity smuggled to meet the ever insatiable demand of the people for this item.

A paper by OECD on 'Illicit Trade Converging Criminal Networks' emphasises how markets with the highest excise regimes tend to have greater problems with illicit trade, whether smuggling or counterfeiting. Since, indirect taxes such as customs duty, GST, excise, etc. have the effect to raise the prices of products, the financial rewards for those who avoid paying the taxes can be huge, and markets with the biggest 'tax opportunity' are most targeted. India is definitely a victim on this account.

We find another item, i.e., cigarettes which remains a highly taxed product, is hugely smuggled worldwide. A world customs journal states that experience across both advanced and developing economies demonstrates that the key economic drivers influencing the illicit tobacco trade are excessive tax levels, usually resulting in a sharp decline in the affordability of cigarettes through the licit supply chain. In India, high and constantly increasing tax rates provide a profitable opportunity for tax evasion through illegal trade in respect of both imported and domestically manufactured cigarettes. While legal manufacturers abide by regulations and invest heavily in innovation and product development, with brands serving as guarantees of quality and safety, It is unfortunate that extreme regulations provide further encouragement to the illegal cigarette trade in India, as they do not comply with tobacco control regulations of the Government.

It is important to note that on items like tobacco products and alcoholic beverages, since tax rates are kept high; there is lesser compliance and higher evasion. A TRACIT study on 'Mapping the Impact of Illicit Trade in Sustainable Development Goals' clearly elaborates how excessive regulations and restrictions on alcoholic beverages have acted as a key enabler for illicit alcohol trade.

India is one of the fastest growing economies of the world. This makes it a target of choice for all those indulging in smuggling and counterfeiting. Combating illicit trade is essential if economies and societies are to be protected and made prosperous. FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has been at the forefront in understanding this complex adversary. Since its inception in 2011, it has been relentlessly working with policy makers, industry, enforcement agencies, and the society at large in generating public awareness on the twin threat of smuggling and

counterfeiting. A recent study by CASCADE titled 'Invisible Enemy: Impact of Smuggling on Indian Economy and Employment' has estimated that due to smuggling, Indian economy incurred sales loss of Rs 1,17,253 crore, and further loss of 16.36 lakh livelihood opportunities during 2019-20 in just five key sectors namely - Textiles, Tobacco Products (Cigarettes), Readymade Garments, Capital Goods (Machinery and Parts) and Consumer (Electronics) Durables.

Over the years, several initiatives, collaborations, stakeholder consultations, policy and legislative work has been done to curb this threat. In spite of numerous measures which are being undertaken, India ranks low in the Global Illicit Trade Environment Index and needs quantifiable actions to minimise the risks of illicit trade on the economy. Apart from robust processes in place to catch the criminals who indulge in such activities, having a balanced tax regime and regulations that disincentivises illicit trade is the need of the hour. The government while taking taxation policy decisions needs to take this reality also into account.

For creating deterrence to curb illicit trade, it is necessary that it becomes substantially less profitable. This can only be done through measures such as keeping the indirect taxes at moderate levels; providing more severe penal provisions in the IPR and other concerned laws; ensuring that detection of offences become more certain; awarding of penalty on offenders is expeditious; and enforcement of applicable laws remains a high priority area of work of the government agencies like Police, Customs, Judiciary, etc. There is no escape from this even though it is difficult to achieve.



# A

# Multi-Pronged Threat



**Anil Rajput**

Chairman, FICCI CASCADE &  
Senior Vice President-Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd.

29th January 2021 | Millennium Post

In 2005, Moises in his well-known book 'Illicit' stated, "Global criminal activities are transforming the international system, upending the rules, creating new players, and reconfiguring power in international politics and economics." Even after a decade of those alarming words, illicit trading activities are distorting local economies, diminishing legitimate business revenues, fuelling conflict, and deteriorating social conditions.

According to the World Economic Forum, Illicit Trade creates an annual drain on the global economy of USD 2.2 trillion - nearly 3% of the world's economy. If illicit trade were a country, its economy would be larger than Brazil's, Italy's, or Canada's, and as large as Mexico's and Indonesia's combined.

Evidently, activities involving illicit trade such as smuggling of goods across borders is a lucrative business, with criminals relying on the continued high demand for cheap goods coupled with low production and distribution costs. This illegal activity takes advantage of unaware consumers and bargain-hunters, exploiting people's appetites for brands or simply their financial situation.

There are many reasons for the smugglers to get into and expand their network. Criminal entrepreneurs involved in such nefarious activities are opportunistic by nature and seek to exploit market and regulatory arbitrage opportunities for economic gain. High taxation on goods provides huge arbitrage prospect- It is high profit, as these products evade the duties and taxes that need to be paid.

This not only has a financial impact but also proves to be a physical threat to the consumers who in the process are exposed to severe health and safety risks as there is no guarantee given for such products and they do not pass any mandatory benchmarking and standardization



processes.

More so, smugglers, by evading legal duties and taxes, are an extra burden for the government's budget. It will be appropriate to say that it is a twofold blow, not only is the government losing revenue, but it is also straining its exchequer due to increased spend on enforcement to check such criminal activities. Further, as developing countries rely more on indirect taxes as compared on direct taxes, low indirect tax collections may have harmful consequences for the government's ability to provide public goods and services such as quality healthcare, education, infrastructure etc. The provision of public welfare resources increases productivity of economy, and thus by not having them have a negative effect on development and economic growth. To add to it, the police and the other enforcement agencies are also hit by the resource crunch which exacerbates the problem of such grey market operations.

Global estimates indicate that due to illicit trade, the wider social, investment and criminal enforcement costs could touch to \$4.2 trillion by 2022, putting at risk 5.4 million "legitimate jobs." In the Indian context, due to smuggling activities the economy incurred a loss of Rs 1,17,253 crore, and a further loss of 16.36 lakh livelihood opportunities during 2017-18 in just five key sectors namely - Textiles, Tobacco Products (Cigarettes), Readymade Garments, Capital Goods (Machinery and Parts) and Consumer (Electronics) Durables.

Besides unemployment and massive financial losses, smuggling also creates large scale destabilization by fomenting crime, generating black money and funding devastating terror groups. Today, it is well known that the most notorious terrorist organizations of the world like AL-Qaeda, ISIS, HEZBOLLAH and many more are into illicit trade of oil, cigarettes, clothing, bags, mobile phones, antiques etc. They use the proceeds of this to fund their terror operations and play havoc with the lives of the people. As per estimates by UNODC, the profits that the transnational organized crime derived from the shadow industries have been estimated to be as high as \$ 870 billion which is equivalent to 1.5% of the global GDP. It is also seen that prominent terrorist organizations rely on illicit trade for financing up to 20% of their anti-social operations.

The World Customs Journal states that policymakers often underestimate how flexible, innovative and influential transnational criminal organisations have become. We may want to believe that the right mix of policy, regulation and law enforcement will somehow halt the flow of illegal and smuggled goods, but the reality is that illicit trade is a complex phenomenon that requires a much deeper understanding and multi-faceted solution-based approach.

Over the years, several initiatives, collaborations, stakeholder consultations, policy and legislative work has been done internationally to curb this threat. Industry, policy makers and enforcement agencies have come together through effective public-private partnerships, to meet the governance and security challenges that threaten the prosperity of our economies and integrity of our markets and the health and safety of our people. Global programmes such as Interpol's trafficking in illicit goods and counterfeiting programme, OECD's Task Force on Countering Illicit Trade along with several initiatives by WIPO, EUROPOL, UNODC etc. addressing transnational organized crime and promoting legitimate business practices have been working concertedly to address this issue. In India, FICCI's CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) is a dedicated forum which works in this direction. It has over the years engaged with the industry, Government, enforcement agencies, media and general consumers to deep dive into the issue and provide effective strategies to mitigate this challenge. Domestic environment of the country affects the demand or supply and the final consumption of the illicit or smuggled goods. India ranks weakly at 60 place among 84 countries on the demand and supply parameter of the global illicit trade environment index. But it the Indian Prime Minister's clarion call of Vocal for Local that will be unsettling for the illicit traders and smugglers. After all, if more products are manufactured within the nation, the reliance for foreign goods will gradually come down and people will increasingly buy locally made goods and the footprint and profit margins of all involved in smuggling will begin to reduce. This along with measures such as leveraging technology for trade facilitation and monitoring, better co-ordination with anti-smuggling agencies, international collaboration and cooperation will hopefully make the desired dent and disincentivize this complex adversary.



# Fighting the Felony



15th February 2021 | Millennium Post

**Anil Rajput**

Chairman, FICCI CASCADE &  
Senior Vice President-Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd.

**I**t has now been established beyond doubt that illicit trade is growing exponentially, and is increasingly putting the individual, societies and economies in harm's way. It is called the invisible enemy, a pure evil, that causes immense damage and compromises the safety and security of nations world over by fuelling the terror machine and organised crime networks.

According to several estimates, the global economy is losing more than US\$2 trillion annually due to smuggling, counterfeiting and other forms of illicit trade. Nations are increasingly recognizing the threat posed by this illegal business and are intensifying their efforts to create an effective deterrence against such activities. In India, FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) is at the forefront of generating awareness on the detrimental impact of smuggled, contraband and counterfeit products amongst the consumers and citizens, building capacities of law enforcement agencies, proposing reforms, sharing best practices and providing knowledge and support to the industry members about this menace.

Over the years, FICCI CASCADE has been encouraged by the support of several international organizations which have worked assiduously in addressing this issue at the global level, and this eventually led to the emergence of MASCRAGE (Movement Against Smuggled and Counterfeit Trade) in 2013. Since its inception, institutions such as WIPO, UNODC, Interpol, OECD, WCO, UKIPO, USPTO, US Department of Homeland Security, JETRO, Australian Border Protection, TRACIT, HMRC, Italian Law Enforcement and others have joined hands with this initiative to fight and heighten our response against illicit trade.

MASCRAGE has been the only forum in India which has played a pivotal role in creating awareness about the horrifying magnitude of this danger, find tangible solutions and chalk out a sustainable road map to blunt the impact of this unholy activity. In addition, with the objective of encouraging and acknowledging the work of our law enforcement

agencies, each year MASCRAGE and FICCI CASCADE felicitate the best performing officers for their outstanding achievement in the prevention of counterfeiting and smuggling, and enforcement of anti-smuggling and anti-counterfeiting laws.

Every year this dialogue has focussed on different facets of illicit trade and has tried to address it in the best possible manner. The previous six editions included:

- 1) 'Trade in Counterfeit, Pirated and Smuggled Goods- A Threat to India's National Security and Economy' (September 2013)
- 2) 'Illicit Trade- Threat to National Security and Economy' (January 2016)
- 3) 'Illicit Cross Border Trade in Goods- Impact on Economy and Consumers' (December 2016)
- 4) 'Protect Your Brand Globally Fight Counterfeiting, Smuggling and Piracy' (October 2017)
- 5) 'Ensuring Brand Security for Sustained Businesses and Employment Generation' (November 2018)
- 6) 'Containing Counterfeiting, Smuggling and Piracy: A Winning Strategy' (September 2019)

This year, the theme of the conference was 'Impact of Counterfeiting and Smuggling on Personal Health and Safety'. After the deadly run of the Covid-19 virus world over in 2020, and its severe consequences that we continue to face in all dimensions of life, it became critical to understand and gauge the impact of smuggling and counterfeiting on public health and safety in the backdrop of the pandemic. While governments across nations were committed to fighting the coronavirus, the criminals viewed this crisis as an opportunity to expand and intensify their illegal operations. MASCRAGE 2021 therefore intended to devise actionable and innovative solutions to reverse the rising tide of counterfeit, smuggled and spurious products. It was also important to generate increased awareness amongst stakeholders, and underscore the point, that if the spread of illicit trade is not checked, the consequences will be disastrous for societies and economies alike, especially in a post COVID era. It also became important to expose the proponents of illicit trade, and their complete disregard for humanity and ethics even when the world reeled under this tragedy.

With health taking centre stage over the past year, this edition of MASCRAGE was inaugurated by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister of India. The minister highlighted how the methods by which spurious, misbranded, and adulterated drugs which enter the distribution channel have become complex, and how the industry must play an active role to help identify and plug these loopholes. He



also agreed that reviewing current regulations related to smuggling and counterfeiting, using latest technology to aid security forces and enforcement agencies, raising the penalties for those committing this crime, along with allocation of more financial and human resources to counter this activity are important areas where adequate thrust should be given.

The two-day event which was held on January 21-22 witnessed wide participation from policymakers and stakeholders. Key issues such as Illicit trade amid public health crisis, flagging morale of genuine industry, placing public health and safety at the heart of the fight against smuggling and counterfeiting, funding of terrorism by illicit trade, to accelerating action against criminals were discussed in detail.

The forum also shared the best practices which have borne positive results to contain this problem and promoted the need for international enforcement cooperation which is vital for nations to mitigate this challenge. I am also of the firm belief that strong indigenous brands, are bound to reduce the country's dependence on foreign products, they will also subsequently demotivate the advocates of illicit trade by considerably reducing the footprint of foreign products in India, and eventually severely denting their profits and lowering their morale.

With top class ideation during MASCRAGE 21, I have no doubt in my mind that in the times ahead, we will be able to make steady and meaningful headway in understanding, engaging, and considerably lowering the detrimental impact of illicit trade on the financial, industrial, and societal health of our country. The IMF has recently projected an impressive 11.5% growth rate for India in 2021, making India the only major economy of the world to register a double-digit growth this year. However, we cannot afford to lower our guard, and need to stay ahead of the curve while dealing with this enemy that remains unfazed and extremely determined.

# Articles

ARTICLES

# An Uphill Battle



25th February 2021 | Millennium Post

## Anil Rajput

Chairman, FICCI CASCADE &  
Senior Vice President-Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd.

An age-old adage, in every adversity lies an opportunity was proved true by the enforcement agencies and their phenomenal work to arrest the menace of illicit trade during the COVID-19 period. While on one hand the world was struggling to cope with the health crisis which hit us last year, illicit operators on the other hand, found this to be an opportune moment to further their vicious plan by pushing smuggled, counterfeit, and spurious goods into the markets impacting national exchequer and damaging genuine manufacturers.

The grey market operations were getting murkier - the spike in the illicit trade of popular pandemic products such as sanitizers, face masks, PPE suits, disinfectants, medicines etc. along with the proliferation of such goods being sold online, including in the dark web was evidently seen. The criminals wanted to take advantage of what they thought was lowering of guard by the government and enforcement agencies because of their focus on COVID related pressing issues. This couldn't be further from the truth and proved to be an immense opportunity for our officers to quell the nefarious agenda and nab the offenders.

We saw that enforcement authorities world over reacted concertedly to heighten response against this global malaise. Be it

Interpol's Operation Pangea XIII, which saw police, customs and health regulatory authorities from 90 countries take part in collective action against the illegal online sale of medicines and medical products or the global operation STOP by WCO against illegal trafficking linked to COVID-19; a strong counterstrike to thwart the ill-intentions was put in action.

In India too, as in many other countries our officers rose to push back the smugglers, tax evaders, traffickers and black marketeers leaving them bitterly disappointed. Intelligence and innovative strategies of Indian Customs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Police and Paramilitary forces helped them to raid and seize astounding quantities of smuggled, spurious, and counterfeit products such as sanitizers, masks, PPE kits, disinfectants, toiletries and cosmetics, electronic goods, cigarettes, spices, alcohol, gold etc across states. For instance, in North East alone, the customs sleuths seized various goods worth Rs 110 crore in 710 operations since the pandemic hit the country. Another example that stands out is the seizure of illicit cigarettes worth around Rs. 412 crores between June and October 2020 across India, a raise from Rs. 52 crores in 2019. Despite several restrictions, India saw a huge surge in cigarette smuggling cases and continued to be a target for tobacco smugglers. However, this was duly taken care of by the commendable work of our enforcement agencies.

DRI in its recent 'Smuggling in India' report, stated that 412 cases of smuggling were detected and seizure of contraband worth Rs 1949 crores were resulted in the year 2019-20. Through risk assessment techniques and data analytics, DRI was able to unearth 761 complex cases of customs involving duty evasion amounting to Rs 2183 crores. Moreover, during this period, agencies actively participated in multilateral operations and have also proactively joined hands with domestic agencies to curb this menace. DRI and BSF's joint operation in March 2020 seizing over 21 kg of smuggled gold at Indo-Bangladesh border or the close cooperation of customs with DRI, Assam Rifles and state police to make the task of a smuggler a difficult one in north eastern India are a testimony to this.

To my mind the COVID period tested the alertness of our enforcement teams and our officers have not been found waiting. I compliment the officers, who have not only adapted to the new challenges brought in due to change in the economic scenario arising out of COVID-19 but have also protected infiltration of counterfeit and smuggled goods into our marketplaces while plugging the leakage of government's tax revenue and maintaining law and order in the country. Moreover, their preparedness has also helped the country in anticipating and countering the new modus operandi adopted by organized crime syndicate across the globe especially in the COVID era.

Ultimately, neither the strict lockdown nor a pandemic could stop the perpetrators of illicit trade. In fact, with increasing number of seizures being reported every day, it is highly possible that the total seizures may just be the tip of the iceberg of a much larger network and hence this calls for continued focus on tackling the widespread threat. FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy, (CASCADE), has been over the years engaging the government with the aim of greater awareness and on how industry could play a collaborative role with enforcement agencies to address this problem. One of FICCI CASCADE's mandate is building capacities of law enforcement officers and to this it has worked extensively and intensively - organizing training programmes and continuous interactions with them across India sensitizing on the threats emanating from the spread of smuggling and counterfeiting.

India is today one of the fastest growing economies in the world, it is also a hot favourite of those indulging in illicit trade. With seizures at an all-time high, it demonstrates the resolve of government to contain smuggled and counterfeit trade. The pandemic compounded the problem of illicit trade and this continues to be a huge challenge for the nation. But the hands-on approach and alertness of our enforcement officers to check the growth of illicit trade during such unprecedented times is indeed laudable. However, we cannot afford to get complacent. It is important that we continue the thrust on enforcement activity. This will undoubtedly go a long way to keep the offenders at bay.

# Articles

ARTICLES

# FUEL for Terrorism



19th March 2021 | Millennium Post

## Anil Rajput

Chairman, FICCI CASCADE &  
Senior Vice President-Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd.

Terrorism is one of the greatest man-made threats to humanity. It is pure evil, and no country today is immune to this menace. Disturbingly, during the past few decades, leading intelligence and law-enforcement agencies around the world have found conclusive evidence that illicit trade in terms of smuggling and counterfeiting is the fuel that drives some of the deadliest terror organisations. As per the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (UNCCPCJ), such illicit activities are the second largest source of income for criminal actions such as terrorism. Moreover, with rapid technology evolution, advent of bitcoins, dark net, fraudulent e-commerce websites, illicit trade and organised crime have found a ripe terrain to flourish thereby increasing the security threat and danger to nations worldwide.

Let us draw the attention to the long-established link between illicit trade and terrorism. The ACG (Anti-Counterfeiting Group), a UK based international association estimates that the global trade in illicit goods is a \$461 billion criminal business, run by organised international gangs and the proceeds of which are used by terrorist organizations to finance their evil agendas. Investigations around the world have found out that smuggling of varied products, including cigarettes, oils, luxury goods, electronic items,

arms & ammunition, gems & stones, drugs, wildlife etc. are the major contributors to financing of terrorism.

The FBI for instance had stated that Hamas has since long raised funds through very lucrative illegal activities including drug trafficking, counterfeiting of products among others. Hezbollah, the lethal militant group has been raising funds from smuggling of arms and counterfeiting operations to credit card fraud etc. Cigarette smuggling due to its low risk, high profit business operation, has been the choice for Al-Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Taliban, Irish Republican Army, Boko Haram and many more to finance their activities. Douglas Bettcher, co-ordinator of the framework convention team of WHO's tobacco free initiative had warned, and I quote "I would say that EU is the worst sufferer at this point but any country including India could soon be a victim of this new development". Moreover, in India, The D-Company was identified as a terrorist organisation thriving on the black market of counterfeit and contraband goods. According to experts, the transformation of D-Company into a terrorist entity was believed to coincide with its entry into trade of illegal goods.

According to the Global Terrorism Index 2020, the past decade has seen the largest surge in terrorist activity in the past fifty years and in 2019 the Taliban, Boko Haram, ISIL and Al-Shabaab, were the four groups responsible for 7,578 deaths from terrorism, representing 55 per cent of total deaths in 2019. In India, as recent as November 2020, a drug smuggling case in Jammu was reported where the NIA had indicated that the money was likely being used for terror funding in the country. Hence, it is clear, that behind every terrorist organisation, stands a well-oiled financial system and this is firmly established through illicit trade in a plethora of items as mentioned.

The finances which are attributed to illicit trade are clearly the jugular vein of the terror organizations and that needs to be cut. A deterrent environment where counterfeiters and smugglers are prevented to make profits by making use of the arbitrage opportunity is the need of the hour. For instance, increased taxation and duty rates on products lead to increased illicit trade and ultimately defeats the purpose of increase in taxation due to allocation of more funds in security expenditure to curb terrorist

activities, a part of which is financed by illicit trade. It is therefore essential that a robust policy framework, supported by effective enforcement mechanisms to prevent this global scourge are in place.

Global Institutions and enforcement agencies have been concerted trying to disrupt and dismantle the crime networks. INTERPOL's Organized and Emerging Crime Strategy, EUROPOL's European Counter Terrorism Center, The Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) among others have somewhat created the desired dent. In India, the government too has enacted laws and the enforcement agencies have been enabled to detect and prevent counterfeiting, smuggling, and financing of terror. Significant technological advancements have also been made by the industry and the government to tighten the infringement.

Apex industry body, FICCI's dedicated forum CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) which engages with the government, enforcement agencies, industry representatives and consumers to generate awareness on this issue in its report on 'Illicit Trade - Fuelling terror financing and organised crime released in 2017 had recommended better awareness about counterfeit and smuggled products through government initiatives; partnering of government and industry to run campaigns for reducing illicit markets; development of task forces to check the growth of illicit trade and links between terrorism, organised crime and illicit trade; and moves to draw a balance between government revenue needs through taxation and the incentives illicit market gets through increased taxes on goods.

With each passing day the acts of terror organizations are causing great harm to human lives putting tremendous pressure on the security system - pressures that are financial, physical, and mental. With Illicit trade being one of the most preferred means of criminal financing, choking its finances will be critical to foil the plan of these anti-social elements who aim to destroy the physical and economic security of a nation. Terrorism, internationally has reached an alarming scale and the fight against it, indeed demands a comprehensive response. Combating smuggling and counterfeiting must be a fundamental pillar of that response.

# Articles

ARTICLES

# For a Thriving Economy

6 April 2021 | Millennium Post



**Anil Rajput**

Chairman, FICCI CASCADE &  
Senior Vice President-Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd.

**T**he year 2022 will mark 75 years of India's glorious independence. India plans to celebrate this milestone with an aim to create a new and prosperous India. To my mind, the first step to building a prosperous India would be where each and every citizen is a part of this nation building exercise. Our PM has rightly stated that economic transformation cannot happen without public participation and that development must become a 'Jan Andolan'. Therefore, it will be important that citizens fulfil their obligations and that government policies and its tax system be at the vanguard of this transformation.

As per recent government data only 1 per cent of the Indian population pays income tax and declares earnings above the exemption limit. It is unfortunate that in a country of 130 crore Indians, only 1.5 crore pay income taxes and millions evade taxes. Empirical studies document a strong relationship between high tax rates and high tax evasion. Unfortunately, this has over the years proved to be at the core of a low tax base in our country. Analysis on the data released by CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes, GoI) for the assessment year 2018-19 suggest that nearly two-third of personal income taxes in the country were paid by the richest 5% and nearly half of the total corporate taxes were paid by just the top 1% of companies. Thus, it is evident that the burden of taxes in India are on a small pool of taxpayers. Hence, to boost its economy, it is vital that the government take adequate steps to widen its tax net and check evasion.

Not only the direct tax, but indirect tax too is struggling with incidents of tax evasion. According to finance ministry reports, the central GST (Goods and Service Tax) authorities have detected evasion of Rs 70,206 crore between July 1, 2017 launch of GST and January 2020. India has four non-zero tax slabs 5, 12, 18 and 28 while many countries have adopted a single tax rate while implementing GST. A World Bank paper of 2018 found India's GST relatively more complex with its high and multiple tax rates when compared with 115 other countries, where 49 have one rate, 28 have two and only 5 countries, including India, use four non-zero rates. Commenting on these, the paper said high and multiple rates make the system complex, add to the cost of compliance, and incentivise tax evasion. If we examine the tax regime of Singapore which is an important finance,

commerce, and trading hub of Asia, we will see that it is simple, attractive, and efficient. With GST at 7% and personal tax (0-22%), Singapore's tax system is a fine balance which promotes commerce and ensures that sufficient revenue is collected to meet the country's social and economic objectives. Due to its reasonable and simplified tax policies, it also rates high on tax compliance.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India is projected to grow at 11.5 percent this year making it the only major economy of the world to register a double-digit growth in 2021. India too is pushing for the envisaged USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25. To this end, revenue collections will play a key role to attain the much-anticipated growth trajectory. Ultimately, it is a well-established principle that enforcement machinery can deliver only with limited success. It is self-compliance which can result in a quantum leap for our exchequer, and this can only be done by disincentivising the motive to evade tax. Positive actions in this area will undoubtedly have a lasting impact for generations to come.

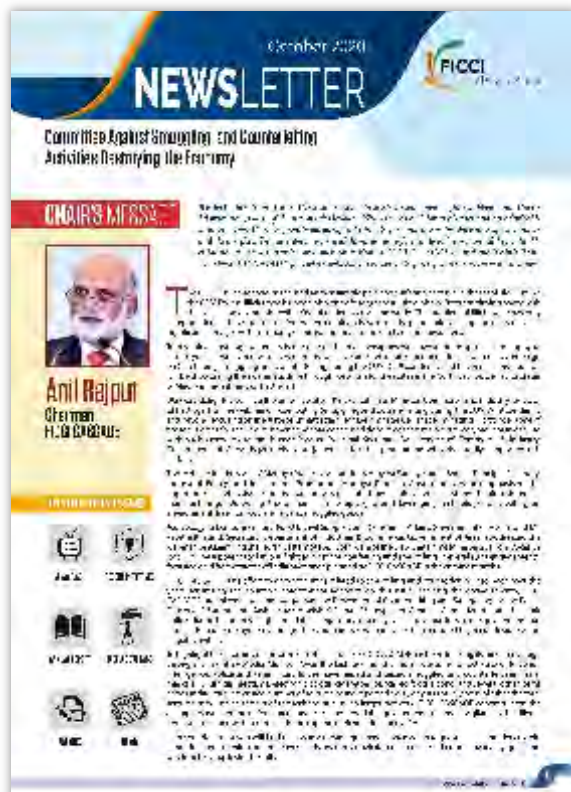
In India, the Modi government has taken several steps to make large scale structural changes emphasising the need for a simple tax system. It has shown that it can think out of the box and be innovative in its approach. The announcements by the Finance Minister in the budget this year clearly echo the need to shift focus to compliance than change in rates - a decisive way forward which demonstrates a stable tax structure without tinkering the rates.

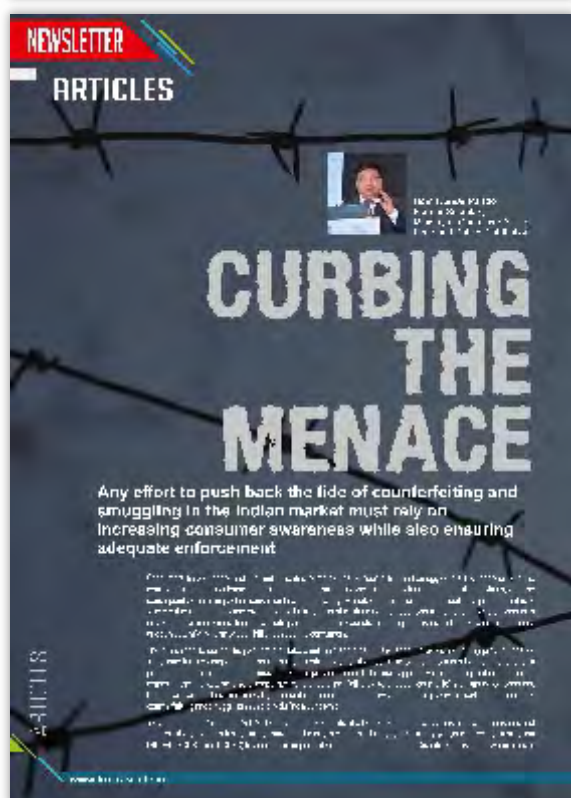
Another area where Modinomics can focus on is the quantum of tax collection rather than rate of taxes. For years, India has struggled to increase its tax to GDP ratio and the only way to improve it is by ensuring that all citizens pay their share of taxes. Substantial numbers can be brought into the tax net by following the age-old Manu Smriti and Arthashastra teachings where the king collects tax without the tax-payer feeling the pinch. This will result in revenue buoyancy which will help government coffers to grow, creating a pool of resources for development work, generate jobs in our country, ultimately creating a virtuous cycle. This most certainly will pave the way for a thriving national economy, drive growth and realize the vision of a prosperous India.



The graphic features a large teal rectangle with a white border, tilted at an angle. To its left, a bright blue diagonal band cuts across the frame. Below the teal rectangle, several light blue diagonal bands extend towards the bottom left corner. The word "Newsletter" is centered within the teal rectangle in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

# Newsletter









# Social Media

# TWEETS



**Jayesh Ranjan** ✓  
@jayesh\_ranjan

Member of the 1992 batch of Indian Administrative Services, and working in the new state of Telangana

Hyderabad • Born October 25  
Joined July 2009

134 Following 18.2K Followers

Followed by Dipak Kumar Singh, Dr. Omkar Rai, Minister for IT, Industries, MS & UD, Telangana, and 5 others

**Tweets** Tweets & replies Media Likes

Jayesh Ranjan Retweeted

**FICCI CASCADE** @Casc... 1h  
Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt. of Telangana, Industries & Commerce (I&C) Department and ITE&C Department will be speaking at the webinar "Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling during the COVID-19"



**Ministry of Textiles** ✓  
@TexMinIndia

Official Twitter account of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. RTs are not endorsements. [facebook.com/TexMinIndia](https://facebook.com/TexMinIndia)

New Delhi • [textmin.gov.in](https://textmin.gov.in)  
Joined June 2014

97 Following 270K Followers

Followed by Recycle India, Gov Customs, NSItharamanOffice, and 104 others

**Tweets** Tweets & replies Media Likes

Ministry of Textiles Retweeted

**FICCI CASCADE** @Casc... 1h  
Say yes to authentic indigenous handicraft and no to counterfeit and illicitly traded ones. On this National Handloom Day Let's resolve to protect and promote our local handicraft and the skill of the weavers. #Vocal4Handmade @samritirani



**Ram Vilas Paswan** ✓  
@irvpaswan

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government Of India. Founder Of Lok Janshakti Party. Views and RT are personal.

12 Janpath, New Delhi-110001  
@p.co.in • Joined June 2014

456 Following 283K Followers

Followed by Recycle India, NSItharamanOffice, Anir sohani, and 107 others

**Tweets** Tweets & replies Media Likes

Ram Vilas Paswan Retweeted

**FICCI CASCADE** @Casc... 19h  
Consumer Protection Act, 2019 comes into effect which empowers and protects the right of consumers through various rules and provisions. It will also make redressal for misleading advertisements, spurious goods and deficient services. #BeAware #BeACascader @irvpaswan



**Office of Shivraj** ✓  
@OfficeofSSC

Spreading awareness about initiatives of Shri @ChouhanShivraj. Account managed by personal staff

Bhopal • Joined February 2018

143 Following 468K Followers

Followed by Recycle India, Thawarchand Gehlot, Narendra Singh Tomar, and 4 others

**Tweets** Tweets & replies Media Likes

Office of Shivraj Retweeted

**FICCI CASCADE** @Casc... 53m  
"If the industry, government and enforcement agencies work together then we can successfully counter the menace of illicit trade" Shri Sanjay Kumar Shukla IAS, Principal Secretary, Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion, Government of Madhya Pradesh. #FICCIWA @OfficeofSSC



**Acharya Balkrishna** ✓  
@Ach\_Balkrishna Follows you

Official Account of Acharya Balkrishna. M.D. of Patanjali Ayurved Ltd & co-founder of Patanjali Yogpeeth Haridwar. Account Managed by a dedicated team.

Haridwar • [acharyabalkrishna.com](https://acharyabalkrishna.com)  
Born July 25 • Joined August 2011

218 Following 212K Followers

Followed by NSItharamanOffice, PP Chaudhary, Nityanshu Rai, and 22 others

**Tweets** Tweets & replies Media Likes

**FICCI CASCADE** @Casc... 26m  
The loss of revenue due to Smuggling and counterfeiting to the government also has a direct impact on welfare spending such as health care, education and Enforcement. So, let's build a Aatmanirbhar Bharat by saying No to illicit goods and to Made in India products. @Casc...



**Ministry of WCD** ✓  
@MinistryWCD

Official Account of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. Follow us on [facebook.com/ministrywcd](https://facebook.com/ministrywcd).

New Delhi, Delhi • [wcd.nic.in](https://wcd.nic.in)  
Joined June 2014

234 Following 484K Followers

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**Tweets** Tweets & replies Media Likes

**FICCI CASCADE** @Casc... 7m  
Say yes to authentic indigenous handicraft and no to counterfeit and illicitly traded ones. On this National Handloom Day Let's resolve to protect and promote our local handicraft and the skill of the weavers. #Vocal4Handmade @samritirani

# TWEETS

You Retweeted

**Dr Harsh Vardhan** @DrHarshVardhan · 21 Jan

Look forward to addressing the inaugural session of 7th edition of MASCRADe organised by @Cascadeglobal via VC at 3:30 PM, today

@MohFW\_INDIA @ficci\_india

Watch Live!

facebook.com/drharshvardhan...  
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**7th Edition International Conference MASCRADe 2021**  
MOVEMENT AGAINST SMUGGLABLE & CONTROLLED ITEMS  
JANUARY 21, 2021 03:30 PM

PMD India and 8 others

तोड़ के हर्दी के ताले

**Rubika Liyaquat** @RubikaLiyaquat

Tv Journalist. Heart belongs to Udaipur/Rajasthan. Soul to India. Life to humanity.

Delhi · Joined January 2013

675 Following 3.1M Followers

Followed by Dipak Kumar Singh, Recycle India, hRishammarOffice, and 56 others

Tweets · Tweets & replies · Media · Likes

**FICCI CASCADE** @Cascad... · 4h

Check deals which are too Good to be true! #BeGenuine #BuyGenuine

Is your Dream Deals a Nightmare?

BSF Retweeted

**FICCI CASCADE** @Cascad... · 1h

Happening this Friday!

Mr. Rakesh Asthana, IPS, DG, @BSF\_India and DG, @narcoticsbureau is going to be in live conversation with Mr. Anil Sinha, Former Director, @CBITweets and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE

Join them for a YouTube live session. [youtu.be/ZWILGPURc\\_Qb](https://youtu.be/ZWILGPURc_Qb)

**Mr. Rakesh Asthana, IPS**  
Director General, Border Security Forces  
Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau  
23 April 2009 - Present

Anil Rajput and FICCI

**Hyderabad City Police** @hydcitypolice

Dial 100 in Emergency, for you... with you... always...

Hyderabad · [hyderabadpolice.gov.in](https://www.hyderabadpolice.gov.in)

Joined October 2014

208 Following 273K Followers

Followed by Recycle India, UNODC South Asia, Fraud Prevention Advice - Tel2, and 30 others

Tweets · Tweets & replies · Media · Likes

**FICCI CASCADE** @Cascad... · 8m

#IndianEnforcementAtWork

Great work by Hyderabad City police on seizing 503 carton box of various brands of illegal foreign Cigarettes all worth about One crore three lakh rupees. @hydcitypolice @TelanganaDGP @TelanganaCOPs

**IRS(Customs & Central Excise) Association** @IRS\_IN

Official account of Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise) Association. Our service administers Customs, CGST & Central Excise.

New Delhi, Delhi · [irsonline.in](https://www.irsonline.in)

Joined August 2015

363 Following 46.9K Followers

Followed by Recycle India, Gou Customs, Cochin Customs, and 55 others

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**IRS(Customs & Central Excise) Association** Retweeted

**FICCI CASCADE** @Cascad... · 10m

#IndianCustomsAtWork @cbic\_india

**Customs (Preventive) D...** · 1h

Continuing its crackdown on foreign origin cigarettes, Delhi Customs (Prev) today seized lakh cig sticks valued at Rs crores. Seizure was effected at...

**Ashish Chauhan** @ashishchauhan

CEO BSE (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange, India) Retweet or Like is not an endorsement. Views are personal

Mumbai, Maharashtra · [bseindia.com](https://www.bseindia.com)

Born March 16 · Joined April 2010

1,559 Following 150K Followers

Followed by Recycle India, UNODC South Asia, PP Chaudhary, and 28 others

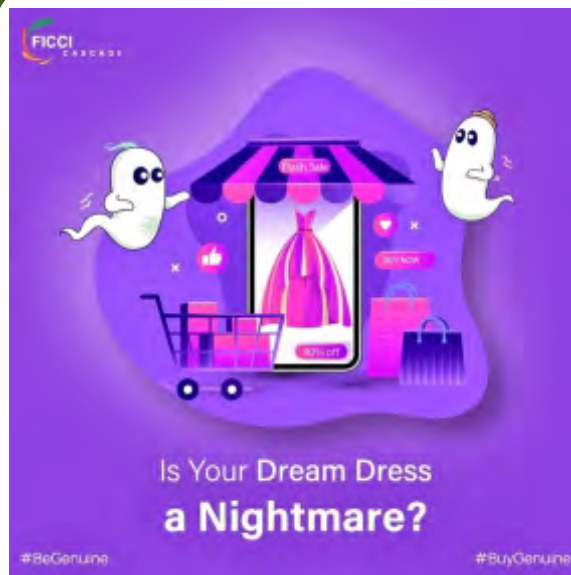
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**Ashish Chauhan** Retweeted

**FICCI CASCADE** @Cascad... · 8h

"It's very unfortunate that some people are trying to take advantage of this pandemic and thinking of counterfeiting and faking the #COVID19 vaccines" Mr. @piyesh\_lanjani, Principal Sec to Government of Telangana, (a...

# CREATIVES

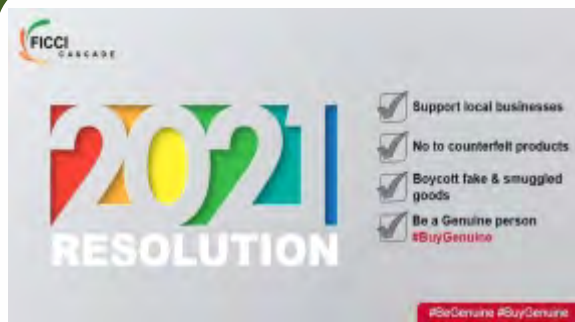


**COVID-19 ALERT**  
STAY HOME. STAY SAFE. SAVE LIVES.

- WEAR MASK
- WASH HANDS
- STAY AT HOME



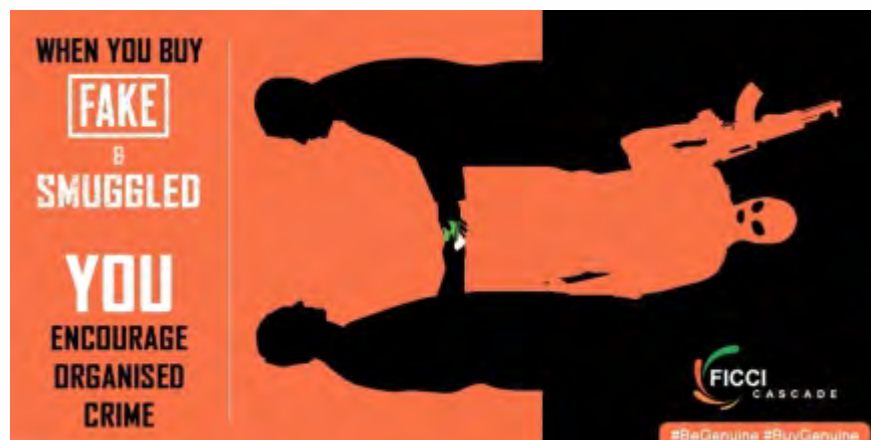
# CREATIVES







# CREATIVES



# CREATIVES



# Applauding Enforcement Officers for their Anti-Smuggling Work





## INDIAN CUSTOMS AT WORK

Customs officers recovered 250 cartons of foreign origin Cigarettes valued ₹ 3.08 crore at Ludhiana.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Commendable work by Hyderabad police for seizing tobacco products and foreign cigarettes of worth Rs 26 lakh from Hyderabad's Begum Bazaar.

#IndianEnforcementAtWork



## Congratulations



### Cigarettes worth ₹38.4 lakh seized

STAFF REPORTER

A special squad of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) on Wednesday seized 32 bundles of cigarettes worth ₹38.4 lakh brought in by train, allegedly evading Goods and Services Tax at the South railway station.

The consignment from Meerut in Delhi reached here by a train around 6.45 a.m. The cigarettes were meant for sale in the state. Inspections by the RPF special squad have been intensified following the introduction of more special trains after lifting of COVID-19 curbs.

**Tax evasion:** Prima facie, the tax evasion was to the tune of around ₹20 lakh. The consignment has been handed over to the police.

### Cigarette stash seized by CTF

**Vijayawada:** Sleuths of the Commissioner's Task Force (CTF) seized ₹3 crore worth of foreign-made cigarettes being illegally smuggled into Vijayawada on Friday. According to CTF sources, they received a tip off stating around 2.4 lakh cigarettes being smuggled from Delhi to Vijayawada few days ago and was kept at SR Logistics Office in Bhavanipuram area. Officials said that they have detained two persons - Nallapaneni Shyam and Hari involved in the smuggling. A case has been registered in this connection.

STAMP OUT  
ILLICIT TRADE



BE GENUINE  
BUY GENUINE



news



# Media Coverage

# Media Coverage Seizure of illicit cigarettes jumps by 800% during COVID times

millenniumpost

## 'Eightfold increase in tobacco smuggling during June-Oct 20'

**NEW DELHI:** India continues to be a target for tobacco smugglers in spite of several restrictions with an almost eightfold increase in the illegal activity, according to industry chamber FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE).

Enforcement agencies in India seized illicit cigarettes worth around Rs 412 crore in the last five months across India, which is a quantum jump compared to Rs 52 crore in June-October period of 2019, FICCI CASCADE said in a statement.

"This comes in the wake of several cases being intercepted during the COVID-19 pandemic," it added.

Commenting on the development, FICCI CASCADE Chairman Anil Rajput said:

"There has been an almost eightfold increase over the year, indicating that India continues to be a target for tobacco smugglers in spite of several restrictions. It is clear that criminal enterprises are continuing to seek ways of ensuring infiltration of smuggled goods into the country."

While lauding the recent efforts of enforcement officers, he said: "We cannot afford to let the guard go down and must maintain strict vigil to ensure that these offenders are kept at bay."

FICCI CASCADE said in spite of several measures which are being undertaken by the government, to tackle this problem, further steps are required, both in the form of policy intervention and awareness generation.

MPOST

## The Statesman

## 'Eightfold increase in tobacco smuggling during June-Oct 20'

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 18 NOVEMBER

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the pioneer

## Eightfold increase in tobacco smuggling

PTI NEW DELHI

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Seizures of illegal cigarettes jump 8x

**New Delhi:** Seizures of illegal cigarettes increased eightfold between June and October compared to the year-ago period, showed data from a recent report. Authorities have seized illicit cigarettes worth around Rs 412 crore in the last five months across India, up from Rs 52 crore during the same period last year, a FICCI committee said. This comes in the wake of several cases being intercepted during the pandemic. **TNN**

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

## 'Tobacco smuggling rose 8-fold during June-Oct 20'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, November 18

**INDIA CONTINUES** to be a target for tobacco smugglers in spite of several restrictions with an almost eightfold increase in the illegal activity, according to industry chamber FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE).

Enforcement agencies in India seized illicit cigarettes worth around ₹412 crore in the last five months across India, which is a quantum jump compared to ₹52 crore in June-October period of 2019, FICCI CASCADE said in a statement.

"This comes in the wake of several cases being intercepted during the COVID-19 pandemic," it added.

Times of India - Delhi Late City

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TOI Business  
@TOIBusiness

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Seizures of illicit cigarettes jumps by 800% during Covid times



Seizures of illicit cigarettes jumps by 800% during Covid times - Times of India  
India Business News: NEW DELHI: Authorities have seized illicit cigarettes worth around ₹412 crore in the last five months across India.  
@timesofindia.indianews.com

# Media Coverage



**FICCI compliments enforcement agencies for curbing smuggling, says strict vigil must continue**

Read @ANI Story | [aninews.in/news/business/...](https://aninews.in/news/business/)



2:15 PM · 14 Nov 20 · Twitter India India

2 | November 15 | 20 | 100%

**The Economic Times**

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10:47 PM

**Eightfold increase in tobacco smuggling during June-Oct 20: FICCI CASCADE**

- FICCI continues to be a target for tobacco smugglers in spite of several restrictions with an almost eightfold increase in the illegal activity across the country.
- Chairman FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) said, "Enforcement agencies in India seized illicit cigarettes worth around Rs. 412 crore in the last five months across India, which is a quantum jump compared to Rs. 52 crore in June-October period of 2019. FICCI CASCADE said in a statement.

**BW BUSINESSWORLD**

**FICCI Compliments Enforcement Agencies For Curbing Smuggling, Says Strict Vigil Must Continue**

FICCI compliments enforcement agencies for curbing smuggling, says strict vigil must continue



18 Nov 2020 10:48

New Delhi, Nov 18 (ANI) Complimenting the government and the enforcement agencies for strong measures taken to curb tobacco smuggling worth around Rs. 412 crore in the last five months across India, FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has issued a statement. It said that the government has taken several steps to curb the illegal activity across the country. FICCI CASCADE said in a statement.

**Outlook**  
THE NEWS SCROLL

ANALYSTS' REPORT: THE NEWS SCROLL

**Eightfold increase in tobacco smuggling during June-Oct 20 : FICCI CASCADE**



New Delhi, Nov 18 (PTI) India continues to be a target for tobacco smugglers in spite of several restrictions such as strict vigilance across the illegal activity, according to industry chamber FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE).

Enforcement agencies in India seized illicit cigarettes worth around Rs. 412 crore in the last five months across India, which is a quantum jump compared to Rs. 52 crore in June-October period of 2019, FICCI CASCADE said in a statement.

"This comes in the wake of several cases being intercepted during the COVID-19 pandemic," it added.

Commenting on the development, FICCI CASCADE Chairman Anil Rajput said, "There has been an almost eightfold increase over the year, indicating that India continues to be a target for tobacco smugglers in spite of several restrictions. It is clear that criminal enterprises are continuing to seek ways of ensuring infiltration of smuggled goods into the country."

While lauding the recent efforts of enforcement officers, he said, "We cannot afford to let the guard go down and must maintain strict vigil to ensure that these offenders are kept at bay."

FICCI CASCADE said in a statement. It also said that the government has taken several steps to curb the illegal activity across the country. FICCI CASCADE said in a statement.

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**  
**Seizures of illicit cigarettes jumps by 800% during Covid times**

John Sarker | TNN | Nov 18, 2020, 10:25 PM



(Representative image)

NEW DELHI: Authorities have seized illicit cigarettes worth around Rs. 412 crore in the last five months across India.

The seizures witnessed a quantum jump of almost 800% from mere Rs. 52 crore in 2019 (June-Oct) to a mammoth Rs. 412 crore for the same period in 2020, showed data from FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE). This comes in the wake of several cases being intercepted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the last five months, Customs, DRI, Assam Rifles, BSF and State Police have reported large seizures of illicit cigarettes in Mumbai, Kolkata, North East, Bhopal, Hyderabad and several other cities.

**Lokmat Times**

**FICCI compliments enforcement agencies for curbing smuggling, says strict vigil must continue**

11:00 AM · 14 Nov 20 · Lokmat Times India



Complimenting the government and the enforcement agencies for strong measures taken to curb tobacco smuggling worth around Rs. 412 crore in the last five months across India, FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has issued a statement. It said that the government has taken several steps to curb the illegal activity across the country. FICCI CASCADE said in a statement.

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ANI Updated: Nov 15, 2020 11:02 AM

**ANI**

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**SEIZURES OF ILLICIT CIGARETTES JUMPS BY 800% DURING COVID TIMES**

11:00 AM · 14 Nov 20 · NDTV India



- Illicit cigarettes worth around Rs. 412 crore seized in five months (June - October 2020)
- FICCI CASCADE praises efforts by the enforcement agencies to curb smuggling

New Delhi, 11 November 2020: FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) applauds the enforcement agencies in India for their increased vigilance to combat smuggling activities. In a commendable feat, the agencies have seized astounding quantity of illicit cigarettes worth around Rs. 412 crore in the last five months across India. The seizures witnessed a quantum jump of almost 800% from mere Rs. 52 crore in 2019 (June-Oct) to a mammoth Rs. 412 crore for the same period in 2020. This comes in the wake of several cases being intercepted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the last five months, Customs, DRI, Assam Rifles, BSF and State Police have reported large seizures of illicit cigarettes in Mumbai, Kolkata, North East, Bhopal, Hyderabad and several other cities. The increase in the scale of seizures not only highlights the importance of the work done by enforcement agencies but also calls for continued focus on tackling this widespread menace.

Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE said, "There has been an almost eightfold increase over the year, indicating that India continues to be a target for tobacco smugglers in spite of several restrictions. It is clear that criminal enterprises are continuing to seek ways of ensuring infiltration of smuggled goods into the country." Complimenting the government and the enforcement agencies for relentlessly pursuing the perpetrators, Mr. Rajput added, "While the recent efforts of enforcement officers are laudable, we cannot afford to let the guard go down and must maintain strict vigil to ensure that these offenders are kept at bay."

# Media Coverage

**Seizures of illicit cigarettes jumps by 800% during COVID times**

19 October 2020 at 10:16 AM, 2020-11-12 09:07:51 India

• **Illicit cigarettes worth around Rs. 412 crore seized in five months (June - October 2020)**  
**- FICCI CASCADE praises efforts of the enforcement agencies in curbing smuggling.**

**ANUJ KUMAR**  
New Delhi

FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADe) applauds the enforcement agencies in India for the increased vigilance to curb smuggling activities. In a commendable feat, the agencies have seized enormous quantities of illicit cigarettes worth around Rs. 412 crore in the last five months across India. The seizure witnessed a quantum jump of almost 800% from new Rs. 52 crore in 2019 (January) to a remarkable Rs. 412 crore for the same period in 2020. The surge in the value of seized cases being charged during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the last five months, Customs, CB, Excise, BPS and State Police have witnessed large seizures of illicit cigarettes in Mumbai, Kolkata, North East, Bhopal, Hyderabad and several other cities. The increase in the scale of seizures not only highlights the responsiveness of the law enforcement agencies but also points to continued focus on tackling the widespread menace.

Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE said, "There has been an almost eightfold increase over the year indicating that India continues to be a target for tobacco smugglers despite several restrictions. Criminal enterprises are continuing to seek ways of ensuring the infiltration of smuggled goods into the country." Complimenting the government and the enforcement agencies for "relentlessly pursuing the perpetrators," Mr. Rajput added, "While the recent efforts of enforcement officers are laudable, we cannot afford to let the guard go down and must maintain strict vigil to ensure that these offenders are kept at bay."

In light of recent measures which are being undertaken by the government to tackle this problem further steps are required, both in the form of policy formulation and enforcement operation in order to ensure significant curbing of this menace. FICCI CASCADE has been consistently in close contact with government and enforcement agencies, across several states in India on the way to mitigate the challenges.

**Business Standard**

**Eightfold increase in tobacco smuggling during June-Oct 20 : FICCI CASCADE**

Enforcement agencies in India have seized illicit cigarettes worth around Rs. 412 crore in the last five months starting 2020.

**Tagore**  
FICCI's President

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**Daily Bhaskar**

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**FICCI CASCADE**

**बिजनेस TOP 10 कोरोना काल में नकली सामान की पकड़ जारी**

गृहमंत्रालय के निर्देश के तहत 10 मोबाइल टेस्टिंग जैब की तैनाती जल्द, डोर-टू-डोर टेस्टिंग 25 नवंबर तक पूरा देश

**दैनिक जागरण**

**कोविड के समय में अवैध सिगरेट की जब्ती 800 प्रतिशत बढ़ी**

नई दिल्ली, जेएनएन। फिक्की की अर्थव्यवस्था को बर्बाद कर रही तस्करी एवं जालसाजी जैसी गतिविधियों के खिलाफ कमेटी (कास्केड) ने तस्करी की गतिविधियों पर लगाम लगाने की दिशा में भारत की प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों द्वारा बढ़ाई गई निगरानी की सराहना की है। एजेंसियों ने देशभर में पिछले पांच महीने में 412 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य की अवैध सिगरेट जब्त की है। अवैध सिगरेट की जब्ती में करीब 800 प्रतिशत का उछाल आया है। 2019 में जून से अक्टूबर के दौरान केवल 52 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य की सिगरेट जब्त की गई थी। पिछले पांच महीने में कस्टम्स, डीआरआइ, असम राइफल, वीएसएफ और राज्य पुलिस ने मुंबई, कोलकाता, पूर्वोत्तर, भोपाल, हैदराबाद और कई अन्य शहरों में बड़े पैमाने पर अवैधसिगरेट जब्त की।

**राजस्थान पत्रिका**

**अवैध सिगरेट की जब्ती 800 प्रतिशत बढ़ी**

नई दिल्ली, फिक्की कास्केड ने तस्करी की गतिविधियों पर लगाम लगाने की दिशा में भारत की प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों द्वारा बढ़ाई गई निगरानी की सराहना की है। एजेंसियों ने देशभर में पिछले पांच महीने में 412 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य की अवैध सिगरेट जब्त की है। अवैध सिगरेट की जब्ती में करीब 800 प्रतिशत का उछाल आया है। 2019 में जून से अक्टूबर के दौरान केवल 52 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य की सिगरेट जब्त की गई थी। पिछले पांच महीने में कस्टम्स, डीआरआइ, असम राइफल, वीएसएफ और राज्य पुलिस ने मुंबई, कोलकाता, पूर्वोत्तर, भोपाल, हैदराबाद और कई अन्य शहरों में बड़े पैमाने पर अवैधसिगरेट जब्त की।

# Media Coverage

## Assam Rifles Seizures during July-August 2020 in the Indo-Myanmar border

### Imphal Free Press

#### Smugglers arrested; drugs, WIN cigarettes, Godzilla coils, betel nuts seized in Manipur

The arrest and seizure took place in different operations at different places, including Machi, Moltuk, Kakching and Senapati.

More than six men were arrested and large consignments of 55,500 WIN cigarettes packets and 920 Godzilla coil packets were seized by the Assam Rifles personnel in various parts of Manipur on Friday-Saturday, according to sources.

The seizure took place in different operations at different places, including Machi, Moltuk, Kakching and Senapati, the IGAR (South) said in a release.

In Moltuk area on Saturday, 16,000 packets of WIN cigarettes were seized by the troops during a search operation in the area, said the IGAR (South) in the release.

The seized items, which were found hidden inside the vegetation, were handed over to Chandel police station, it added.

In Machi, in yet another incident on the same day, AR troops intercepted a vehicle but the occupants fled. As many as 2,500 packets of WIN cigarettes were found in the vehicle which were seized by the troops and handed over to Machi police station, the release added.

On Friday, AR troops intercepted three vehicles, a Tata 407 MN 01 4690, a Boler pickup vehicle MN 01 AG 2069 and a Burmese bike (Liew) without number. On checking, they were found carrying 37,000 packets of WIN cigarettes and 920 packets of Godzilla coils without valid permit, the IGAR (South) said.

Following the seizure, four men were apprehended, the release said. It said the arrested were identified as D K Leithil, 45, Kh Mothil Maring, 50, and Kh Mephom, 33, all from Kampong Khullen and Mothil Angkhul, 31, of Choktok, Lamlong Khunou.

The four arrested along with all the items and vehicles



were handed over to Machi Police Station, the IGAR (South) said added.

In Kakching on Friday, two men were arrested for transporting WIN cigarettes along the National Highway-102. At around 9:30 am, a commando team CDO unit, Kakching led by sub inspector Ksh Prakash Singh intercepted one Tata Super ACE bearing registration number MN02B-5298 (red in colour) in front of Sora Khunuda Ching Police Outpost along the NH-102, another release said.

The vehicle was driven by one Md Tarique Ahmed, 30, son of Md Siraj Ahmed of Lilong Haoreibi Leihakhong, along with Sayed Wahidur Rahaman, 49, son of Sayed Noor Rahaman of Lilong Turel Ahanbi Mathakyangbi Leikai, it added.

On checking the vehicle, 13, 500 cigarette boxes, packed in 27 boxes, were found concealed inside the vehicle covered by a red tarpaulin, it continued. On questioning, the driver stated that the items belonged to Sayed Noor Rahaman, it said.

The release further said that the items were seized and the duo were arrested by observing formalities and handed over to Custom office for further necessary legal action. Necessary action was also taken up against the arrested persons for breaking lockdown guidelines, it added.

In Moreh, a police commando team under the supervision of SP Tegnoupal Th Vikramjit arrested a man and seized drugs worth Rs 2 crore on Friday around 7.30 am. The team, on routine checking at Kondong Lairembi Check Post Chikim village, intercepted a white Wagon R car bearing Reg. No. MN05A-7824 that was coming from Moreh towards Imphal.

On thorough checking of the car, the team found 5,000 pieces of WY tablets and 75 packets of brown sugar weighing 958 gms, approximately amounting to Rs. 2 crore in the international market

along with one individual. The arrested individual has been identified as Thangialet Khongsai, 49, son of (L)Thonglun khongsai of Khenjang village of Chakpikarong sub division, presently staying at Moreh Ward No IX.

However, an individual who came with the arrested person fled. Moreh police and commando team are in search of the escapee. The arrested individual along with the seized drugs has been handed over to Moreh police for further legal process.

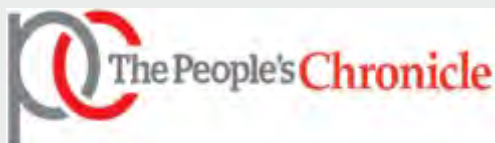
In Senapati on Thursday, the Assam Rifles seized a huge quantity of cigarettes and other contraband worth lakhs in two separate operations and saved the life of a snakebite victim, said a press release by IGAR (South). Seven people were apprehended in connection with smuggling of contraband in the two incidents, it said.

Troops of Assam Rifles moved to village Gamphazoi in Senapati district and conducted checks, it stated.

During the check, a Maruti gypsy without number was stopped and on checking, 5500 packets of WIN cigarettes, dry betel nuts and other contraband items were found, the release said. It added that three people identified as Thongmang from Old Samtal, Tong Min Thang from Hengshi and Hai Milien from S Bongioi were apprehended.

In another incident, during a joint operation with Molcham Police, 6000 packets of WIN cigarettes were seized, the release said. It said four bikes without numbers were stopped during a routine check and 6000 packets of WIN cigarettes worth lakhs were seized from the riders.

Those apprehended are identified as Jamkhoin Baite, Michael Jamminthang, Dominie Lunsei Haokip and Jacob Jamkhapao, all residents of Molcham, it added.



#### AR recovers Rs. 12 lakh cash, cigarettes

CHRONICLE BUREAU

IMPHAL, 6th Jul: Troops of Assam Rifles recovered huge quantity of cash and imported cigarettes in two different incidents while conducting regular vehicle check at Mobile Check Post, Sita on July 5.

In a release, PRO IGAR (S) informed that on July 5 around 6:30 pm, troops of AR stopped an individual who was carrying rice bag on his Kenbo bike. On thorough checking, bundles of cash amounting to Rs 21 lakh were found hidden inside the rice bag.

The individual, identified as Khulpuwa Moshil (27) s/o Khulpuwa Konai of Pallel was carrying the cash from Heirok to Khampang Khunou.

In another incident, based on specific input, team of Assam Rifles intercepted a Maruti Suzuki Swift bearing registration number MN 01AK 2904 driven by one Oinam Chakrabarti Singh (31) of Thoubal around 5 pm.

While carrying out a thorough check of the vehicle, 5400 packets of imported cigarettes were recovered. The cigarettes were being transported without valid permit or documents.

Due to the COVID 19 lockdown, people of NE as well as insurgent groups are facing financial trouble. The drug dealers and insurgents have resorted to using unsuspecting tribal population and making them conduit in lure of petty returns to further their nefarious designs, the PRO said, adding that insurgents have resorted to extortion from locals to compensate for their depleting finances in view of lock down.

The recovered items along with the detainees have been handed over to Tegnoupal Police Station and the Superintendent of Customs Protection Force, Pallel for further legal action, the PRO added.


**Tweet**


**The Assam Rifles**  
 @official\_dgar

Troops of [#AssamRifles](#) Serchhip Battalion intercepted and seized illegal consignment of Foreign origin cigarettes worth approx Rs 55 Lakhs from Champhai district and heroine worth approx Rs 5 Lakhs from Zokhawthar. [@PIBHomeAffairs](#) [@ANI](#)



8:45 PM · 11/07/20 · Twitter Web App

# Media Coverage

## Pothashang

### Imported cigarette worth over Rs 1 crore recovered

July 17, 2020 | Pothashang News Service

Imphal: Assam Rifles has recovered 64 cartons of imported cigarette at Henak in Thoubal district on Thursday.

The cigarettes were recovered when in late evening when troops of Assam Rifles intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number MN 04 P 1374 Mahindra Bolero Pick Up (White colour) travelling to Henak.



The driver was identified as Ningthoujam Ananta Singh, 50, son of Ningthoujam Botombi Singh resident of Henak Ward no 3, Thoubal. He was associated with a passenger identified as Ningthoujam Samananda Singh, 34, son of Ningthoujam Deba Singh of the same village.

The imported cigarettes were found in the vehicle. It was also revealed that some of the cartons were hidden inside the jungle which were also recovered. Sixty-four cartons of imported cigarettes worth 1.10 crore were recovered, the Assam Rifles said.

Assam Rifles has been at the forefront of curbing smuggling of contraband items. Contraband items worth crores have been recovered in the past two days, it said.

The apprehendees and the recovered items were handed over to the Customs Office Paser for further investigations, it added.

Source: <https://www.pothashang.in/2020/07/17/imported-cigarette-worth-over-1-crore-recovered/>

## The Sangai Express

### WIN cigarettes seized

22-Jul-2020

By Our Staff Reporter

IMPHAL, Jul 22: The Imphal West district commando seized huge quantity of banned tobacco items including 5100 boxes of WIN cigarettes, 120 boxes of Gudang Garam International and 250 boxes of Esse light cigarettes from a Tata truck near Canchipur Manipur University main gate today morning. Driver of the Tata truck identified as Bilal Hussain (33) of 144 Bazar road near Nilgagan LP School road Nagaon, Assam and co-driver Bala Raja (20) of Pub Bandarmela of Nagaon, Assam have been arrested. They revealed that they loaded the foreign made cigarettes from the house of one Md Faruque (25) of Irong Chesaba, Mayang Imphal to be transported to one Mukesh of Bihar presently staying at Dimapur. The two arrested persons along with the seized items have been handed over to Customs Division Imphal.

## Unitreed Times

### Illegal foreign cigarettes and areca nuts worth over Rs 60 lakh seized

by: unitreedtimes

July 24, 2020



Guwahati, July 24 (UT): Troops of Assam in Tengnoupal, Manipur Rifles conducted a search operation in the early hours on July 23 and recovered smuggled illegal foreign cigarettes and areca nuts.

Market value of the recovered items have been estimated at Rs 61 Lakhs.

The recovery was made from the jungle area near Indo-Myanmar border.

Earlier on July 16 and 17, troops of Assam Rifles had intercepted recovered foreign cigarettes worth over one crore rupees and beetle nuts worth rupees four lakh on the Imphal-Moreh road.

**Tweet**

 **The Assam Rifles**  
@official\_dgar

Troops of [#AssamRifles](#) Tengnoupal Battalion in series of operations on Jul 16th & 17th intercepted and recovered illegal consignment of foreign cigarettes worth approx Rs 1.1 Cr and smuggled beetle nuts worth approx Rs 4 Lakhs on Moreh -Imphal road. [@PIBHomeAffairs](#) [@ANI](#)



7:04 AM · 18/07/20 · Twitter Web App

**Tweet**

 **The Assam Rifles**  
@official\_dgar

Troops of [#AssamRifles](#) at Tengnoupal(Manipur) in a search operation on 30 Jul recovered a consignment of illegal foreign cigarettes of approx Rs 36 lakhs hidden under the culvert on Sita-Samukong road. [@PIBHomeAffairs](#) [@ANI](#)



10:48 PM · 30/07/20 · Twitter Web App

**Tweet**

 **The Assam Rifles**  
@official\_dgar

Troops of [#AssamRifles](#) Serchhip(Mizoram) Battalion in a search operation recovered an illegal consignment of foreign cigarettes worth approx Rs 40 Lakhs abandoned near Tyao River in Champhai district on 07 Aug. [@PIBHomeAffairs](#) [@ANI](#)



10:30 PM · 07/08/20 · Twitter Web App



## Assam Rifles recovers 'illegally transported commercial goods' in Manipur

Troops of Assam Rifles in Manipur recovered Betel Nuts, cigarettes and other illegally transported commercial goods worth Rs 14 Lakhs on August 14, informed a press statement.

"Based on a specific input about movement of some illegal items in the area of Thoubal, a Mobile Vehicle Check Post along Thoubal - Hongbi road was established," the statement said.

"The team intercepted two white coloured Maruti Gypsy suspicious of carrying illegal items," the statement added.

On detail search of the vehicles, 14000 packets of cigarettes, 100 Kgs of betel nuts and other items including five boxes of mosquito repellent and four boxes of Tinned-Fish were apprehended with the two individuals carrying the consignment, the release added.

The apprehended individuals have been identified as Rishikanta and Chalamba from Khurai in Imphal, it further said.

The apprehended along with the seized items were handed over to the Customs and Excise Department for further legal action, it added.



# Media Coverage

## EastMojo



The recovered contraband items are worth Rs 1.6 crore in Manipur (Assam Rifles)  
**MANIPUR**

### MANIPUR: CONTRABAND DRUGS WORTH RS 1.6 CRORE SEIZED, 4 ARRESTED

The contraband items were recovered from 2 vehicles at a mobile check-post set up along Yairipok-Hongbi road

Vangamla Salle K S

Aug 19, 2020, 4:54 PM

Imphal: Troops of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (south) arrested four individuals in connection with illegally transported commercial goods and contraband items. The recovered

items are worth about Rs 1.6 crore, said the official.

As per a statement, the security forces set up a mobile vehicle check-post along the Yairipok-Hongbi road based on receiving inputs about the movement of illegal items in the area on Tuesday.

Four persons travelling in two vehicles were intercepted following suspicious of carrying illegal items. On thorough search of the vehicles, the troops recovered 34,500 packets of WIN cigarettes, 1,000 packets of Esse Light cigarettes, 11 boxes of mosquito repellents, four boxes of tinned fish and six Mikko mosquito repellents, it said



Four individuals were arrested along with two vehicles Assam Rifles

## Tweet



#NEOps

#AssamRifles Thoubal Bn recovered large quantity of contraband items approx worth Rs 72 lakhs from Yairipok - Hongbi road in Manipur on 18 Aug. All apprehended & seized items have been handed over to Customs & Excise Dept, Pallel.

@ANI @PIB\_India @adgpi

@PIBHomeAffairs



## Tweet



Serchhip Battalion of #AssamRifles recovered huge quantity of illegal foreign cigarettes worth Rs 1 crore from Bulphezkawl, near Tyao river, Champhai, Mizoram on 20 Aug 2020. The recovered items were handed over to Land Customs Station, Zokhawthar.

@adgpi @PIB\_India @PIBHomeAffa



11:11 PM · 21/08/20 · Twitter Web App

## Tweet



Serchhip Battalion of #AssamRifles in a joint operation with Customs Prevention Force, recovered large quantity of illegal foreign cigarettes worth Rs 70.20 lakhs in Bulukai, Melbuk on 22 Aug 2020. Recovered items handed over to Custom Prevention Force.

@adgpi @PIBHomeAffairs



10:48 PM · 23/08/20 · Twitter Web App

## Tweet



Serchhip Battalion of #AssamRifles in a joint operation with Custom Officials, recovered foreign cigarettes worth Rs1.39 crores in Old Hruikawn near Tyao river, Mizoram on 24 Aug 2020. The recovered items were handed over to Land Custom Station, Zokhawthar.

@adgpi @PIBHomeAffairs



9:58 PM · 24/08/20 · Twitter Web App





# Media Monitor

# MEDIA MONITOR



GROWING MENACE OF ILLEGAL  
TAX EVADED, SMUGGLED &  
COUNTERFEIT GOODS IN INDIA

## MEDIA MONITOR

### THE HINDU

**Gutkha, foreign cigarettes worth ₹6.32 lakh seized, 4 arrested**  
Vijayawada, August 03, 2020



The West Godavari police seized banned gutkha and tobacco products and foreign brand cigarettes, all worth about ₹6.32 lakh at Patakoti and arrested four persons.

On a tip-off, the team led by Narsapuram Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) P. Nageswara Rao and CI Ch. Anjaneyulu took four persons into custody in the Surya Teja Nagar area on Sunday.

The arrested have been identified as Puli Roshan Seethal of Patakoti, Tallapalli Venkata Shiva Satyanarayana of Tuni, Kankipati Raju Veera Venkata Satyaprasad of Mandavali and Adhikari Solomon Raju of Narsapuram, said district Superintendent of Police (SP) K. Narayan Naik.

#### Modus operandi

The modus operandi of the accused was to import the stocks from Berampur in Odisha and sell them to retailers in different districts in AP.

The accused, Shiva Satyanarayana, was involved in several crimes in Kakinada, One Town and Three Town police stations, Rayavaram, Vuyyuru, Anakapalli, Palamata and Kambham police stations and underwent imprisonment in a few cases, Mr. Naik said.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Vijayawada/gutkha-foreign-cigarettes-worth-6-32-lakh-seized-4-arrested/article22256589.ece>

### Imphal Free Press

**1,500 packets of Win cigarettes from Myanmar seized, burned in Imphal**

Members of Joint local bodies of Andro along with Coalition Against Drugs and Alcohol (CADA) seized 1,500 packets of Win cigarettes from two cars on Saturday.

By Thomas Ngangom | Updated on: Aug. 8, 2020



As many as 30 carton boxes of 1,500 packets of Myanmar's Win cigarettes worth around Rs 5.4 lakh at market value were seized and burned at Meehatpung in Andro area of Manipur on Saturday by members of joint local bodies of Andro and the Coalition Against Drugs and Alcohol (CADA).

The cigarettes smuggled in from Myanmar were seized from two Maruti Alto bearing registration number MN01AG-5320 and MN05LA-8512 at Andro in Imphal East. The drivers of the cars have been identified as one Md Abjur, 21, son of Md Rahaman of Kyangrei Aiwang Lekai and Buyamayum Aboy, 24, son of Buyamayum Jyauddin of Hyangthang Patak.

Speaking to the Imphal Free Press over the phone, CADA Thoubal district secretary Shrintha Laishram said the tobacco items were seized in connection with the ban imposed on such items in the area and as per the Tobacco Act.

Following an alert by some local volunteers, members of the All Andro Youths Clubs Association, the All Andro Government Employee Association, The Eastern Scheduled Caste Students Union Andro, the Andro Pana Loishang and the All Andro Meira Paibi Association intercepted the two alto cars on Saturday at about 1.50 am. The tobacco items were reportedly being transported from Kasom Khullen, Kamjong district.

Further speaking to the Imphal Free Press, Shrintha alleged, 'Some police personnel, paramilitary forces and politicians are involved in smuggling of intoxicants. Some of them



<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ludhiana/crackdown-on-illicit-liquor-2-lakh-litres-of-lahan-seized-near-sutlej-6536395/>



<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/kolkata-police-seizes-1-400-litres-of-fake-hand-sanitizer-2-arrested-1706758-2020-08-01>

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/26kg-gold-found-in-waist-belts-3-held/cid/1789320>

తణుకులో విదేశీ సిగరెట్లు వ్యాపనం చేసుకున్న ధోరణులు

- ❖ పన్నింటిని సత్కారాధారంగా అనే వ్యక్తి
- ❖ నర్స మండి 230 విదేశీ సిగరెట్ల బాక్సులు
- ❖ నార్సడినం చేసుకున్నాడు
- ❖ వీటినిలకు సుమారు 2,76,000
- ❖ నెలనూనాయులు ఉంటుంది
- ❖ శస్త్రము అధికారులకు వీటిని అమ్మగలిచిన తణుకు ధోరణులు

and/or may be used for other purposes.

The cigarettes were found concealed in the drawers of the 10,000-200,000 series of cigarettes of various brands (most brands) between and under the cigarettes among others, the official said.

The cigarettes were found concealed in the drawers of the 10,000-200,000 series of cigarettes of various brands (most brands) between and under the cigarettes among others, the official said.

They were taken into custody by the Customs and Excise.

More than 100 cigarettes were found in the drawers of the 10,000-200,000 series of cigarettes of various brands (most brands) between and under the cigarettes among others, the official said.

# MEDIA MONITOR



## The Tribune

### Rs 3.05-cr fine slapped on Patiala brewery for smuggling liquor

8 October 2020



In a major offensive against liquor smuggling, the Punjab Excise Department has imposed a penalty of Rs 3.05 crore on a prominent Patiala-based brewery.

Sources said a raid was conducted on the brewery by the Excise Department recently after a tip-off about a large quantity of beer being unaccounted for on its premises. "Upon searching, we found a brand of strong beer was 1,050 cases short of what was recorded in the ledger, and 468 cases of another strong beer brand were in excess of what was accounted for in the company records. Other than this, 2.27 lakh bulk litres of beer was also found less than what was projected," said a senior excise officer.

This meant that what was less or more than accounted for was kept for sale without paying the excise duty, the sources said. "The intent was prima facie suspicious. After a thorough investigation, we have now imposed a penalty of Rs 22.77 lakh on the brewery for the mismatch in stock of beer cases and Rs 2.83 crore for the mismatch in the bulk beer stock," said the officer, requesting anonymity.

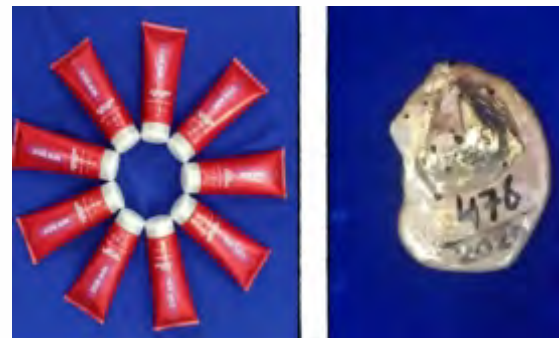
As a measure to check smuggling, all distilleries and breweries are now required to bottle at least 6,000 cases per month to ensure that all liquor bottled in the additional lease lines are accounted for, said Rajat Agarwal, Excise Commissioner, Punjab. In case of failure to adhere to the direction, a security of Rs 2 lakh deposited by the distillery would be forfeited.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/patiala/rs-3-05-cr-fine-slapped-on-patiala-brewery-for-smuggling-liquor-152445>

## DNA

### Chennai: Gold worth Rs 33 lakhs seized from Vaseline, hair gel tubes

19 October 2020



Customs officials in Chennai have busted a unique modus operandi of gold smuggling, by seizing gold hidden in vaseline containers and hair gel tubes. In two cases, a total of 635 grams of gold valued at Rs. 33.3 lakhs or USD 45,429 was recovered and seized under the Customs Act.

In the first case, based on intelligence, Jinka Sudhakara, who had arrived from Kuwait via flight KU 1343 was intercepted on suspicion of carrying gold. Examination of his checked-in baggage revealed two small plastic containers of Vaseline (petroleum jelly). On further inspection, 16 gold cut bits were recovered from the jelly. 365 grams of gold valued at Rs. 19.14 lakhs was recovered and seized.

Later, Thamimun Ansari, who arrived from Dubai by Air India Express Flight IX 1644 was intercepted at the exit and his baggage was checked. Among his personal belongings, nine hair gel tubes with the branding 'Well New Wave' were found to be unusually heavy. On being cut open, the tubes were found to contain a golden brown, thick paste, suspected to be gold in paste form. On extraction, 270 grams of gold valued at Rs. 14.16 lakhs was recovered.

"It is for the first time that we have detected Gold paste in hair gel tubes. This is a new modus operandi" Rajan Chaudhary, Commissioner, Customs told Zee Media.

<https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-chennai-gold-worth-rs-33-lakhs-seized-from-vaseline-hair-gel-tubes-2850986>





Established in 1927, FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India. Its history is closely interwoven with India's struggle for independence, its industrialization, and its emergence as one of the most rapidly growing global economies.

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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 at FICCI Federation House, New Delhi.

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

[www.ficcicascade.com](http://www.ficcicascade.com)