High demand for pirated products at cheap price fuelling child trafficking, says expert

AT a time when parents are concerned about the rising incidents of child missing cases, experts said high demand for pirated products available at a cheap price was fuelling child trafficking in the country.

“The problem of illicit trade is much more serious than it is commonly perceived. We have found a connection between child and women trafficking and the counterfeiting industry,” said former Chairman of Central Board of Excise and Customs P C Jha. “There is also no doubt that the illegal money generated through illicit trade in smuggled, counterfeited and pirated goods is a major source to finance such dangerous activities as terrorism, insurgency and other organised crimes,” he said.

Jha, an advisor of FICCI’s Committee Against Smuggling, Counterfeiting, Activities Destroying the Economy was speaking at a seminar on “Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling – An Imperative to Accelerate Economic Development” here on Tuesday.

A FICCI report stated that smugglers had switched to cigarettes and fabric and silk yarn as they are low-risk, high-profit goods.

Jha’s comment was supported by IG Crime Branch S Sreejith. He said children were used in such industries because they form a vulnerable workforce that never questions the illegal activities. According to him, illegal water bottling plants have deployed child labourers in large numbers.

The state reported 743 child missing cases in the last one year. While most of the missing children are recovered by the police, the fact that so many children go missing has been a concern.

According to Sreejith, the counterfeiting activities soon graduate to organised crimes and to check if the law enforcement agencies should be made more powerful.

Sreejith said the state police did not have a single case registered for counterfeiting other than in case of currencies. “The issue of counterfeiting is present in the case of drugs, consumer goods etc. Spurious drugs cause drug resistance which is a major concern for public health,” said IG Crime Branch.

Joint Commissioner of Customs Anveesh P Rajan pointed at the lack of manpower and facilities to check the rising number of sophisticated smuggling activities in the state. Earlier, Agriculture Minister V S Sunil Kumar inaugurated the seminar. Being a consumer state there is a need for a lot of awareness against smuggling and counterfeiting, he said.

According to the minister, illegal activities related to smuggling and counterfeiting had taken advantage of unaware consumers and bargain-hunters, exploiting people’s appetites for brands or simply their financial situation.
CANDLE LIGHT CAMPAIGN AGAINST COUNTERFEITS

Students of Christ Nagar College participated in a candle light congregation, organised by FICCI as part of a nation-wide awareness campaign to highlight the growing menace of illegal trade activities in the district.

More than 150 students and consumers with candles in their hand and banners stating ‘Buy Genuine Not Smuggled’ participated in congregation in the city. Fr Tito Varghese, principal, Christ Nagar College and Savio Mathew, head FICCI Kerala State Council felicitated the campaign.

IGP Crime Branch S Sreejith was the chief guest. He congratulated FICCI CASCADE for taking the steps to enrol the youth in the fight against illegal trade such as smuggled and counterfeit goods. Sreejith said the activities involving illegal curbs economic independence and one must pledge to not use fake products. He said the fight against smuggling is a necessity in the larger interest of the nation’s economy.

Deccan Chronicle
Trinity Mirror

The Times of India

FICCI-CASCADE holds candle light congregation in Kerala

"Buy Genuine Not Smuggled" campaign

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 24: India’s economic growth story has attracted the world's attention bringing new challenges for the domestic economy. One of the major challenges the domestic economy is facing is the huge growth of illicit trade. The market for illicit goods is flourishing in India and has become one of the biggest challenges faced by Indian industry. Industry body FICCI has set up a committee against smuggling and counterfeit activities, called FICCI-CASCADE, with an aim to create awareness among the general public and lead initiatives from all sectors of the economy.

Taking part of the candlelight congregation, 3,000 people, FICCI-CASCADE for taking the step of fighting against the negative impact of illicit trade, candlelight procession, the district administration as well as one must pledge to cut out fake products and fight the menace of smuggling which is the single most alarming threat to the nation's economic well-being. The total loss to the government on account of the illicit trade in respect of the several sectors manufacturing sectors, technology, electronics, and many others. Amongst the various sectors, the

Indian government has taken up various initiatives to curb the menace of black market and to create awareness among the public.

FICCI, the apex trade body of the country, has been actively involved in creating awareness about the ill effects of black market and has been organizing various campaigns to highlight the impact of black market on the economy.

Several steps are being taken by FICCI-CASCADE and the government to create awareness among the public about the impact of black market.

The candlelight congregation, being organized in Thirumalapuram in association with the Head PCC Kerala State Congress, was present at the event. More than 1,500 students and citizens took part in the candlelight procession, and the event was attended by various officials and dignitaries.

Candle light congregation: FICCI’s committee against smuggling and counterfeiting activities destroying economy is organizing a candle light congregation “Fight against smuggling and counterfeiting” at Christ Nagar College, Maranthur at 11.30am on Wednesday.
Youth from State being recruited as carriers: official

Minister says smuggling is a threat to national security

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Joint Commissioner, Customs, Aneth Rajan, on Wednesday expressed concern that international smuggling networks appeared to be increasingly recruiting Kerala youth as carriers.

Addressing a conference on “Combating Smuggling, Counterfeiting and Piracy” here on Wednesday, Mr. Rajan said revoking the passports of habitual couriers was a sure-fire method to throttle down their ranks and deter prospective ones.

He said a large segment of persons caught as couriers were Kerala youth. However, they were just a fraction of the real number that slipped through Customs check posts undetected.

Most worked for gold smuggling networks that constantly updated their methods to fox law enforcers. Some were independent operators seeking to subsidise their air travel by smuggling in small quantities of bullion.

Most Customs arrests, around 1,065 in 2017, were based on actionable intelligence, some of it generated overseas.

Investigators also resorted to predictive profiling to flag potential carriers among air passengers. Air travel manifests and passport details were often a giveaway. Enforcers also leaned on behavioural clues, such as signs of anxiety and unusual gait, to zero in on couriers concealing contraband. However, these methods were not foolproof in crowded airport environments.

Agriculture Minister V. S. Sunil Kumar said smuggling was a threat to national security. He said foreign cigarettes were smuggled into India in large quantities.

ADGP Suchith Kumar said counterfeit products were almost the norm in the vast market for automobile parts. IG, Crime Branch, Sreejith, said swarming markets with counterfeit products was against national interest.

The event was organised by FICCI.

Sanjay. M. Kaul, Secretary Industries, S. N. Rajamohan Nair, president, Trivandrum Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Shibu Prabhakaran, president, Kerala Chamber of Commerce and P. Jayakrishnan, secretary, Bar Association, Thiruvananthapuram were among those who spoke.
Deshabhimani

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കാലിലില്‍ പോയിട്ടും

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City Times

Malayalam Manoroma
Chandrika

Deepika