

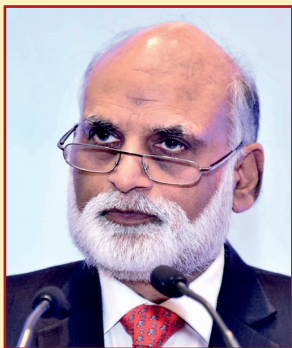
October 2020

# 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.*

**T**he 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 addressed 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.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE



NEWS FLASH



RECENT INITIATIVES



ANNUAL REPORT



MEDIA COVERAGE



ARTICLES



NEWS





## **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.





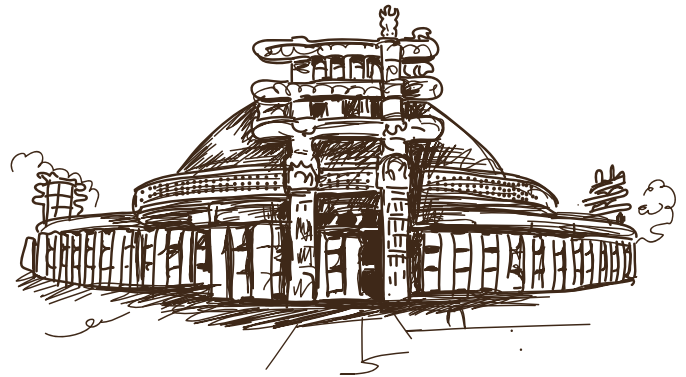
## WEBINAR ON Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond

**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.

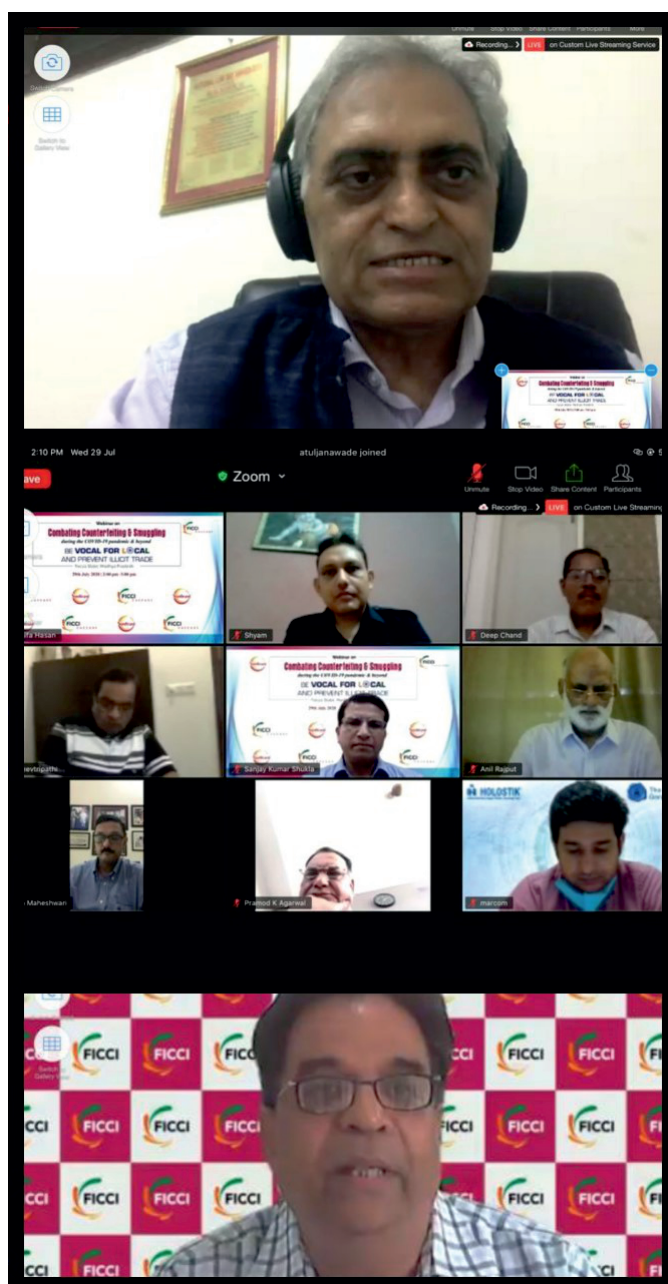
Shri Sanjay Kumar Shukla, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion, Government of Madhya Pradesh was the chief guest at the webinar. Mr. Shukla said, "Government, law enforcement agencies, industry and consumers must come together to identify the gaps and act in a coordinated 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). The webinar highlighted 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 un-



Senior IAS officer Sanjay Shukla addressing webinar

Special Task Force, MP Police said '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.' 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, he added. PK Malhotra, former sec-

retary, Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE said, 'I must compliment the State 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 a large number of cigarettes, liquor, synthetic milk, fake currency and much more. I'm confident that going forward the law

### MP official calls for coordinated approach to curb counterfeiting

Subscribe to updates



New Delhi, July 30 (SocialNews.XYZ) 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.

### The Times of India

#### MP official calls for coordinated approach to curb counterfeiting

New Delhi, July 30 (SANDS) 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.

#### जालसाजी से निपटने एकजुट कदम की वकालत



नई दिल्ली। मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के औद्योगिक नीति एवं निवेश संवर्धन विभाग के प्रधान सचिव संजय कुमार शुक्ला ने कहा, जालसाजी और तस्करी से निपटने की दिशा में संयोजित तबके से काम करने और खासियों को समझने के लिए सरकार, कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों, उद्योग और उपभोक्ताओं को एक साथ आना होगा।

#### MP official calls for coordinated approach to curb counterfeiting



New Delhi, Jul 30 (SANDS) 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.

#### 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.

#### सरकार, कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों व उद्योग के बीच एकजुट कदम की वकालत

नई दिल्ली, जेएनएन। मध्य प्रदेश 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 तबके से काम करने और खासियों को समझने के लिए सरकार, कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों, उद्योग और उपभोक्ताओं को एक साथ आना होगा। फिक्की की अध्यक्षता की बर्बाद कर रही तस्करी एवं जालसाजी की गतिविधियों के खिलाफ कमेटी (कास्केड) 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 फिक्की सरकार को अवगत करा सकती है कि कैसे अन्य देश इस समस्या का सफलतापूर्वक सामना करने में सक्षम हुए हैं।

#### Govt bats for coordinated approach to address counterfeiting & smuggling

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.



Photo Credit: IANS

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.



## WEBINAR ON

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

## Focus State – Chhattisgarh

August 31, 2020



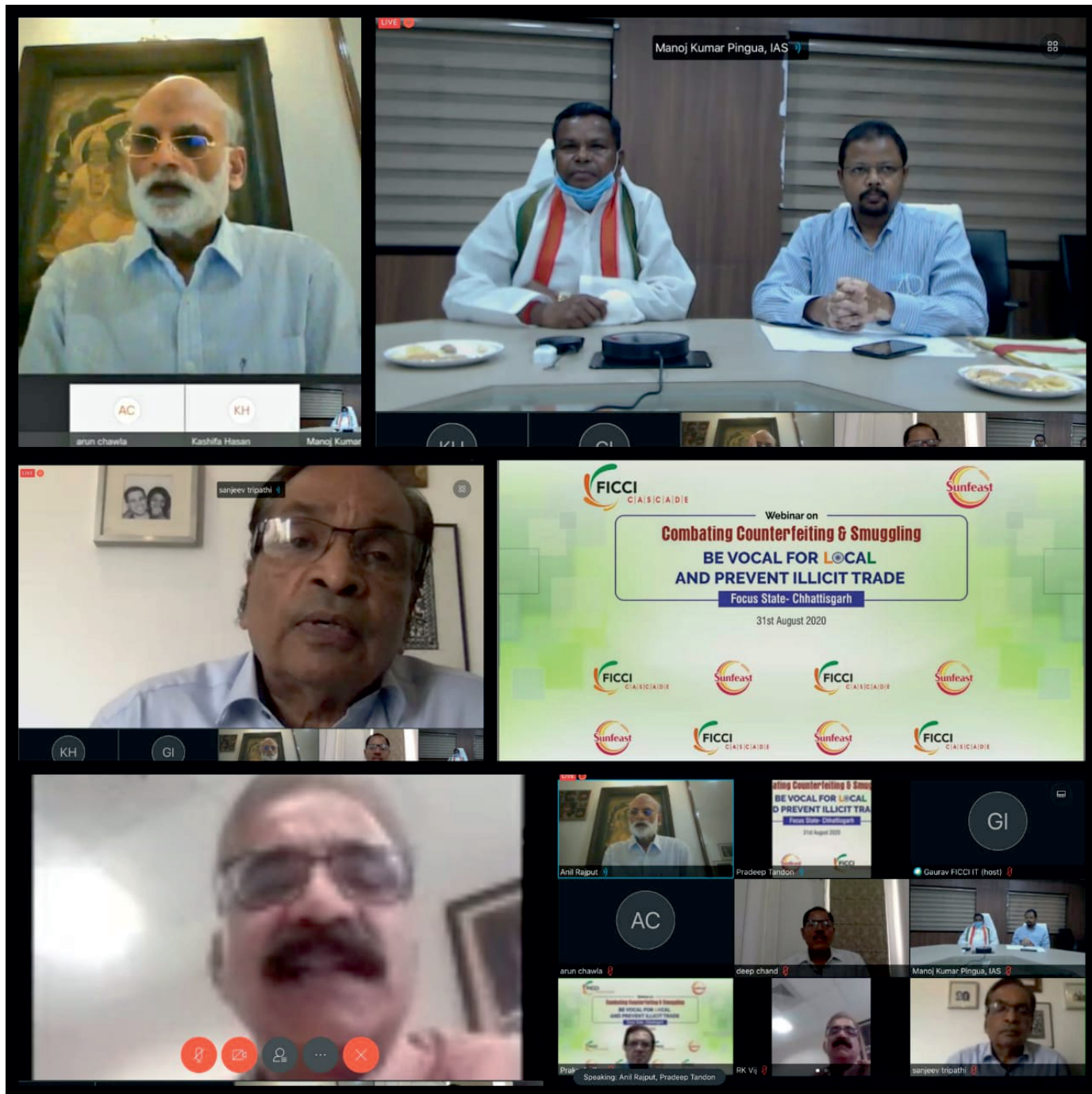
FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) organized the next edition of its state specific webinars on Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond' for the state of Chhattisgarh on August 31, 2020.

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





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



9



## WEBINAR ON

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

## Focus – North East

September 15, 2020



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





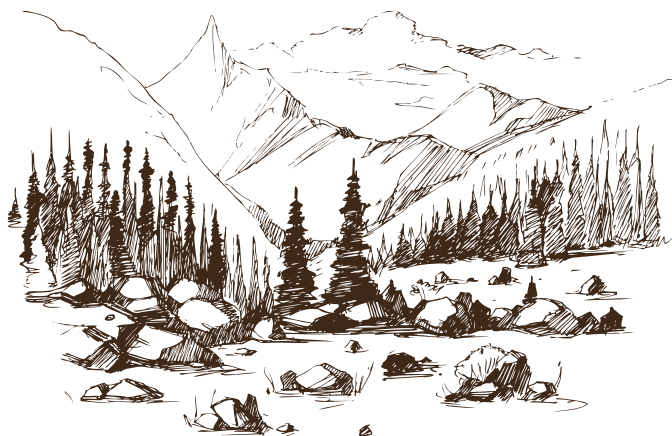


## Capacity Building Programme for Police Officers on Prevention of Counterfeiting and Smuggling

**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







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/>

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



## 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 sub-standard foods, hygiene items and everyday goods is booming in the pandemic economy and there is a risk that the

perpetrators of crime will use shortages in the supply of some goods to increasingly provide illicit alternatives both on and offline. Further, Interpol and Europol have also warned against frauds in which consumers are tricked into buying non-existent medical supplies or making payments intended for medical care into criminal accounts. Estimates show that tens of millions of dollars have already been lost by victims of such scams.

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

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



# 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.

Ever since the World Health Organisation (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 prod-



Since the beginning of the pandemic, the trade of counterfeit medical supplies has escalated many-fold worldwide

ucts, seized large quantities of illicit face masks, substandard hand sanitizers and unauthorised antiviral medication. Similarly, Europol in its report 'Pandemic Profiteering' states that the sale of counterfeit and/or sub-standard foods, hygiene items and everyday goods is booming in the pandemic economy and there is a risk that the perpetrators of the 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 has a crippling

effect on the nation's economic progress, owing to the 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 an 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 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 sensitize the people of its ill effects and increasingly involve the government at the centre and the states to deal with this challenge in the best and most effective manner.

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



# 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.



PC JHA

# 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*

**Value-wise, nearly two-thirds of the country's imports are of raw materials, semi-finishing goods, and machinery which are all indispensable for the domestic industry. What, in fact, is needed is only a behavioural shift in the preference of people**

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 lakh jobs were lost in India during 2017-18 in respect of five 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 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 the global level and gave consumers a fair option to buy better quality products



Recovery of the economy cannot happen unless indigenous get unrestricted preference over the imported

at affordable prices. The world, however, has changed dramatically due to the unprecedented global health crisis created by Covid. 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 per cent during FY21. Hence, immediate recovery of the economy is crucial, and that cannot happen unless indigenous get 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 the share of manufacturing in the country's GDP as in China, create job opportunities, and will build 'Brand India'. This would also contribute substantially to reducing the cross border illicit trade.

This, however, does not imply stopping imports and violating the WTO rules. For our indigenous manufacturing, we have a huge dependence on imports. Value-wise, nearly two-thirds of the country's imports are of raw materials, semi-finishing goods, and machinery 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 with such a hostile attitude towards our vital national interests, reciprocity has to take an upper hand over generosity. As suggested by Sartre, the need for '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 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 a 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 the enhanced sale of local products, it is required that they sell at cheaper prices. This cannot happen unless there is a reduction in GST rates. We may recall that the Central excise rates were drastically cut from 12.5 to 8 per cent 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 per cent. This, no doubt, would give a boost to the industry, increase sale of domestic products, augment revenue through enhanced compliance, and also minimise illicit trade, the last one is the main objective that CASCADE has been pursuing for a long time. The onus to make a 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 an enthusiastic response of the people to the call made by the PM.

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

**The Times of India**

## The Hill Times

## The Economic Times

# One

## One unified platform to run your entire business

GET STARTED

Business India Business International Business Services Photos Videos GST Budget Tax Calculator F&B Banking

Budget IPSC HRM Card Android Card IPO Income Tax Savings Growth Calculator Income Tax Suits ...

NEWS BUSINESS NEWS INDIA BUSINESS NEWS RISE IN SMUGGLING IN NE DUE TO ECO DISTRESS CAUSED BY COVID-19: FICCI

TOP SEARCHES Samara Today Gold Rate Nirmala Sitharaman Mukesh Ambani Ratan Tata

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

PTI | Sep 6, 2020, 12:12 IST

Get Free ZEE5 1-Year Subscription with Times Prime

Times Prime

GUWAHATI: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce

[illegible]

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Politics

Subscribe | Ateeb v

English Edition | E-Paper

Home

News

Podcast

Economy

Industry

Politics and Nation

Defence

Company

International

Elections

More

Business News

News

Politics and Nation

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

# 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

SHARE


PRINT SIZE

SAVE


PRINT

COMMENT

Buy Apollo Alpha with 30 days Money back guarantee


 Apollo Tyres

**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



12:15 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.

**12:05 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.

**BHASKAR LIVE**  
 bhaskarlive.in

Buy petrol  
**Dil ka Mileage**  
 BUY NOW! PAY LATER

---

HOME
NATIONAL
WORLD ▼
SPORTS
BUSINESS
ENTERTAINMENT
E-PAPER

Home > Business > Economic distress due to Covid-19 causes rise in smuggling in NE ...

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

September 6, 2020

< Share

GUJARATI NEWS & ANALYSIS  
 જાણકારી અને વિશ્લેષણ ગુજરાતમાંથી

GADGETS NEWS  
 ગેડજેટ ન્યૂઝ

BAKTI DOORSTEP  
 ભક્તિ ડોરસ્ટેપ

GUJARATI NEWS & ANALYSIS  
 જાણકારી અને વિશ્લેષણ ગુજરાતમાંથી

GADGETS NEWS  
 ગેડજેટ ન્યૂઝ

BAKTI DOORSTEP  
 ભક્તિ ડોરસ્ટેપ

**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,

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 CASCAD said in a statement.


**FICCI**  
 C I A S C A I D E

**Outlook**

**Outlook**  
 THE NEWS SCROLL

## The Times of India

# AI-induced financial stress due to rise in smuggling across NE: FICCI

deration  
 bers of  
 Industry  
 said that  
 the rising  
 in be attri-  
 buted to  
 2-3 per  
 cent. The  
 Age and  
 Co. and  
 Deo-Indu-  
 stry said  
 the rise in  
 smuggling  
 with their  
 neighbour-  
 hood coun-  
 tries has  
 caused  
 economic  
 distress  
 due to the  
 recurrent  
 rise in  
 smuggling  
 across NE  
 countries.

“Experts believe that the recent increase in smuggling in the northeast could be due to the economic distress instigated by Covid-19. Loss of jobs and lack of income due to recurrent lockdowns have left citizens without any means of livelihood.”

### 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.

FICCI said the Assam Ri-  
 fles in the last two months

seized smuggled cigarettes worth around Rs 1 crore by conducting 26 operations. Other illicit items such as drugs and betelnuts, mostly enter through the international border with Myanmar. It also

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. Ladded. Appalling for stricter vigilance along the border, the FICCI’s chairman Anil Rajput said, “Illicit cigarette smuggling is a formidable challenge before our nation that has been draining our government exchequer by creating opportunities for tax arbitrage. It also threatens local industries and their capaci-

ty to create livelihoods.”

The panel has requested the Union home secretary for appropriate intervention to sensitise other paramilitary forces on the gravity of the issue and amplify their efforts to 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, the FICCI panel has been conducting interactions with the government and enforcement agencies across several states in India on the ways to mitigate this challenge.

“Tribal agencies in the government to declare smuggling as a national threat that should be addressed with stricter vigilance and reforms,” the industry chamber said.

06 September 2020. Last updated at 11:59 AM | Source: PTI

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

Guruvashi, 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.

The FICCI’s Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCAD) issued the orders 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 instigated by Covid-19. Loss of jobs and lack of income due to recurrent lockdowns have left citizens without a means of livelihood,” FICCI CASCAD 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.

The Assam Rifles in the last two months seized smuggled cigarettes worth around Rs 1 crore by conducting 26 operations. Other illicit items such as drugs and betelnuts, mostly enter through the international border with Myanmar, it 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.

## The Hindu

[illegible]



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

[illegible]

## Gana Adhikar

উত্তৰ-পূৰ্বাঞ্চলৰ ৰাজ্যসমূহত ১৪ কোটি টকাৰ অবৈধ  
চিগাৰেট জব্দ কৰাত অসম ৰাইফলছৰ সফলতাক প্ৰশংসা

[illegible]



OUR NEWS

[INDIA](#)
[WORLD](#)
[COMPANIES](#)
[ECONOMY](#)
[TECH](#)
[LIFESTYLE](#)
[OPINION](#)
[SPORTS](#)
[ENTERTAINMENT](#)
[LAW](#)
[TRAVEL](#)
[HEALTH](#)

[TODAY'S PAPER](#)
[LATEST NEWS](#)
[Economy](#)
[Current Affairs](#)
[International](#)
[Management](#)
[Strategy](#)
[Education](#)
[Data Science](#)
[BIZKIDS](#)

[Home](#)
[News](#)
[Economy & Finance](#)
[Opinion](#)

[Expert advice on cause or migration loans and 24x7 COVID assistance](#)

[Sign Up](#)
[Newspaper Subscription](#)
[Contact Us](#)

[Business Standard](#)
[CORONAVIRUS](#)

[GET ALL NEWS AND UPDATES](#)




Let your loved ones

transmit the full of dreams,

just like their today!

[Read](#)

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

Industry body FICCI on Monday said the recent rise in smuggling in the northeastern region can be attributed to economic distress increased by Covid-19 pandemic.

[Beyond Business](#)




Let your loved ones

transmit the full of dreams,

just like their today!

[Read](#)

[FICCI | Contributor | LinkedIn](#)

[FICCI | Contributor | LinkedIn](#)

[f](#)
[t](#)
[in](#)
[p](#)

[Follow us on](#)
[Google News](#)








[View all](#)

[LATEST NEWS](#)

[IN THIS SECTION](#)

[ALL](#)



End smuggling as big

step to curb

Border Strainer Problem

[Read](#)



Economic distress due to

Covid-19 threatens

smuggling in NE-FCI

[Read](#)



Experts advise caution

on migration loans and

24x7 COVID assistance

[Read](#)

Dainik Jagran

फिक्की कास्केड ने असम राइफल्स की सराहना की

सूँ दिल्ली, जेठपना तकराँ एह अवध काँतास में पहुँचो तबे विपति प्रभावों को लेकर जागरूक फैलाने के लिए समिति परदेसमें फिक्रो काकडे (अध्यक्ष) को तबह कर रहें तकराँ एह बातस में सेना जीवीधियों के विचारक भेजेलें में अमर राहस्य के महानिदेशक और अधिकारी को तबहो मिलान लखड़ में उनके महदयपूर्ण योजना के लिए बंधा रहें। एह साहजिक प्रयास के तबह अमर राहस्य के अधिकारीयों में पिछले 2 महिने में 14 कोइरा रूप को तकराँ कर रहें हें गिमेरे खज की हें, साथ नौलौं दबाव को सेना और उदरक भी नामर फिर हें। सुरक्षासौ को की बदलासिने में बहक, कर अंजुने को बहस को बोनो, गज को लखड़हें, पाँचवीं एह अमर खुसुओं में शिफार को ज्ञा, वा रहे उल्लो को पा लाग्वा।

## 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 valiant contribution and the smuggling-free border. An 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 intercepted 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 Kumar, Chairman of FICCI said, "Illicit smuggling and contraband 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 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 seek to exploit the country's resources and who seek forth an unimpeded and unregulated trade 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 Hindu** @the\_hindu

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



# AWARENESS THROUGH ART



Media Coverage





## Smuggling & Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy

Annual Report  
(JULY 2019-JULY 2020)

# ANNUAL REPORT

### Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy

**I**licit trade in terms of smuggling, counterfeiting and piracy is considered as one of the world's fastest growing industry. It is a growing problem that violates each day's sense and shape trade and that impacts India's consumers, governments and economies. Smuggling and counterfeiting can have broad economic wide effects on trade, foreign investment, employment, innovation, creativity, environment and most importantly on the health of the consumers.

9% 13% of global GDP is impacted due to illicit trade and criminal activities. It is estimated that the total economic and social costs globally due to counterfeiting and piracy world wide about between USD 727 to USD 898 billion in 2018 and this is expected to go up to USD 1.54 to USD 1.87 trillion by 2022, suggesting an increase of 108 percent. In addition the total employment losses globally about counterfeited and piracy about 2 to 2.8 million jobs in 2017 and is expected to rise to 4 to 5.5 million jobs in 2022, suggesting an approximate increase of 118 percent.

For some time now illicit trade is also known to provide the fuel that energizes the terror machine. Many prominent terrorist organizations like the Hizbul, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Al Qaeda, etc. rely on the proceeds from illicit trade for financing 20 per cent of their operations. In fact, the mafia are also known to run illicit trade, money chains and at times the foreign organized crime groups manage day-to-day operations with mafia authorities and oversight. The perpetrators of Charlie Heats attacks in Paris were found to have actively indulged in the illicit trade of cigarettes. The fat grams in and are not acting against the law enforcement counter this multi-dimensional crime that is spilling from strength to strength and has led to the loss of human life.

With a growing economy, India also faces the challenge of counterfeiting. Illicit trade in smuggled & counterfeit goods, in India, the estimated loss to the industry, and just for 7 sectors only, which are automobiles parts, FMCG, apparel goods, FMCG packaged goods, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, mobile phones and computer hardware, is about Rs. 105,881 Crn and a loss of revenue to government is about Rs. 38,923 Crn in the year 2019-20. It is notable that the average increase in these losses has been as much as 45% in, and in the year 2019-20.

Given the emphasis on India's economic development and the much anticipated growth trajectory, technology, innovation and innovation play a significant role in India's growth strategy. However, illicit trade practices will grow to hinder this progression. India today has the potential to become a global manufacturing hub. However, in the absence of an adequate enforcement mechanism to stop counterfeiting and smuggling, it can be a dampener in achieving this goal.

Despite several efforts undertaken to curb smuggling, counterfeiting and piracy, the illicit markets continue to thrive across all industry segments. Hence, a proactive strategy should be in place to fight this menace. It is imperative to public health and safety, and for the national economic development, counterfeiting and smuggling can be a dampener in achieving this goal.

Despite several efforts undertaken to curb smuggling, counterfeiting and piracy, the illicit markets continue to thrive across all industry segments. Hence, a proactive strategy should be in place to fight this menace. It is imperative to public health and safety, and for the national economic development, counterfeiting and smuggling can be a dampener in achieving this goal.



country is immune to this problem, and there is no product, the counterfeit of which is not available in the market.

A report by ISTR informs us that pharmaceutical and FMCG products are facing a big problem due to their markets 20% of pharmaceuticals sold in the market are either counterfeit or sub-standard, and the case of FMCG products, 27% of the market share has been taken away by smuggled or counterfeit goods, which results in a loss of Rs. 2,100 Crores. Rs. 1,000 Crores to the health industry. One alarming aspect of the drug business is that money generated through this is the main source of financing of terrorism across the globe. Different terrorist organizations indulge in smuggling and counterfeiting of branded products via Internet Sites in cigarettes and mobile phones. Hezbollah in drugs and medicines, Al Qaeda in clothing and bags, and Hizbul Lashkar in apparel, shoes and clothing, human in drugs and food products, and Bakaram in cigarettes. Highly so, the drug business is termed as the crime of the 21st century by the FBI.

Spoken at the conference also mentioned about the online sale of counterfeit goods. Nearly one in three nations have reported increasing counterfeit products online. An ISTR report of March 2019 shows that worldwide percentage of counterfeit footwear is about 22%, clothing 16%, leather goods 11%, electronic equipment 10%, etc. It is important to note that since launch of the social status, trust, quality, originality etc., hence any activity that compromises with this has to be called off.

It was suggested that vigilance consumer awareness campaigns are required to be undertaken at a large scale. Further, multimedia campaigns such as government 'Stop Drugging' tagline are also needed to be launched on a much bigger scale. This will empower the consumers to differentiate between the genuine and counterfeit products.



### Networking

- To work in synergy with other foreign institutions and bodies serving in the area of counterfeiting and piracy.
- To identify and facilitate CASCADIA members to network with their service providers and investigators who have expertise in the field of enforcement, technology and who have been successful in dealing with counterfeit goods in India.

### Policy Advocacy

- To assist the Government in formulating and strengthening the legal framework and enforcement mechanisms in the area of counterfeiting and piracy.
- To assist the Government of India in formulating the policies in the area of counterfeiting and piracy.

### MASCRADE 2019- Movement Against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade

Leading global players join FICCI CASCADIA in addressing the growing threat of illicit trade in India



In 2019, the Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADIA) has a new to bring about a change, has been forming a campaign to help companies across the world to understand and combat the growing threat of illicit trade in India.

A significant part of the campaign was the MASCRADE 2019, a global initiative to combat the growing threat of illicit trade in India. The event was held in New Delhi on 28th September 2019, and was attended by a number of global leaders, including the Prime Minister of India, the President of India, and the Vice President of India. The event was a success, and it was a great opportunity for the Committee to showcase its work and to gain the support of the Indian government and the public.

The event was a success, and it was a great opportunity for the Committee to showcase its work and to gain the support of the Indian government and the public.



The event was a success, and it was a great opportunity for the Committee to showcase its work and to gain the support of the Indian government and the public.

The event was a success, and it was a great opportunity for the Committee to showcase its work and to gain the support of the Indian government and the public.



### Communication, Coordination and Collaboration- Strengthening the fight against counterfeiting and smuggling

August 31, 2019 | Karnataka

**T**he connectivity of the world's population has increased phenomenally during the past decades, and the world has become a global village. This has led to a rapid growth in the demand for goods and services, and this has led to a rapid growth in the demand for goods and services. This has led to a rapid growth in the demand for goods and services, and this has led to a rapid growth in the demand for goods and services.

The connectivity of the world's population has increased phenomenally during the past decades, and the world has become a global village. This has led to a rapid growth in the demand for goods and services, and this has led to a rapid growth in the demand for goods and services. This has led to a rapid growth in the demand for goods and services, and this has led to a rapid growth in the demand for goods and services.

### Zero-Evasion FIGHT AGAINST COUNTERFEITING & SMUGGLING

**Winners in the competition were as follows:**

**Education Category:**

First: Anand Arora, Class 11-C, Bharati Vidya Niketan, Gurugram

Second: Kunal Verma, Class 11-C, Bharati Vidya Niketan, Gurugram

Third: Vahin, Class 11-C, Bharati Vidya Niketan, Gurugram

**Painting Category:**

First: Suraj Kumar, Class 11-C, Bharati Vidya Niketan, Gurugram

Second: Anand Arora, Class 11-C, Bharati Vidya Niketan, Gurugram

Third: Anand Arora, Class 11-C, Bharati Vidya Niketan, Gurugram

### Strengthening Demand, Supply and Enforcement

**Strengthening Demand:** Awareness, Education, Training, etc.

**Strengthening Supply:** Quality, Quantity, etc.

**Strengthening Enforcement:** Law, Policy, etc.





## 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 Acree, 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?infinitescroll=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

FICCI CASCADE COMBAT ILLICIT TRADE

**LET'S STAND UNITED AGAINST ILLICIT TRADE**

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

FICCI CASCADE

STOP SMUGGLING

STAMP OUT ILLICIT TRADE

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

STOP SMUGGLING

FICCI CASCADE

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

**Time for India to Grow Away from Illicit Trade**

COMBAT ILLICIT TRADE

FICCI CASCADE

### Consumer Awareness Campaign

FICCI CASCADE

**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

FICCI CASCADE

**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

FICCI CASCADE

**How to Identify a Counterfeit N95 Respirator?**

- APPROVED RESPIRATORS HAVE HEADBANDS
- COUNTERFEIT RESPIRATORS COMMONLY HAVE NO FACEPIECE MARKINGS
- COUNTERFEIT MASKS HAVE MISPELLED 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

FICCI CASCADE

**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

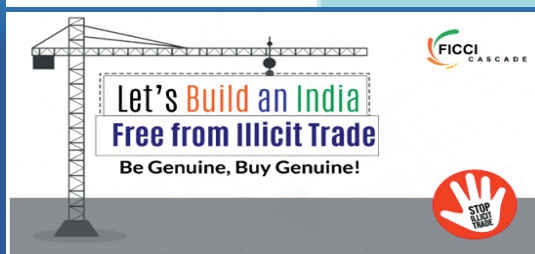
STAMP OUT ILLICIT TRADE



## Congratulating Enforcement Officials



## Campaign on Vocal for Local





## GOING FORWARD



**FICCI CASCADE**  
presents

**IN CONVERSATION WITH  
PROF. ARUN KUMAR**


Malcolm Adiseshiah Chair  
Professor, Institute of Social  
Sciences

13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 3 PM

**WATCH LIVE on**  **@ficciindia**


Supported By: 


**MR. NAJIB SHAH**  
Former Chairman, Central Board of  
Indirect Taxes and Customs and  
Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE



**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.

#### Contact:

FICCI CASCADE

Federation House, 1, Tansen Marg, New Delhi 110001, India

T: +91-11-23487528 | F: +91-11-23320714 | Email: cascade@ficci.com