

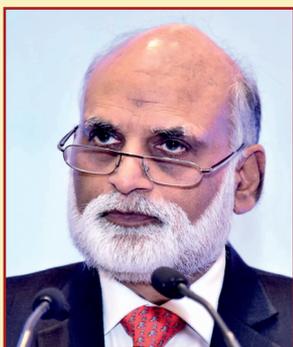
October 2020

NEWSLETTER



Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy

CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Anil Rajput
Chairman
FICCI CASCADE

We lost Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt. of India on 8th October 2020. He was a visionary leader and an admirable human being. We were greatly encouraged by his deep commitment for the cause of consumers and their safety. In our interactions with him, we were fortunate to have received his valuable guidance to work towards consumer protection. FICCI CASCADE and the Think Tank Members of CASCADE passed a resolution, expressing deep grief and sorrow over his demise.

The COVID 19 pandemic has caused immeasurable pain and suffering across all spheres of life. Just like the COVID virus, illicit trade is undeniably one of the greatest risks globally. Both are playing havoc with the social and economic well-being of nations across the world. 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.

To my mind, creating awareness is the one of the main weapons we have at our disposal. I am happy to inform you all that over the last few months, we have boosted efforts for our national awareness campaign on Combating Smuggling and Counterfeiting during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. In this issue we will be showcasing the awareness drive through webinars for the states in the North East, as well as for states of Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.

We were delighted to have the presence of Mr Kawasi Lakhma, Minister, Commerce and Industry, Govt. of Chhattisgarh at the webinar on 'Combating Smuggling and Counterfeiting during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond' focusing on the state of Chhattisgarh. Mr. Lakhma stressed that eliminating illicit trade is one of the focus areas for their government and that concerned departments remain extremely vigilant in dealing with such cases. Mr Manoj Kumar Pingua, Principal Secretary Department of Commerce & Industry, Government of Chhattisgarh who also joined us for this programme wholeheartedly supported this initiative.

The webinar for the state of Madhya Pradesh was addresses by Mr Sanjay Kumar Shukla, Principal Secretary, Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion, Madhya Pradesh Government who emphasised the importance of effective coordination between central and state agencies, strengthening domestic manufacturing, addressing the demand and supply gap and leveraging technology for creating an environment, free from counterfeit and smuggled goods.

Mr. Debajyoti Dutta, Secretary, Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Government of Assam and Mr. Pabitra Khaund, Secretary, Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Assam addressed the webinar for Assam and the North Eastern States. Both were of the view that Prime Minister's call on 'Vocal for local' will be a potent tool in our fight against counterfeiting and smuggling. Several such engagements, focusing on different states of India have been planned by FICCI CASCADE in the coming months.

FICCI CASCADE in its effort to combat crimes related to smuggling and counterfeiting has been over the years sensitizing the country's enforcement agencies on this issue. 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. Mr Manish K Sinha, IPS, Inspector General, Crime, Jammu and Kashmir Police, during his address highlighted that illegal trade not only causes revenue loss to the government but also leads to unemployment amongst the youth in J&K, who may be then tempted to join undesirable and illegal activities.

To highlight the enormity of the problem of illicit trade, FICCI CASCADE has been tracking its media coverage through its monthly Media Monitor. Over the last few months Indian Customs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Police and Paramilitary forces have raided and seized smuggled and counterfeit sanitizers, masks, PPE Kits, disinfectants, electronic goods, cigarettes, packaged food, alcohol and several other items across India. 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. FICCI CASCADE congratulated the exemplary work of the enforcement agencies and urged the government to remain vigilant so that illegal operators do not use the current crisis to expand their nefarious activities.

I am confident that you will find this issue a meaningful read. I once again request all stakeholders to join hands in strengthening our endeavour. It is my firm conviction that concerted efforts invariably go a long way in achieving desired results.

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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 Affairs, 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.





The North East Times

September 16, 2020

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

GUWAHATI, SEPT 16: The customs sleuths have seized various goods worth Rs 110 crore in 710 operations in North East since the COVID-19 pandemic hit 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 industry chamber FICCI, Commissioner of Customs (North East) G M Kamei said their officials are conducting raids in coordination with other departments.

"During the COVID-19 period, we have successfully conducted 710 operations and seized goods worth Rs 110 crore," he said at the webinar by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE).

The customs officers 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 sleuths from various agencies, FICCI CASCADE Chairman Anil Rajput said, "The enforcement officials have relentlessly pursued the smugglers and counterfeiters in the North East and over the last few months, seized contraband and illicit cigarettes, liquor, drugs, currency and consumer goods."

On September 6, the FICCI CASCADE had said that the recent rise in smuggling in North East could be attributed to economic distress caused by COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in loss of jobs and lack of income due to recurrent lockdowns.

Agencies.

Times of India

July 30, 2020

MP official calls for coordinated approach to curb counterfeiting

New Delhi: Principal secretary for Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion of the Madhya Pradesh government, Sanjay Kumar Shukla said the government, law enforcement agencies, industry and consumers must work in tandem to avoid counterfeiting and smuggling.

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, Shukla said that in order to eliminate this problem in India, FICCI can share international best practices and actionable points with the government on how

other countries have been able to tackle this problem successfully. "The government, law enforcement agencies, industry and consumers must come together to identify the gaps and act in a coordinated way to address counterfeiting and smuggling," he said. "I must compliment the Madhya Pradesh government and the enforcement

agencies for relentlessly pursuing the perpetrators of illicit trade. Despite the mammoth challenge posed by the pandemic, their hands-on approach and alertness has been highlighted by seizures of large number of cigarettes, liquor, synthetic milk, fake currency and much more, said Anil Rajput, chairman, FICCI CASCADE.



WEBINAR ON

Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond

Focus State – Madhya Pradesh

29th July, 2020

Illicit trade in terms of counterfeiting and smuggling have emerged as one of the most formidable challenges before the nation, especially during the current coronavirus pandemic which has led to an economic distress. Illicit traders have always attacked vulnerabilities, be it brands, supply chains or consumers. As the perpetrators are looking at innovative ways to deceive the system to carry out their activities, they in turn deeply harm the economic interests of the nation. It is important to note that there is a steep rise in cases of smuggling and counterfeiting during the past few months, adversely impacting not only the government exchequer and industry sales, but also threatening local industries on which livelihoods of many depend.

More so, as a result of the supply chain disruptions, globalisation has now taken a back seat and nations are increasingly looking inwards to fulfill their needs and



requirements. PM's clarion call to promote local manufacturing and local goods will also play a crucial role to address the demand and supply gap and deter cross border smuggling.





Hence it was felt that it is vital to discuss and understand the disruptions caused by the pandemic. As new vulnerabilities emerge, and existing vulnerabilities at greater risk of exploitation by criminals, tackling this global scourge becomes even more acute and urgent in the current scenario. It is with the above background, FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) organized a webinar on 'Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond' on 29th July 2020. The webinar focused on the state of Madhya Pradesh and was a part of a series of such interactions to be organized across the country by FICCI CASCADE to highlight this issue and elicit response from different states.

Shri Sanjay Kumar Shukla, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion, Government of Madhya Pradesh was the chief guest at the webinar. Mr. Shukla said, "Government, law enforcement agencies, industry and consumers must come together to identify the gaps and act in a coordinated way to address counterfeiting and smuggling". He further added that in order to eliminate this problem in India, FICCI can share international best practices and actionable points to the government on how other countries have been able to counter this problem successfully.

FICCI CASCADE Chairman, Mr. Anil Rajput while welcoming the distinguished guests and participants said, "I must compliment the Madhya Pradesh government and the enforcement agencies for relentlessly pursuing the perpetrators of illicit trade. Despite the mammoth challenge

posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, their hands on approach and alertness has been highlighted by seizures of large number of cigarettes, liquor, synthetic milk, fake currency and much more. I'm confident that going forward they will keep up their stellar performance and continue to play an extremely important role in our fight against illicit trade".

Speaking on 'vocal for local' being a potent tool in our fight against Illicit Trade, it was emphasized that as India starts to produce strong domestic brands and gradually reduces its dependence on foreign products, the circulation of foreign goods will over a period be reduced. As the profits begin to dry up, it will subsequently demotivate the criminals to further undertake such illegitimate activities.

As several cases of seizures of illicit goods are being reported amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Vipin Maheshwari IPS, Additional Director General, Special Task Force, Madhya



Pradesh Police in his address said that COVID-19 is a wakeup call for all of us. No product category has been spared, be it milk, cosmetics, clothes, footwear, seeds, fertilizers or pharma. Mr. Maheshwari was of the opinion that sustained awareness campaigns for people, necessary amendments in laws, increasing penalties and sentences, more product testing laboratories are some areas where the government, police and business community should work together to eliminate this challenge.

The session was chaired by Mr. P K Malhotra, Former Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, Gol and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE. Mr. Malhotra highlighted that smuggling and counterfeiting harms the economy in multidimensional ways and the problem has been aggravated by globalisation and increased mobility. He also emphasized that effective coordination between central and state agencies, strengthening domestic manufacturing, addressing the demand and supply gap and leveraging technology are

needed to make a conducive environment free from illicit products.

The webinar underscored the need for policy level coordination between government and the industry to address this menace. Illegal trade not only leads to revenue loss for the government but also leads to unemployment and hence a more focused and collaborated approach along with training and sensitization of enforcement officers for such crimes was much needed. The webinar was attended by industry, government officials, officers from the enforcement agencies and stakeholders in this segment.

Mr. Dinesh Patidar, Chairman, FICCI Madhya Pradesh State Council and CMD, Shakti Pumps India Ltd. made the concluding remarks.

<https://www.ficcicascade.in/webinar-on-combating-counterfeiting-and-smuggling-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-beyond-4/>



#InTheNews

Joint efforts needed to address counterfeiting & smuggling: Officials

OUR STAFF REPORTER
Indore

Sanjay Kumar Shukla, principal secretary, Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion, Government of MP, has called for joint efforts by the government, law enforcement agencies, industry and consumers to fight against counterfeiting and smuggling.

He was 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). Shukla said that in order to eliminate this problem in India, FICCI can share international best practices and actionable points with the government on how other countries have been able to tackle this problem successfully.

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MP official calls for coordinated approach to curb counterfeiting

By IANS
Published on: Thu 30th July 2020, 02:54 PM

New Delhi, July 30 (IANS) Principal Secretary for Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion of the Madhya Pradesh government, Sanjay Kumar Shukla has said that the government, law enforcement agencies, industry and consumers must work in tandem to avoid counterfeiting and smuggling.

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), Shukla said that in order to eliminate this problem in India, FICCI can share international best practices and actionable points with the government on how other countries have been able to tackle this problem successfully.

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नई दिल्ली, जेपनएन। मप्र सरकार के औद्योगिक नीति एवं निवेश संवर्धन विभाग के प्रधान सचिव संजय कुमार शुक्ला ने कहा कि जालसाजी और तस्करी से निपटने की दिशा में संयोजित तरीके से काम करने और खासियों को समझने के लिए सरकार, कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों, उद्योग और उपभोक्ताओं को एक साथ आना होगा। फिक्को की अध्यक्षता की बर्बाद कर रही तस्करी एवं जालसाजी की गतिविधियों के खिलाफ कमेटी (कार्केड) द्वारा कोविड-19 महामारी के दौरान एवं उसके बाद जालसाजी एवं तस्करी से लड़ने पर आयोजित वेबिनार में श्री शुक्ला ने कहा कि भारत से इस समस्या को खत्म करने की दिशा में फिक्को सरकार को अवगत करा सकती है कि कैसे अन्य देश इस समस्या का सफलतापूर्वक सामना करने में सक्षम हुए हैं।

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The Times of India

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Govt bats for coordinated approach to address counterfeiting & smuggling

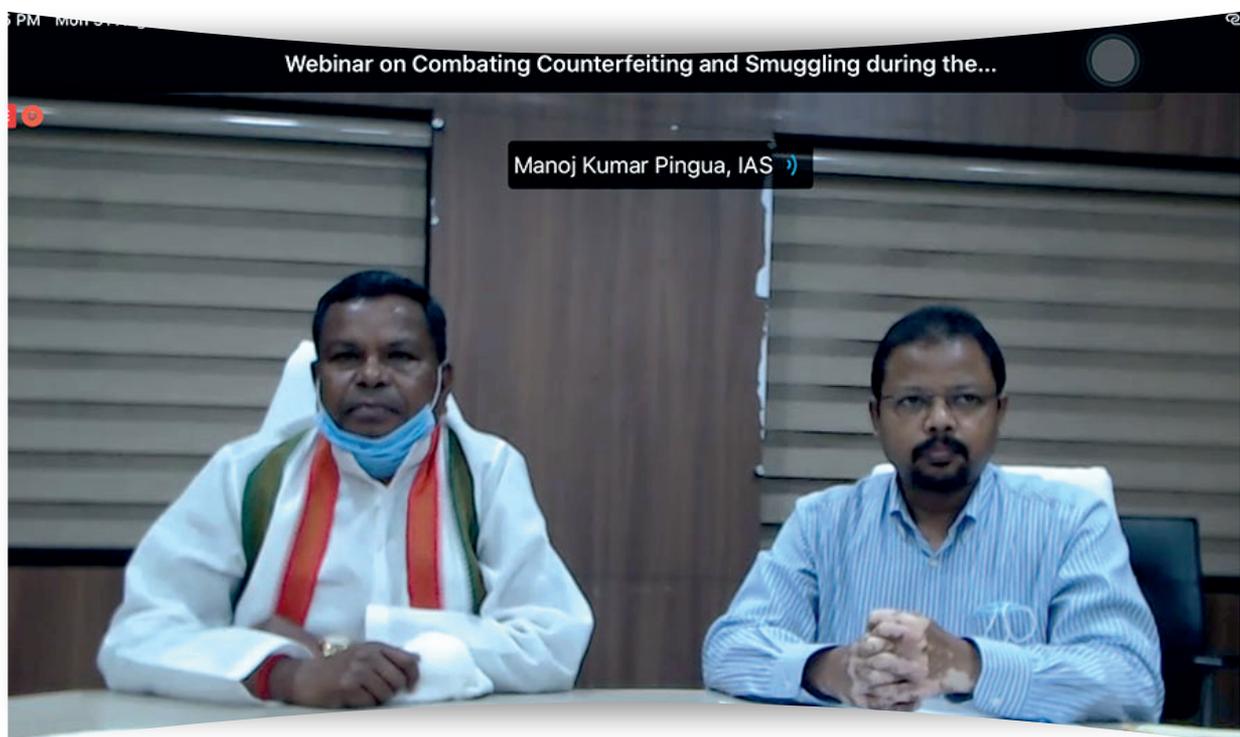
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WEBINAR ON

Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling During the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond

Focus State – Chhattisgarh

August 31, 2020



FICCI'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



Recent Initiatives

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.

<https://www.ficcicascade.in/webinar-on-combating-counterfeiting-and-smuggling-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-beyond-chhattisgarh/>

#InTheNews



BW BUSINESSWORLD

Chhattisgarh Govt Committed To Promote Local Products, Eliminate Illicit Trade In The State: , Kawasi Lakhma, Industry Minister

The webinar was attended by industry, government officials, officers from the enforcement agencies and stakeholders in this segment and focused on the state of Chhattisgarh.

Mr Kawasi Lakhma, Minister, Commerce and Industry, Govt. of Chhattisgarh today 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."

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), Mr Lakhma said that the Chhattisgarh government has taken unprecedented reforms to create an enabling environment and is committed to offering investor a friendly infrastructure.

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He further highlighted 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.

Chhattisgarh gov't committed to promote local products, eliminate illicit trade in the State: Chhattisgarh Industry Minister, Kawasi Lakhma

By India Education Diary Bureau Admin - September 1, 2020

New Delhi: Mr Kawasi Lakhma, Minister, Commerce and Industry, Govt. of Chhattisgarh today 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."

Tuesday, 1 September 2020

Chhattisgarh gov't committed to promote local products, eliminate illicit trade in the State: Chhattisgarh Industry Minister, Kawasi Lakhma



New Delhi, 1 September 2020: Mr Kawasi Lakhma, Minister, Commerce and Industry, Govt. of Chhattisgarh today 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."

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'Chhattisgarh gov't committed to promote local products'

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रेलू उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देने सरकार प्रतिबद्ध - कवासी लखमा

कवसी लखमा, उद्योग और वाणिज्य विभाग के मंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार ने आज एक ऑनलाइन कार्यक्रम में कहा कि सरकार रेलवे उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। उन्होंने कहा कि रेलवे उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार ने कई नीतियां लागू की हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि रेलवे उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार ने कई नीतियां लागू की हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि रेलवे उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार ने कई नीतियां लागू की हैं।



राज्य में घरेलू उत्पादों को बढ़ावा देने एवं अवैध कारोबार को खत्म करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध - कवासी लखमा

नई दिल्ली, 1 सेप्टेम्बर 2020: श्री कवासी लखमा, उद्योग और वाणिज्य विभाग के मंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार ने आज एक ऑनलाइन कार्यक्रम में कहा कि सरकार रेलवे उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। उन्होंने कहा कि रेलवे उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार ने कई नीतियां लागू की हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि रेलवे उद्योगों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार ने कई नीतियां लागू की हैं।

Recent Initiatives

WEBINAR ON

Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling During the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond

Focus – North East

September 15, 2020



Recent Initiatives

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 benefited 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 Customs 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 menace of smuggling in the region.

Congratulating the Assam government and the enforcement agencies Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE said, "The enforcement officials have relentlessly pursued the smugglers and counterfeiters in the North Eastern region and over the last few months seized contraband and illicit cigarettes, liquor, drugs, currency and consumer goods". He urged them to keep up the good work which will ensure that the perpetrators of illicit trade do not see the covid-19 situation as a reason to exploit vulnerable consumers and organizations.

The session was chaired by Ms. Kameswari Subramanian, International Expert, Customs Law, Procedures & Trade facilitation and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE .The concluding remarks were made by Mr. Ashish Phookan, Chairman, FICCI Assam State Council. Issues such as consumer safety, safeguarding legitimate businesses while promoting indigenous production which will play a significant role in the path to our economic recovery was emphasized by the speakers. The webinar was attended by enforcement officials, officers from the enforcement agencies and stakeholders in this segment.

<https://www.ficcicascade.in/webinar-on-combating-counterfeiting-and-smuggling-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-beyond-north-east/>

#InTheNews



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 Debrajyoti 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 need strict measures to counter these activities and protect the interests of 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 on '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 Khaund, Secretary, Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Assam, said that the Prime Minister's call for '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 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, North Eastern 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 commissioner shared that during the COVID period they conducted 710 seizures of goods worth Rs. 110 crore. Congratulating the Assam government and the enforcement agencies, Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE said, "The enforcement officials have relentlessly pursued the smugglers and counterfeiters in the northeastern region and over the last few months seized contraband and illicit cigarettes, liquor, drugs, currency and consumer goods." Kamei

Business Standard

Customs seized goods worth Rs 110 cr in NE during Covid-19

NEW DELHI, Sept 16 (PTI) — Customs officials have seized goods worth Rs 110 crore in 710 operations in North East since the COVID-19 pandemic, a senior official said on Wednesday.

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Outlook

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

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Recent Initiatives

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

PCR, Jammu and Kashmir

16th October 2020

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.

<https://www.ficcicascade.in/capacity-building-programme-for-police-officers-on-prevention-of-counterfeiting-smuggling-and-piracy-jammu-kashmir/>

CRACKING DOWN

A menace even before the pandemic, the illicit worldwide trade of counterfeits has become even more of a danger to civilized society in the times of COVID-19



Anil Rajput

Chairman, FICCI CASCADE
Sr. VP, 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 substandard 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.

Cracking down

A menace even before the pandemic, the illicit worldwide trade of counterfeits has become even more of a danger to civilised society in the times of COVID-19



ANIL RAJPUT

The fact that those involved in this illegal 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

The year 2020 will 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 it's 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 Organisation 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 per cent of global trade. Unfortunately, the pandemic has not only complicated this situation but has made matters worse.

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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 policymakers need

to escalate this matter and deal with these crimes as nothing short of a national threat.

Tackling the global scourge and surge of smuggled and counterfeit goods becomes even more critical during this ongoing public health crisis. Realising 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 organisations 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 sensitise 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 in the interest of all, that the systems in place only strengthen over time as there is absolutely no room for laxity. The fact that those involved in this illicit 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.

The writer is the Chairman, FICCI CASCADE and Senior VP, Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd. Views expressed are personal

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 sensitise 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.

Why Be 'Vocal for Local'



P. C Jha

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

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 minimising the menace of cross-border illicit trade



PC JHA

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The writer is an Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs. Views expressed are personal

FICCI CASCADE LAUDS ASSAM RIFLES' SUCCESSFUL INTERCEPTION OF ILLICIT CIGARETTES WORTH Rs 14 CRORE IN NORTH EASTERN STATES

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The Hill Times

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GET STARTED

Rise in smuggling in NE due to eco distress caused by Covid-19: FICCI

GUWAHATI: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce

FICCI CASCADE lauds Assam Rifles' successful interception of illicit cigarettes

GUWAHATI, Sep 6: FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities, Destroying the Economy (CASCADE), a dedicated platform for generating awareness on the adverse impact of smuggling and illicit trading, congratulated the Assam Rifles and the officers for their valuable contribution in intercepting illicit cigarettes.

Notably, in a commendable effort, the officers of Assam Rifles in the last two months seized smuggled cigarettes worth around INR 14 crore along with other illicit items such as drugs, betel nuts etc.

Various battalions of the forces intercepted smuggled cigarettes transporting the illicit consignments using bikes, cars and trucks while hiding them inside rice sacks, jungle tracks, vegetation and others.

Leading the brave officers of Assam Rifles, Anil Rajput, Chairman of FICCI CASCADE said, "The illicit cigarette smuggling is a formidable challenge before us. It has been draining our government exchequer by creating opportunities for the smugglers and their corrupt partners in the hinterlands. Assam Rifles' proactive vigilance in intercepting the movement of smuggled goods is a definitive step towards putting fear in the hearts of those who deal in such trade. Their commendable effort provides an example to be keenly studied and followed by other enforcement agencies of the country."

FICCI CASCADE has also requested Secretary, Border, Assam for appropriate intervention to curtail the need for a greater border security of the issue and supply of the illicit goods. It has also been urging the government to take stringent measures to curb the illicit trade in the ways to mitigate the threat that should be addressed with strict vigilance and firmness.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES Politics

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Recent increase in smuggling in the North East can be due to economic distress insinuated by Covid: FICCI Committee

By Bikash Singh, ET Bureau | Last Updated: Sep 06, 2020, 08:33 PM IST

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Synopsis: Various battalions of the forces intercepted smugglers transporting the illicit consignments using bikes, cars and trucks while hiding them inside rice sacks, jungle tracks, vegetation and others.

Guwahati: FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) states that experts believe that the recent increase in smuggling in the North East could be due to the economic distress insinuated by COVID-19.

In a statement the body stated, "Loss of jobs and lack of income due to recurrent lockdowns have left citizens without a means of livelihood. Reports suggest that smugglers and insurgents are using people from the local tribal

12:55 PM

Rise in smuggling in NE due to eco distress caused by COVID-19: FICCI

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) on Sunday said the recent rise in smuggling in the northeast can be attributed to economic distress caused by COVID-19 pandemic.
- The FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) lauded the efforts of paramilitary force Assam Rifles and congratulated its Director General along with other officers for their anti-smuggling operations.

12:06 PM

Rise in smuggling in NE due to eco distress caused by COVID-19: FICCI

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) on Sunday said the recent rise in smuggling in the northeast can be attributed to economic distress caused by COVID-19 pandemic. The FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) lauded the efforts of paramilitary force Assam Rifles and congratulated its Director General along with other officers for their anti-smuggling operations. "Experts believe that the recent increase in smuggling in the North East could be due to the economic distress insinuated by COVID-19. Loss of jobs and lack of income due to recurrent lockdowns have left citizens without a means of livelihood," FICCI CASCADE said in a statement.

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Economic distress due to Covid-19 causes rise in smuggling in NE : FICCI

September 6, 2020

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Economic distress due to Covid-19 causes rise in smuggling in NE

Guwahati/Kohima, Sep 6 | Industry body FICCI on Sunday said the recent rise in smuggling in the northeastern region can be attributed to economic distress insinuated by COVID-19 pandemic.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) said loss of jobs and lack of income due to recurrent lockdowns have left citizens without a means of livelihood.

Covid-induced financial stress led to surge in smuggling across NE: Ficci

Guwahati: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) on Sunday said the recent rise in smuggling in the northeast can be attributed to economic distress caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

Ficci's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) lauded the efforts of the Assam Rifles and congratulated its director general along with other officers for their anti-smuggling operations.

"Experts believe that the recent increase in smuggling in the northeast could be due to the economic distress insinuated by COVID-19. Loss of jobs and lack of income due to recurrent lockdowns have left citizens without any means of livelihood," the FICCI committee said in a statement.

Reports suggested that smugglers and insurgents are using people from the local tribal areas to transport smuggled goods by taking advantage of their financial vulnerability caused due to COVID-19, it added.

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FICCI CASCADE

The Times of India

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Deccan Herald

Smuggling rises in north east due to economic distress caused by Covid-19: FICCI

Guwahati, Sep 6 (PTI) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) on Sunday said the recent rise in smuggling in the northeast can be attributed to economic distress caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

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"Experts believe that the recent increase in smuggling in the North East could be due to the economic distress insinuated by COVID-19. Loss of jobs and lack of income due to recurrent lockdowns have left citizens without a means of livelihood," FICCI CASCADE said in a statement.

Reports suggest that smugglers and insurgents are using people from the local tribal areas to transport smuggled goods by taking advantage of their financial vulnerability caused due to COVID-19, it added.

FICCI said the Assam Rifles in the last two months seized smuggled cigarettes worth around Rs 14 crore by conducting 26 operations. Other illicit items such as drugs and betel nuts, mostly enter through the international border with Myanmar, it said.

"In order to create large-scale awareness of this menace, the FICCI panel has been conducting interactions across several states in India on the ways to mitigate this challenge."

"It also appeals to the government to declare smuggling as a national threat that should be addressed with stricter vigilance and reforms," the industry chamber said.

Various battalions of the paramilitary force intercepted smugglers transporting the illicit consignments using bikes, cars and trucks while hiding them inside rice sacks, and other items, it added.

Media Coverage

Rise in NE smuggling due to economic distress caused by Covid-19: FICCI

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"Experts believe that the recent increase in smuggling in the North East could be due to the economic distress insinuated by COVID-19. Loss of jobs and lack of income due to movement lockdowns have left citizens without a means of livelihood," FICCI CASCADE said in a statement. Reports suggest that smugglers and insurgents are using people

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Various battalions of the paramilitary force interdicted smugglers transporting the illicit consignments using bikes, cars and trucks while hiding them inside rice sacks and other items, it added.

Appealing for stricter vigilance along the border, FICCI CASCADE Chairman Anil Rajgud said, "Illicit cigarette smuggling is a formidable challenge before our nation that has been plaguing our government since the industry chamber said. Agencies

tax arbitrage. It also threatens local industries and their capacity to create livelihoods.

The FICCI CASCADE has requested the Union Home Secretary for appropriate intervention to sensitize other paramilitary forces on the gravity of the issue and amplify the need for a greater focus on combating smuggling and smuggling-related crimes at the borders, the statement said.

"In order to create large-scale awareness of this menace, FICCI CASCADE has been conducting interactions with government and enforcement agencies across several states in India on the ways to mitigate this challenge.

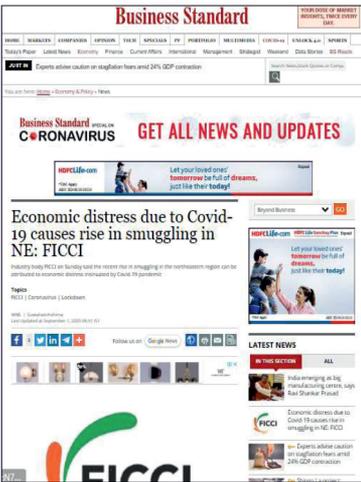
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Gana Adhikar

উত্তর-পূর্বাঞ্চলৰ ৰাজ্যসমূহত ১৪ কোটি টকাৰ অৰৈধ চিগাৰেট জব কৰাত অসম ৰাইফলছৰ সফলতাৰ প্ৰশংসা

গোৱাহাটী, ৬ সেপ্টেম্বৰ: অসম ৰাইফলছৰ সফলতাৰ প্ৰশংসা কৰিছে ফিচি। ফিচিৰ কাৰ্যকৰণ আৰু কৌশলিক ক্ৰিয়াকলাপৰ বাবে অসম ৰাইফলছৰ সফলতাৰ প্ৰশংসা কৰিছে ফিচি। ফিচিৰ কাৰ্যকৰণ আৰু কৌশলিক ক্ৰিয়াকলাপৰ বাবে অসম ৰাইফলছৰ সফলতাৰ প্ৰশংসা কৰিছে ফিচি।

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Business Standard
Economic distress due to Covid-19 causes rise in smuggling in NE: FICCI

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Dainik Jagran

ফিচিকী কাৰকেড নৈ অসম ৰাইফলছ কী সহায়না কী

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Ficci Cascade Lauds Assam Rifles' Successful Interception Of Illicit Cigarettes Worth Rs 14 Crore In North Eastern States

Guwahati, September 06: FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy, (CASCADE), a dedicated platform for generating awareness on the adverse impact of smuggling and illicit trading, congratulated the Director General of Assam Rifles and the officers for their valuable contribution in anti-smuggling work. In a commendable effort, the officers of Assam Rifles in the last two months seized smuggled cigarettes worth around Rs. 14 crore along with other illicit items such as drugs, betel nuts etc. Various battalions of the forces interdicted smugglers transporting the illicit consignments using bikes, cars and trucks while hiding them inside rice sacks, jungle tracks, vegetation and others. Lauding the brave officers of Assam Rifles, Mr. Anil Rajgud, Chairman of FICCI CASCADE said, "Illicit cigarette smuggling is a formidable challenge before our nation that has been draining our government exchequer by creating opportunities from tax arbitrage. It also threatens local industries and their capacity to create livelihoods. Assam Rifles' proactive vigilance in intercepting the movement of smuggled goods is a definitive step towards putting fear in the hearts of those who deal in such trading. Their commendable effort sets forth an example to be keenly studied and followed by other enforcement agencies of the country." FICCI CASCADE has also requested Secretary, Home, Govt. of India for appropriate intervention to sensitize other paramilitary forces on the gravity of

The Hindu



The recent rise in smuggling in the northeast can be attributed to economic distress

Experts believe that the recent increase in smuggling in the North East could be due to the economic distress insinuated by COVID-19. Loss of jobs and lack of income due to movement lockdowns have left citizens without a means of livelihood," FICCI CASCADE said in a statement. Reports suggest that smugglers and insurgents are using people



AWARENESS THROUGH ART



Media Coverage



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. \$1.6 million in illegal cigarettes seized

6 July 2020 | Dryden Now

Over \$1.6 million of illegal tobacco has been seized and taken off the streets by local police. On July 5, members of the Dryden OPP were conducting traffic enforcement duties on Highway 17 east of Dryden, when they stopped and investigated two vehicles. Between the two vehicles, police found and seized 386 cases of illegal cigarettes with an estimated value of \$1.6 million.

<https://www.drydennow.com/local/1-6-million-in-illegal-cigarettes-seized>



2. More Than \$3.1 Million Of Counterfeit Watches Seized At O'Hare

11 July 2020 | CBS Chicago

United States Customs and Border Protection officers seized 193 counterfeit watches worth more than \$3.1 million at the International Mail Facility at Chicago O'Hare between June 21 and July 6, CBP officials confirm. CBP officers seized 175 parcels, most of which were inspected because they were mis-manifested and had x-ray anomalies. Most of the watches were Rolex.

<https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2020/07/11/more-than-3-1-million-of-counterfeit-watches-seized-at-ohare/>



3. Shanghai police seize \$242 million in fake products, vowing to protect IP rights

15 July 2020 | Global Times

Shanghai police have reportedly seized copycat products worth more than 1.7 billion yuan (\$242 million) this year, destroying some 240 dens that produce, store or sell counterfeit items. During a special campaign focusing on cracking down on intellectual property (IP) violations codenamed "Kunlun 2020," police in Shanghai said they have solved more than 230 related cases, and protected the legitimate rights and interests of more than 60 brands, China Central Television (CCTV) reported on Tuesday.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1194561.shtml>



4. U.S. customs in Mobile seize \$120,000 worth of illegal disinfectant wipes

16 July 2020 | Alabama

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in the Port of Mobile have intercepted \$120,000 of illegal disinfectant wipes, continuing the federal agency's purge of mislabeled and unregistered personal protection equipment and cleaning supplies. "The dedicated workforce of CBP remains vigilant and committed to identifying and seizing counterfeit, unapproved or otherwise substandard COVID-19 products that can potentially threaten the health and safety of American consumers," said Anthony Acrey, Mobile Port Director. "Establishing and maintaining partnerships with other government agencies is vital to ensure success."

<https://www.al.com/news/beaches/2020/07/us-customs-in-mobile-seize-120000-worth-of-illegal-disinfectant-wipes.html>



5. Counterfeit crackdown nets \$242M in fake products

18 July 2020 | Asia Times

Shanghai police have a message for would-be operators selling bogus goods - sooner or later, you will be caught. Police reportedly seized copycat products worth more than 1.7 billion yuan (US\$242 million) this year, destroying some 240 dens that produce, store or sell counterfeit items, The Global Times reported. During a special campaign focusing on cracking down on intellectual property (IP) violations codenamed "Kunlun 2020," police in Shanghai said they have solved more than 230 related cases, and protected the legitimate rights and interests of more than 60 brands, China Central Television (CCTV) reported.

<https://asiatimes.com/2020/07/counterfeit-crackdown-nets-242m-in-fake-products/>



6. Police seize fake COVID kits in international trafficking crackdown

22 July 2020 | Live Mint

Police have seized 17,000 fake COVID-19 testing kits discovered in raids against illicit food and drink products across dozens of countries, Interpol said Wednesday. Officials seized \$40 million (34.5 million euros) worth of fake or substandard products in 77 countries, and arrested 407 people in the operation, carried out from December 2019 to June 2020. The products included contaminated dairy products, meat from illegally slaughtered animals and food products falsely labelled as medicinal cures, said Interpol, based in the southeastern French city of Lyon.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/world/police-seize-fake-covid-kits-in-international-trafficking-crackdown-11595418376479.html>

7. Middle East/North African Authorities Seize Fake Medical Products

22 July 2020 | OCCRP

Amid a global surge for medical supplies caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, an Interpol-coordinated operation across the Middle East and North Africa seized thousands of counterfeit medical masks and drugs. Between February and April, authorities from Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Qatar and Saudi Arabia carried out inspections on their land, water and air borders, targeting pharmaceutical crimes.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/12818-middle-east-north-african-authorities-seize-fake-medical-products>

8. Two trucks intercepted at border post attempting to smuggle R2m worth of illicit goods

23 July 2020 | The Citizen

Police say two suspects will appear in court on charges of smuggling illicit cigarettes and Contravention of Medicine and Related Substance Control Act. Police deployed at the Groblersbridge Border post outside Lephalale, Limpopo, on Tuesday intercepted two trucks attempting to smuggle R2 million worth of illicit goods into South Africa.

<https://citizen.co.za/news/south-africa/crime/2327206/two-trucks-intercepted-at-border-post-attempting-to-smuggle-r2m-worth-of-illicit-goods/>

9. ICA foils bid to smuggle 5,000 cartons of cigarettes hidden under lorry

18 August 2020 | The Strait Times

SINGAPORE - More than 5,000 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were found hidden under a Malaysian-registered lorry at Tuas Checkpoint last Thursday (Aug 13). The lorry's driver, a 47-year-old Malaysian, has been charged in court. The duty evaded for the cigarettes amounted to \$429,310, and the goods and services tax evaded was \$34,760. Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers had spotted something suspicious about the exterior of the lorry, which was carrying a consignment of precast concrete.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/courts-crime/ica-foils-bid-to-smuggle-5000-cartons-of-cigarettes-hidden-under-lorry>

10. Over 120,000 Counterfeit Golf Products Seized In Multi-City Raids In China

23 August 2020 | Forbes

A historic crackdown on counterfeit golf equipment seized 120,000 pieces of fake product bearing brand names such as Titleist, TaylorMade, PXG, PING, Callaway and XXIO after police in China simultaneously raided 10 locations in four different cities this week. The U.S. Golf Manufacturers Anti-Counterfeiting Working Group, also known as the Golf Group, announced the successful raids against the online product sellers.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/erikmatuszewski/2020/08/23/over-120000-counterfeit-golf-products-seized-in-multi-city-raids-in-china/#3347e1de6352>

NATIONAL NEWS

1. Four Held for Their Alleged Involvement in Smuggling Luxurious Watches: Customs

27 September 2020 | Latest LY

New Delhi, Sep 27 (PTI) Four people have been arrested by the customs officials for their alleged involvement in smuggling luxurious watches worth nearly Rs 3 crore, according to an official statement issued on Sunday. "Delhi airport customs on the basis of suspicion intercepted two Indian passengers on 24.09.20 coming from Dubai via flight UK 224 having four (04) high-end luxurious watches valued at Rs 51.55 lakh, with an intention to smuggle them," it said.

<https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/india-news-four-held-for-their-alleged-involvement-in-smuggling-luxurious-watches-customs-2053147.html>

2. Smuggled foreign cigarettes seized in Hyderabad, five held

3 July 2020 | The Hindu

Smuggled foreign cigarettes valued at ₹ 1.03 crore were seized by Hyderabad city police on Friday. The contraband was concealed in 503 cartons.

Acting on a tip-off, sleuths of the Commissioner's Task Force (North Zone) intercepted a goods vehicle near Rishab Agency in Siddiamber Bazar and found huge quantities of foreign cigarettes, which were smuggled into the city.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/smuggled-foreign-cigarettes-seized-in-hyderabad-five-held/article31982675.ece>

3. Smuggling of gold, cigarettes, liquor surges amid COVID

15 July 2020 | The Siasat Daily

New Delhi: Gold, cigarettes and liquor were among high tax items which topped the list of smuggled goods across India amid the current coronavirus crisis that has led to economic distress. Smuggling of these goods not only registered a sharp spike amid the pandemic but also smugglers, interestingly, used innovative measures like ferrying illegal cigarettes in COVID-19 special trains.

<https://www.siasat.com/smuggling-of-gold-cigarettes-liquor-surges-amid-covid-1923943/>

4. Fake injections racket busted in Gujarat

18 July 2020 | The Week

Gujarat's Food and Drugs Control Administration on Saturday unearthed a racket of selling fake and spurious Tocilizumab injections in Surat and Ahmedabad. The FDCA busted the racket about a week after another racket of selling life saving injections at a high rate was unearthed in the state. Four persons have been arrested in connection with the latest case. Raids were conducted in Surat and it was found that one Sohel Ismail Tai manufactured spurious drugs under the name of Genic Pharma. Machines, ampules and API worth Rs 8 lakh were seized.

<https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2020/07/18/fake-injections-racket-busted-in-gujarat.html>

5. Indore: Four traders of Ranipura Market arrested for selling fake cosmetic products

29 July 2020 | Free Press Journal

Indore: Four traders of Ranipura Market were nabbed selling fake cosmetic products with label of a renowned company, on Wednesday. When nabbed, the accused were cheating customers by selling them the fake products. According to DIG Harinarayanachari Mishra, a team of Central Kotwali police station arrested four shopkeepers and seized fake cosmetics worth Rs 4.66 lakh.

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/indore/indore-four-traders-of-ranipura-market-arrested-for-selling-fake-cosmetic-products>

6. Customs busts illegal Agarbatti import racket

30 July 2020 | CNBC TV18

In a major drive against the smuggling of Agarbattis from Vietnam, Customs officers on Wednesday arrested Bharat H. Shah and his son, Shri Ronik Shah at Chennai after seizing 161.94 MT of Agarbattis and 68.36 MT of Agarbatti Powder which was found concealed in containers imported by M/s. Indian Agarbatti Manufacturers, Bangalore. This is one of the biggest seizures of restricted items in recent times at the port.

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/business/customs-busts-smuggling-racket-in-agarbattis-by-misuse-of-asian-free-trade-agreement-6493261.htm>

7. Kolkata Police seizes 1,400 litres of fake hand sanitizer, 2 arrested

1 August 2020 | India Today

Kolkata Police has seized 1,400 litres of fake hand sanitizer from a godown in the city. The Enforcement Branch (EB), along with the Anti-Rowdy Squad (ARS) of the Kolkata Police, raided two locations in central Kolkata on Thursday and recovered the spurious sanitizers. Acting on a tip-off about the manufacture and sale of spurious sanitiser in Ezra Street locality under Hare Street police station limits, sleuths of the city police conducted a raid in the area and seized 1,400 litres of such sanitiser from two shops.

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

8. 107 kg gold sneaked in via Kochi airport this year in diplomatic bags

11 July 2020 | The New Indian Express

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: As much as 107 kg of gold is estimated to have been sneaked in inside diplomatic baggage through Kochi airport this year, with its end destination remaining unclear. This has prompted the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to take over the case, highly placed sources told TNIE.

Intelligence sources said the gold arrived in various consignments and it need to be ascertained whether the booty had ended up with extremist groups or those who are engaged in floating a parallel economy.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2020/jul/11/107kg-gold-sneaked-in-via-kochi-airport-this-year-in-diplomatic-bags-2168109.html>

9. Water tanker carrying 10,000 liquor bottles seized in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur

7 September 2020 | India Today

The enforcement authorities in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur have seized at least 10,000 bottles of illegal liquor from a water tanker. The water tanker carrying illegal liquor was seized at Munagodu Mandal in Amaravati region of Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Special Enforcement Bureau seized around 10,000 illegal bottles in the water tanker and arrested eight men involved in the supply of illegal liquor to other areas from Andhra Pradesh. The liquor was illegally being transported from Hyderabad to Amaravati.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/water-tanker-10000-liquor-bottles-seized-andhra-pradesh-guntur-1719334-2020-09-07>

10. In last 4.5 years, over 500 cases in Delhi for producing, selling fake products.

21 September 2020 | Millennium Post

New Delhi: In the last four and a half years, the Delhi Police have registered over 500 cases against various individuals for selling fake products starting from eatables and water to costly watches, medicines and medical equipment being sold in the Capital. Police said they had arrested more than 530 people since 2016 in these cases. According to the Delhi Police's data on Copyright Act cases, accessed by Millennium Post, 47 cases have been registered this year till August in relation to selling fake products. The total number of such cases last year was 148; over 80 in 2018; around 115 in 2017 and 159 in 2016.

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/delhi/in-last-45-years-over-500-cases-in-delhi-for-producing-selling-fake-products-418889?infinite-scroll=1>



Campaign on Cross Border Illicit trade

Let's Take Stern Steps to fight the Growing Hazards of **COUNTERFEITING & SMUGGLING** Through West Bengal borders

Major commodities smuggled outright into India includes :

- Gold
- Silver
- Cigarettes
- Black Pepper
- Dates
- Readymade Garments
- Cosmetics
- Toiletries
- Electronic Goods
- Wildlife

Source : DRI

LET'S STAND UNITED AGAINST ILLICIT TRADE

Cross Border Smuggling is a big Hindrance in the Growth of the Economy

STOP SMUGGLING

STAMP OUT ILLICIT TRADE

Let's act unitedly to reform the **Health of the Economy**

STOP SMUGGLING

Our concerns about illicit trade are common, but our efforts are scattered

Time for India to Grow Away from Illicit Trade

COMBAT ILLICIT TRADE

Consumer Awareness Campaign

WHAT TO LOOK IN A GENUINE HAND SANITIZER

- A GENUINE HAND SANITIZER IS ALCOHOL BASED (ETHANOL OR IPA) 75% AS RECOMMENDED BY WHO
- GENUINE HAND SANITIZERS ON APPLICATION VAPORIZES QUICKLY WITH A COOLING EFFECT
- GENUINE HAND SANITIZERS CONTAIN BRAND MARKINGS AND MANUFACTURER'S NAME
- FAKE HAND SANITIZERS COST CHEAPER THAN THE GENUINE HAND SANITIZER
- ALWAYS BUY SANITIZERS FROM RELIABLE SOURCES WITH A BILL

BE GENUINE BUY GENUINE

FAKE

STAMP OUT ILLICIT TRADE

WHAT ARE RESPONSIBLE BRANDS DOING TO GENERATE CONSUMER AWARENESS ON ILLICIT PRODUCTS?

FOR CONSUMERS

SOME BRANDS HAVE 'COUNTERFEIT PRODUCT' SECTION ON THERE WEBSITES

'What to watch for—and what to do'

BE GENUINE BUY GENUINE

FAKE

STAMP OUT ILLICIT TRADE

How to Identify a Counterfeit N95 Respirator?

- APPROVED RESPIRATORS HAVE HEADBANDS
- COUNTERFEIT RESPIRATORS COMMONLY HAVE NO FACEPIECE MARKINGS
- COUNTERFEIT MASKS HAVE MISSPELLED WORDS
- APPROVED PRODUCTS DO NOT CONTAIN DECORATIVE FABRICS OR ADD-ONS
- ORIGINAL MASKS ARE NOT APPROVED FOR CHILDREN

BE GENUINE BUY GENUINE

FAKE

STAMP OUT ILLICIT TRADE

HOW TO AVOID BUYING COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS ONLINE

- RESEARCH THE SELLER
Before you click buy, make sure you know the seller
- BE WARY OF DISCOUNTS
Find the item's current retail price - they are often listed on the brand's website
- SCAN THE CUSTOMER REVIEWS
Many people rely on customer reviews to find reliable products
- EXAMINE THE PRODUCT'S PACKAGING
Brands generally put their logos on packaging & products
- KNOW THE HALLMARKS OF THE REAL PRODUCT
Be familiar with the product's appearance, including the brand markings & unique details

BE GENUINE BUY GENUINE

FAKE

STAMP OUT ILLICIT TRADE

Congratulating Enforcement Officials



CONGRATULATIONS!
Shillong Customs on the seizure of 3,60,000 sticks of foreign origin cigarettes valued at around Rs. 36 Lakhs

FICCI CASCADE
#IndianCustomsAtWork



FICCI CASCADE
CONGRATULATIONS!

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

#IndianEnforcementAtWork

Campaign on Vocal for Local

Let's Weave A Better India by Promoting Indigenous Products
Let's Empower the Handloom Workers & Strengthen our efforts towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat



FICCI CASCADE
VOCAL LOCAL
COMBAT ILLICIT TRADE
National Handloom Day
7th August

Let's Be Vocal for Local to Promote Local Goods And Manufacturing & Prevent Illicit Trade



FICCI CASCADE
VOCAL LOCAL
COMBAT ILLICIT TRADE

Choose Wisely



Say No To Smuggled And Counterfeit Goods
Time for India to Grow Away from the rising menace of **Illicit Trade**

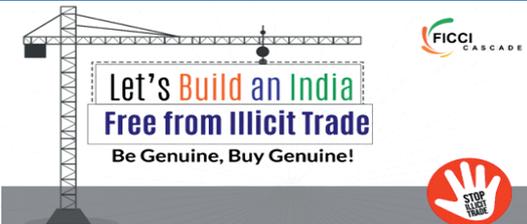
VOCAL LOCAL
BE GENUINE BUY GENUINE



Let's bridge the Demand and Supply gap by Promoting Local Industries and eliminating Illicit Trade

FICCI CASCADE
VOCAL LOCAL
COMBAT ILLICIT TRADE

Let's Build an India Free from Illicit Trade
Be Genuine, Buy Genuine!



FICCI CASCADE

Let's be Vocal for Local and Promote Local Goods and Manufacturing & prevent **ILLICIT TRADE**

LET'S STRENGTHEN OUR EFFORT TOWARDS AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT



FICCI CASCADE
BE VOCAL FOR LOCAL
BE GENUINE BUY GENUINE

Honest Taxpayers contribute towards **Prosperous Nation Building**



FICCI CASCADE
COMBAT ILLICIT TRADE

This **Independence Day** Free Yourself from Counterfeit & Smuggled Goods
BE INDIAN, BUY INDIAN!



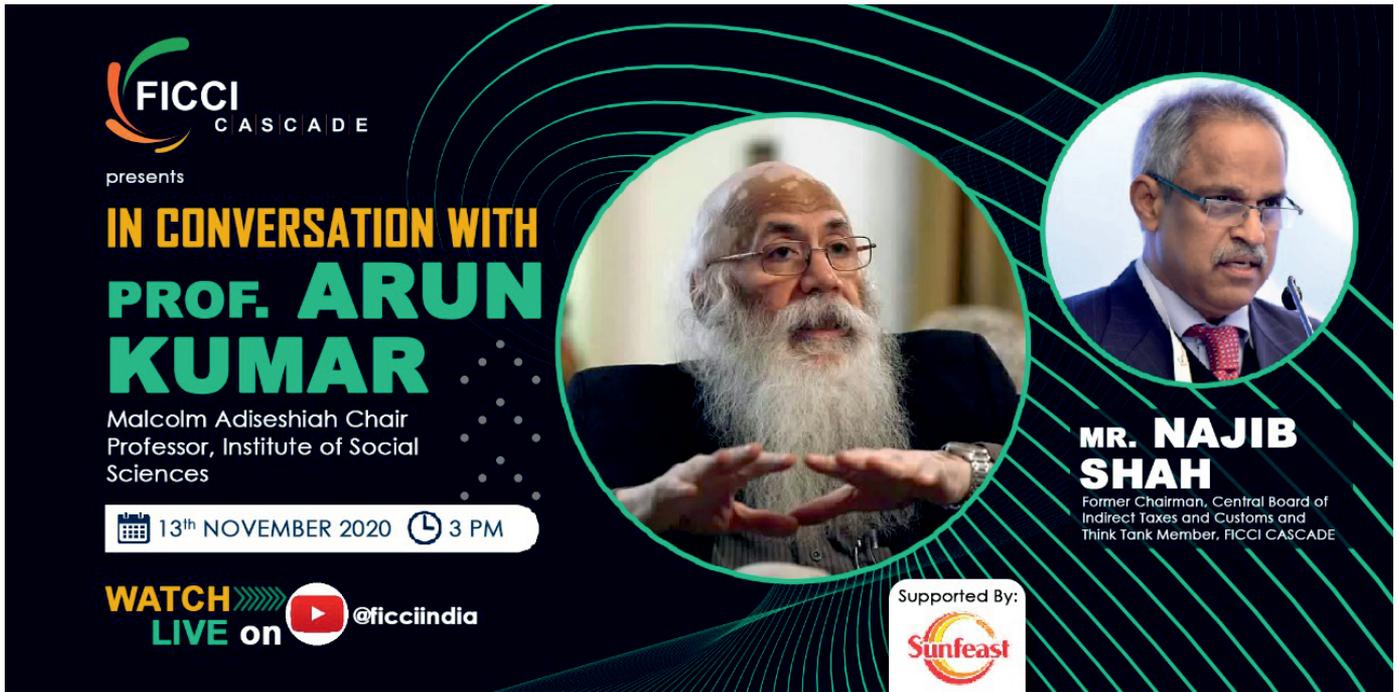
FICCI CASCADE
VOCAL LOCAL
STAMP OUT ILLICIT TRADE

Let's Build a stronger Economy
by saying No to Smuggled & Counterfeit Goods and
Yes to Genuine Indigenous Goods



VOCAL LOCAL
FICCI CASCADE

GOING FORWARD



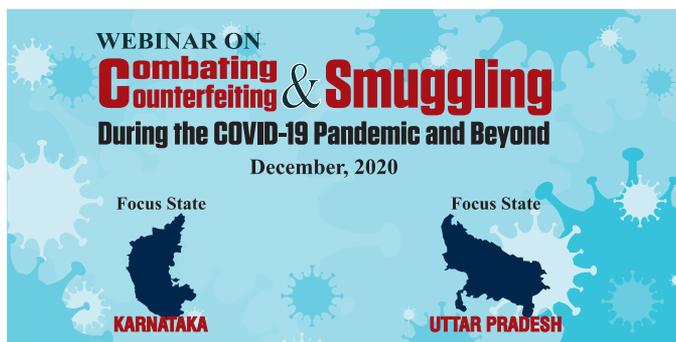
FICCI CASCADE
presents
**IN CONVERSATION WITH
PROF. ARUN
KUMAR**
Malcolm Adiseshiah Chair
Professor, Institute of Social
Sciences

13th NOVEMBER 2020 3 PM

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WEBINAR ON
Combating Counterfeiting & Smuggling
During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond
December, 2020

Focus State  **KARNATAKA**

Focus State  **UTTAR PRADESH**



Webinar on
Communication, Coordination and Collaboration
Strengthening the fight against
counterfeiting and smuggling
November, 2020



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

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