

NEWSLETTER

May 2022

CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Anil Rajput
Chairman
FICCI CASCADE

Global illicit trade continues to grow exponentially, despite best efforts to contain it by governments, businesses and international organizations. Expanding international trade and rapidly evolving technology have provided illicit players new opportunities for trafficking contraband, laundering money, and engaging in large-scale economic crimes. This naturally has large scale implications in terms of holding back nation's progress, increasing costs, endangering consumers and diminishing public health. While our concerns about countering this global scourge are common, our efforts are often scattered.

FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy, (CASCADE) in its endeavor to raise awareness on this issue and create a common front to address this menace, took the lead in launching the Anti-Smuggling Day on 11th February this year.

I want to thank all our well-wishers for making the launch programme a grand success. We were encouraged by the wholehearted support of World Customs Organization, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), other prominent national and international institutions along with industry in this initiative. It is a good beginning and I believe we have been able to make a mark. Going forward, we will work with greater intensity on making the governments and institutions in India and across the globe acknowledge this effort and join hands to create an effective global response in this area.

Acknowledging that smuggling leads to massive threat to national security, Mr. Balesh Kumar, Member-Investigation, CBIC at the launch event, urged all stakeholders including industry to come together to tackle it. He also highlighted how the Indian Government has always been committed to combating this problem and have institutionalized coordination between agencies, which has helped in generating volumes of information that are not only timely but also accurate, leading to major seizures.

We are of the strong belief that awareness and outreach are essential elements in building a proactive strategy to reinforce consumer rights against such mal-practices and that there is a need for consumers to demand their right of genuine and authentic products. Youth being the future of our country is a key stakeholder

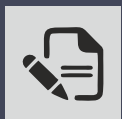
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in this. With this thought in mind, FICCI CASCADE and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs joined hands to encourage the country's youth to be a part in the socio-economic development of the nation by creating a youth movement against smuggling and counterfeiting.

In this endeavour, a painting competition, on the theme "Youth for Socio-Economic Development - Paving the Way for India's Amrit Kaal" was organised on World Consumer Day for school children across India. Mr Rohit Kumar Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India rightly pointed out that our future generations are the hope for real change. Empowering and strengthening them to act for national development will help in shaping the future of our country in a brighter and more prosperous manner. Going forward, we will keep engaging with the youth of the country in various ways to generate awareness on this issue and make them more responsible citizens.

Two 'In Conversation Programmes' with Prof Bejon Misra and Dr Ashok R Patil, both very well-known personalities in the area of consumer protection and laws were also organised during the World Consumer Day celebrations. The discussions clearly highlighted the need of a strong consumer movement in an institutionalized manner with leadership from the government to fight counterfeiting and smuggling in India.

We have always maintained that stringent enforcement, a well-balanced tax policy, and collaborative actions are critical in addressing the issue of anti-evasion, smuggling and cross border illicit trade. To further this discussion, we were privileged to have with us Mr. Vivek Johri, Chairman, CBIC for an in-conversation programme. We were highly impressed when we learnt that the use of AI, Blockchain and Machine Learning by CBIC has given rewarding results and greater impetus to combat the threats of illicit trade.

In another interactive session, Mr. Rahul Nangare, Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Amritsar and Mr. Sanjay Gaur, Deputy Inspector General, Border Security Force, Punjab also shared keen insights on various strategies to combat smuggling and counterfeiting. It is evident that the sincerity, dedication and unwavering efforts of our enforcement officers in safeguarding our economic borders through several seizures of smuggled and fake goods is commendable. FICCI CASCADE has been congratulating the valiant officers and have issued statements applauding them for their contribution in successfully addressing this national threat.

We are committed to work concertedly with all stakeholders to blunt the impact of smuggling and counterfeiting. Your continued support will, most certainly, go a long way in strengthening our resolve of formulating a strong & effective course of action against smuggling and illicit trade.

I'm confident that you will find this issue a meaningful read.

Jai Hind

Anil Rajput
Chairman
FICCI CASCADE

NEWS FLASH

Times of India

Smuggling threat to nat'l security, industry: CBIC

New Delhi: Smuggling is a huge threat to national security and all stakeholders, including the industry are required to come together to tackle it, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs said on Friday.

In his address at the Anti-Smuggling Day launch event, organised by FICCI CASCADE, CBIC Member, investigation, Balesh Kumar, said the government has always been committed to combating the menace of smuggling and institutionalised coordination between agencies, which has helped in generating volumes of information that are not only timely but also accurate, leading to major seizures.

"On February 6, DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) in Imphal, Manipur effected a seizure of 12.5 kgs of gold coming from Myanmar and over

46 lakh sticks of cigarettes valued at Rs 9.5 crore in one operation," he said.

Anti-Smuggling Day was launched with an objective of enhancing coordination and cooperation between different law enforcement agencies.

"Despite smuggling being a global menace, due focus and thrust has not been given to this mounting threat which is not only damaging our exchequer and leading to job losses but is also impacting the safety and security of nations worldwide," said Anil Rajput, chairman of FICCI CASCADE. Thereby, it is critical to emphasise and generate global awareness about the fact that the root cause of illicit trade lies in smuggling, he added. IANS

DRI Seizes Foreign Cigarettes Worth Rs 17 Cr From Gujarat's Mundra Port; Three Arrested

7 May 2022 | Republicworld

Ahmedabad, May 7 (PTI) Three persons, including the managing director of a shipping company, were arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in connection with illegal import of foreign brand filtered cigarettes having a market value of around Rs 17 crore, an agency official said on Saturday.

The Ahmedabad zonal unit of DRI had on April 1 seized a container at Mundra port in Gujarat's Kutch district with 84 lakh sticks of smuggled foreign brand filtered cigarettes named 'BBM pride filter kings'.

The consignment of cigarettes worth Rs 16.8 crore was imported from the United Arab Emirates in a container declared as hotel supplies, bed sheets and pillow covers, and was seized under the Customs Act, 1962, said the release.

Based on an inquiry done so far in this connection, it arrested three persons on Friday, comprising the

managing director of a shipping company in Gandhidham in Kutch district, a partner of a Dubai-based container line company and their associate from Bengaluru, the DRI statement informed.

"During investigation, it is primarily revealed that in the arrival manifest, the subject consignment was declared for discharge at Mundra for further transshipment to a fictitious consignee in UK and the shipping agent had issued parallel documents to bring the said consignment in India," stated the DRI release.

The DRI said an active syndicate was involved in the smuggling of the cigarettes, which are declared as notified goods to curb the menace of smuggling. Further probe is underway, it added.

<https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/dri-seizes-foreign-cigarettes-worth-rs-17-cr-from-gujarats-mundra-port-three-arrested.html>



RECENT INITIATIVES

Launch of Anti-Smuggling Day, 2022

February 11, 2022



The existence and operation of illicit markets such as smuggling has been an enduring problem. India because of its topographical diversity and difficult terrain is usually exploited by smuggling cartels, posing a huge challenge to law enforcement agencies in their collective efforts to thwart cross border smuggling. The effects of smuggling are numerous and economically significant.

In order to give further impetus on the work done in the anti-smuggling domain, **FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy)** earmarked **11 February as an Anti-Smuggling Day** beginning 2022. 'Anti-Smuggling Day' represented a major step in the fight against the global menace of smuggling.

Mr Balesh Kumar, Member-Investigation, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, while delivering the keynote

address at the launch of Anti-Smuggling Day, said, "Smuggling which is a huge threat to national security, requires all stakeholders including industry to come together to tackle it." He also stated that the government has always been committed to combating the menace of smuggling and have institutionalized coordination between agencies, which has helped in generating volumes of information that are not only timely but also accurate leading to major seizures. Quoting a recent seizure, **Mr Kumar** informed, "As recent as 6th Feb 2022, DRI in Imphal, Manipur effected a seizure of 12.5 kgs of gold coming across from Myanmar and over 46 lakh sticks of cigarettes worth Rs 9.5 crores in one single operation."

Anti-Smuggling Day was launched with an objective of enhancing coordination and cooperation between law enforcement agencies, facilitating better exchange of information and experiences, and building a strong network to find innovative solutions to combat the menace of smuggling.

Highlighting the several initiatives undertaken by the World Customs Organisation to fight the menace of smuggling, **Mr PK Das**, Director, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, World Customs Organisation in his special address said, “Smugglers and other criminals who are known to be agile and creative have also profited from the fruits of globalization and technological advances. They are misusing the opportunities presented by technology for their nefarious activities. The customs department has a major role to play in mitigating the challenges posed by illicit trade for the country and the economy.”

Speaking on the need for an Anti-Smuggling Day, **Mr Anil Rajput**, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE said, “Despite smuggling being a global menace, due focus and thrust has not been given to this mounting threat which is not only damaging our exchequer and leading to job losses but is also impacting the safety and security of nations worldwide. In this context, it is critical to emphasize and generate global awareness about the fact that the root cause of illicit trade lies in smuggling.”

“With FICCI CASCADE taking the lead in launching the Anti-Smuggling Day today, I am confident that in the years to come, it will not only raise greater awareness on the issue but will also get to the core of the problem which eventually will minimize the all-round dreadful impact of smuggling and related activities,” he added.

Mr Najib Shah, Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE while moderating the session on Containing the Menace of Smuggling: Securing National Economy said “Anti-Smuggling Day apart from spreading awareness on the ill-effects of smuggling will further enhance cooperation between all enforcement agencies who are tasked to thwart the menace of smuggling”.

“Indian Customs, including DRI, has built a robust legal and administrative system, pioneering the implementation of

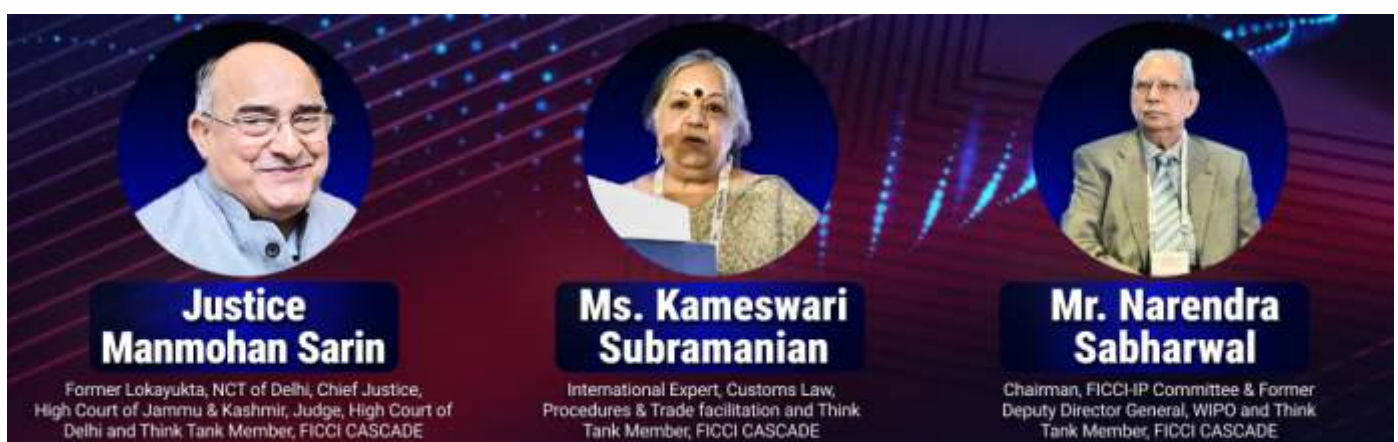
automation, risk management, data analytics, and passenger profiling to combat smuggling effectively”, said **Dr D P Dash**, Former Pr. Director-General, DRI, Former Chairman, Enforcement Committee, World Customs Organisation (WCO) and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE in his concluding remarks.

The webinar also saw a host of notable speakers such as **Mr Stefano Betti**, Deputy Director-General, Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT), **Mr Aniket Singh**, DIG and Director (Anti-Smuggling and Narcotics Control), Indian Coast Guard and **Mr Amerish Kumar Arya**, DIG, Border Security Force, who took part in the deliberations and extended their support to this initiative.

Speakers echoed on a meaningful, regular, and timely discussion as an essential element to protect the domestic interests of every nation and to defeat this worldwide threat.

As a run-up to Anti-Smuggling Day, and to sensitize the youth on the menace of smuggled goods, **FICCI CASCADE also organized a Digital Art/Poster making competition on the theme, 'Stand Against Smuggling'. Mr. Narendra K Sabharwal**, Chairman, FICCI IP Committee & Former Deputy Director General, WIPO, **Ms. Kameswari Subramanian**, International Expert, Customs Law, Procedures & Trade Facilitation and **Justice Manmohan Sarin**, Former Lokayukta, NCT of Delhi, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Judge, High Court of Delhi judged the competition.

Jury Chair, **Justice Sarin**, while felicitating the winners of the competition said, “Such competitions encourage creative skills and ability in the youth simultaneously sensitizing them to the harmful effects of smuggling and imbining a resolve to shun illicit products.” The competition witnessed an overwhelming response and saw a plethora of ideas, innovative expression, talent and content exhibited in posters.





On 6th Feb 2022, DRI in Imphal, Manipur effected a seizure of **12.5 kgs of gold** coming across from Myanmar and over **46 lakh sticks of cigarettes** worth Rs 9.5 Crores in one single operation.

Launch of Anti-Smuggling Day



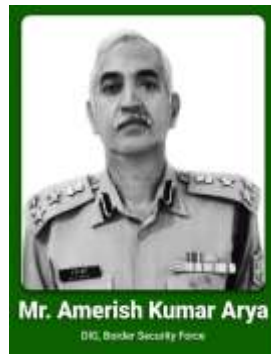
Smugglers and other criminals who are known to be **agile and creative** have also profited from the fruits of **globalization and technological advances**. They are misusing the opportunities presented by technology for their nefarious activities.

Launch of Anti-Smuggling Day



Smuggling is a very complex and multifaced phenomenon & it is important to **highlight smuggling activity** which has a wide range of economic impacts

Launch of Anti-Smuggling Day



To stop smuggling activities, BSF is taking all possible initiatives to **seals its border using** by using latest technologies **drone, security cameras and solar-based proximity lights**.

Launch of Anti-Smuggling Day



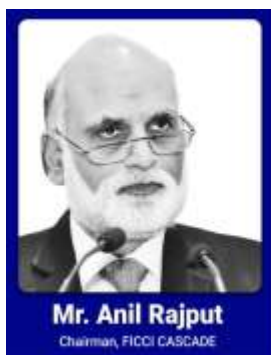
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Launch of Anti-Smuggling Day



#AntiSmugglingDay apart from spreading awareness, brings in **enforcement forums on a common platform** which will further increase **cooperation, coordination and thrust** between enforcement agencies.

Launch of Anti-Smuggling Day



Smuggling activities cause severe **financial drain to the exchequer**. According to a **2019 study by FICCI CASCAD**, large scale smuggling in only **5 key industry sectors** resulted a loss of **Rs 1,17,253 crore to the Indian economy**. But what we typically overlook is the **greater damage it causes to the nation** which becomes a victim of such illegal activities.

Launch of Anti-Smuggling Day



Compliments to FICCI-CASCAD for taking a historic initiative in declaring 11 February as **Anti-Smuggling Day** to raise awareness about the **adverse effects of smuggling**. The S-CORD mechanism set up by DRI helps inter-agency coordination in combating smuggling in India.

Launch of Anti-Smuggling Day

RECENT INITIATIVES

Digital Art/Poster Making Competition

Congratulations to all our Winners!

First Prize:
Bharat Garima



Second Prize:
Harsh Sahani



Third prize:
Parveen Kumar



Thank you
for joining us in the fight against
Smuggling & Counterfeiting!

Digital Art/Poster Making Competition

Announcing Special Incentive Prizes!

Congratulations

Heba Alam & Rahul Saini for your efforts!



Pre- Event Coverage

India Education Daily

NATIONAL NEWS

FICCI CASCADE To Launch Of 'Anti-Smuggling Day' On 11 February

By India Education Daily | Feb 09, 2022



New Delhi: FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities (CASCAD) has taken a step to mark the launch of Anti-Smuggling Day on 11 February 2022. Anti-Smuggling Day will represent a major step in the fight against the global menace of smuggling. With no country immune to the impact of smuggling and its multiple sectors can be said to be an exception. This day will highlight the mounting threat of smuggling. It will not only call for attention for creating awareness on this issue but will also make it a national day to be observed in all countries to raise the global challenge.

Mr. Anil Rajgop, Chairman, FICCI CASCAD said, "Illegal trade in smuggled goods is a global problem of enormous magnitude and nations are feeling under its devastating impact. Unfortunately, not enough awareness and strict regulations to bring it under control exist in most countries and leading to job losses and loss of tax revenue. It poses a risk to the security of nations worldwide. If the spread of smuggling is not checked, the consequences will be disastrous for future generations and hence we must take bold steps to combat this evil."

Rajasthan Patrika

फिक्की कास्केड का तस्करी-रोधी दिवस

नई दिल्ली. फिक्की की 'अर्थव्यवस्था को तबाह कर रही तस्करी एवं जालसाजी जैसी गतिविधियों के खिलाफ कमेटी' (कास्केड) ने 11 फरवरी को एंटी स्मगलिंग डे (तस्करी-रोधी दिवस) के रूप में शुरू करने की तैयारी की है। तस्करी-रोधी दिवस तस्करी के वैश्विक संकट के खिलाफ लड़ाई में एक बड़े कदम का प्रतिनिधित्व करेगा। कोई देश तस्करी के प्रभाव से बचा नहीं है और न ही कोई सेक्टर इससे अछूता है। ऐसे में यह दिवस तस्करी के बढ़ते खतरे को सामने लाएगा। फिक्की कास्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत ने कहा, दुर्भाग्य से इस खतरे के बारे में पर्याप्त जागरूकता नहीं है और न ही इस पर उतना जोर दिया जा रहा है।

Hindi Latestly

तस्करी और नकली सामानों के खिलाफ गठित फिक्की की समिति कैसकेड 11 फरवरी को तस्करी रोधी दिवस के रूप में मनायेगी। ... - Latest Tweet by IANS Hindi

The latest Tweet by IANS Hindi states, तस्करी और नकली सामानों के खिलाफ गठित फिक्की की समिति कैसकेड 11 फरवरी को तस्करी रोधी दिवस के रूप में मनायेगी। फिक्की कास्केड के अध्यक्ष अनिल राजपूत ने बताया कि तस्करी के खतरे का अर्थव्यवस्था को तबाह कर रही तस्करी-रोधी दिवस है और न ही इस पर उतना जोर दिया जा रहा है।

Hunt Daily News

फिक्की 11 फरवरी को मनायेगा तस्कर रोधी दिवस

1496 | Edited By : IANS | Updated on: 05 Feb 2022, 12:15:01 AM
(source : IANS) (Photo Credit: (source : IANS))

नयी दिल्ली:

तस्करी और नकली सामानों के खिलाफ गठित फिक्की के समिति कैसकेड 11 फरवरी को तस्करी रोधी दिवस के रूप में मनायेगी।

'फिक्की कास्केड' के अध्यक्ष अनिल राजपूत ने बताया कि तस्करी के खतरे का अर्थव्यवस्था को तबाह कर रही तस्करी-रोधी दिवस है और न ही इस पर उतना जोर दिया जा रहा है। दुर्भाग्य से इस खतरे के बारे में पर्याप्त जागरूकता नहीं है और न ही इस पर उतना जोर दिया जा रहा है। ऐसे में यह दिवस तस्करी के बढ़ते खतरे को सामने लाएगा। फिक्की कास्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत ने कहा, दुर्भाग्य से इस खतरे के बारे में पर्याप्त जागरूकता नहीं है और न ही इस पर उतना जोर दिया जा रहा है।

'फिक्की का कहेगा है कि तस्करी रोधी दिवस से तस्करी के खिलाफ जारी वैश्व अभियान को गति मिलेगी और नैतिक निर्धारण, अर्थव्यवस्था को तबाह कर रही तस्करी-रोधी दिवस है और न ही इस पर उतना जोर दिया जा रहा है।

विश्व आर्थिक संघ के अनुसार, 2020 में तस्करी के कारण वैश्विक जीडीपी में लगभग तीन प्रतिशत यानी 2.2 ट्रिलियन डॉलर का नुकसान हुआ। दुनियाभर में कई देशों में तस्करी के खतरे को मांफते हुए इसे रोकने के लिए कई प्रभावी कदम उठाये हैं और भारत में फिक्की की समिति कैसकेड जागरूकता फैलाने का काम कर रही है।

Diaji World

FICCI CASCADE to launch 'Anti-Smuggling Day' on Feb 11

By: ANS/INDIA DAILY



NEW DELHI: FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities (CASCAD) has taken a step to mark the launch of Anti-Smuggling Day on 11 February 2022. Anti-Smuggling Day will represent a major step in the fight against the global menace of smuggling. With no country immune to the impact of smuggling and its multiple sectors can be said to be an exception. This day will highlight the mounting threat of smuggling. It will not only call for attention for creating awareness on this issue but will also make it a national day to be observed in all countries to raise the global challenge.

Mr. Anil Rajgop, Chairman, FICCI CASCAD said, "Illegal trade in smuggled goods is a global problem of enormous magnitude and nations are feeling under its devastating impact. Unfortunately, not enough awareness and strict regulations to bring it under control exist in most countries and leading to job losses and loss of tax revenue. It poses a risk to the security of nations worldwide. If the spread of smuggling is not checked, the consequences will be disastrous for future generations and hence we must take bold steps to combat this evil."

All India, Chairman, FICCI CASCAD said, "Illegal trade in smuggled goods is a global problem of enormous magnitude and nations are feeling under its devastating impact. Unfortunately, not enough awareness and strict regulations to bring it under control exist in most countries and leading to job losses and loss of tax revenue. It poses a risk to the security of nations worldwide. If the spread of smuggling is not checked, the consequences will be disastrous for future generations and hence we must take bold steps to combat this evil."

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Sarkaritel

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News Patrolling

FICCI CASCADE TO LAUNCH OF 'ANTI-SMUGGLING DAY' ON 11 FEBRUARY

By: ANS/INDIA DAILY | Feb 09, 2022

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All India, Chairman, FICCI CASCAD said, "Illegal trade in smuggled goods is a global problem of enormous magnitude and nations are feeling under its devastating impact. Unfortunately, not enough awareness and strict regulations to bring it under control exist in most countries and leading to job losses and loss of tax revenue. It poses a risk to the security of nations worldwide. If the spread of smuggling is not checked, the consequences will be disastrous for future generations and hence we must take bold steps to combat this evil."

News Today Network

फिक्की 11 फरवरी को मनायेगा तस्करी रोधी दिवस

By: ANS/INDIA DAILY

(source : IANS) (Photo Credit: (source : IANS))

Dainik Jagran

फिक्की कास्केड 11 फरवरी को करेगा तस्करी-रोधी दिवस की शुरुआत

नई दिल्ली, जेएनएन। फिक्की की अर्थव्यवस्था को तबाह कर रही तस्करी एवं जालसाजी जैसी गतिविधियों के खिलाफ कमेटी (कास्केड) ने 11 फरवरी को एंटी स्मगलिंग डे (तस्करी-रोधी दिवस) के रूप में शुरू करने की तैयारी की है। तस्करी-रोधी दिवस तस्करी के वैश्विक संकट के खिलाफ लड़ाई में एक बड़े कदम का प्रतिनिधित्व करेगा। कोई देश तस्करी के प्रभाव से बचा नहीं है और न ही कोई सेक्टर इससे अछूता है। ऐसे में यह दिवस तस्करी के बढ़ते खतरे को सामने लाएगा। फिक्की कास्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत ने कहा, दुर्भाग्य से इस खतरे के बारे में पर्याप्त जागरूकता नहीं है और न ही इस पर उतना जोर दिया जा रहा है।

News Daily

फिक्की 11 फरवरी को मनायेगा तस्कर रोधी दिवस

1496 | Edited By : IANS | Updated on: 05 Feb 2022, 12:15:01 AM
(source : IANS) (Photo Credit: (source : IANS))

नयी दिल्ली:

तस्करी और नकली सामानों के खिलाफ गठित फिक्की की समिति कैसकेड 11 फरवरी को तस्करी रोधी दिवस के रूप में मनायेगी।

'फिक्की कास्केड' के अध्यक्ष अनिल राजपूत ने बताया कि तस्करी के खतरे का अर्थव्यवस्था को तबाह कर रही तस्करी-रोधी दिवस है और न ही इस पर उतना जोर दिया जा रहा है। दुर्भाग्य से इस खतरे के बारे में पर्याप्त जागरूकता नहीं है और न ही इस पर उतना जोर दिया जा रहा है। ऐसे में यह दिवस तस्करी के बढ़ते खतरे को सामने लाएगा। फिक्की कास्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत ने कहा, दुर्भाग्य से इस खतरे के बारे में पर्याप्त जागरूकता नहीं है और न ही इस पर उतना जोर दिया जा रहा है।

'फिक्की का कहेगा है कि तस्करी रोधी दिवस से तस्करी के खिलाफ जारी वैश्व अभियान को गति मिलेगी और नैतिक निर्धारण, अर्थव्यवस्था को तबाह कर रही तस्करी-रोधी दिवस है और न ही इस पर उतना जोर दिया जा रहा है।

विश्व आर्थिक संघ के अनुसार, 2020 में तस्करी के कारण वैश्विक जीडीपी में लगभग तीन प्रतिशत यानी 2.2 ट्रिलियन डॉलर का नुकसान हुआ। दुनियाभर में कई देशों में तस्करी के खतरे को मांफते हुए इसे रोकने के लिए कई प्रभावी कदम उठाये हैं और भारत में फिक्की की समिति कैसकेड जागरूकता फैलाने का काम कर रही है।

RECENT INITIATIVES

In Conversation with Prof. (Dr.) Ashok R. Patil, Chair Professor and Chair on Consumer Law & Practice (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India), National Law School of India University

March 3, 2022

FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy organised an 'In Conversation with Prof. (Dr.) Ashok R. Patil, Chair Professor and Chair on Consumer Law & Practice (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India), National Law School of India University on 3rd March 2022. It was organised as a precursor to the World Consumer Rights Day on 15th March 2022 to discuss the importance of Consumer Protection Act and the role of consumers in

addressing the growing hazards of smuggling and counterfeiting across the nations.

Prof. (Dr.) Ashok R. Patil, Chair Professor and Chair on Consumer Law & Practice (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India), National Law School of India University said, "Consumers have the right to be informed about the purity, safety, quality of the product, right to seek redressal against unfair trade practice and the right to be aware". He further





In Conversation Series

Welcome Address by

Mr. P K Malhotra
Former Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADe

Prof. (Dr.) Ashok R. Patil
Chair Professor and Chair on Consumer Law & Practice (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India), National Law School of India University

Mr. Hem Kumar Pande
Former Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADe

3rd March 2022 | 12:00 P.M. Supported by: Sunfeast

added that creating public awareness, increasing surveillance, and coordination amongst industry, consumers, NGOs, government, and media can help counter the problem of counterfeiting and smuggling effectively.

He also informed that “The Central Consumer Protection Authority will change the scenario in India with its Suo moto & investigative powers which takes care of all the rights of the consumers with regards to unfair trade practices, false and misleading advertisements.”

Mr. P K Malhotra, Former Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADe in his welcome address said, “Counterfeit and smuggled goods are not only a threat to the country’s economy, but also bring serious harm to the consumers. Illicit products have infiltrated everyday avenues of commerce, making their way into supply chains, posing threat to individuals’ health and safety.” “While the Consumer Protection Act is a stepping-stone to regulate matters involving violation & enforcement of consumer rights, the consumers must also act responsibly & cautiously while making any purchase”, he added.

Mr. Hem Kumar Pande, Former Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADe while moderating the session said, “Consumer awareness is of paramount importance and consumers should know their rights and duties. They need to stand united against the menace of counterfeit and smuggled goods”. Mr Pande emphasised on having a consumer movement in India against such serious crimes that are not only risking consumer’s health and safety but are also damaging the economy of the country”. He also stressed on having a dynamic policy and legal framework, quick consumer grievance redressal, mediation centres and aggressive campaigning to protect consumers against the menace of illicit trade”.

FICCI CASCADe, in pursuance of its agenda, has been organizing series of multi-stakeholder dialogues to tackle this adversary and spread awareness about the socio-economic impact of counterfeiting and smuggling.

<https://www.ficciscascade.in/in-conversation-with-prof-dr-ashok-r-patil-chair-professor-and-chair-on-consumer-law-practice-ministry-of-consumer-affairs-govt-of-india-national-law-school-of-india-university/>

In Conversation with Prof. Bejon Kumar Misra, Founder, Consumer Online Foundation

March 9, 2022

Illicit trade in terms of counterfeiting and smuggling make up a vast 'global businesses', representing a multibillion-dollar illegal industry that creates a significant drain on the world economy. FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) **on March 9, 2022 organized an 'In Conversation with Prof. Bejon Kumar Misra, Founder, Consumer Online Foundation'** to discuss the role of consumers and consumer protection organizations in dealing with illicit products, importance of Consumer Protection Act in safeguarding consumers and initiatives that can be taken to contain the menace of counterfeiting and smuggling.

"A strong consumer movement in an institutionalised manner with leadership from the government is the need of the hour to fight the menace of counterfeiting and smuggling" said **Prof. Bejon Kumar Misra**, Founder, Consumer Online Foundation. He further added that to fight the growing menace of illicit trade, consumers must be able to report immediately if they find a difference in the specified quality of the product. A platform must be created for the consumers where they can share their experiences of encountering a smuggled, fake, defective, or counterfeit product. He

emphasized on the need to address the issue at the grassroots level & take immediate action against illicit traders.

Emphasizing on the role of consumers in the fight against illicit trade practices, **Mr. Anil Rajput**, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE said, "Consumers can encourage change through their choices and behaviour. By highlighting some of the key harms attached to counterfeit and smuggled goods, they can play an important role in raising awareness on just how risky purchasing these items can be both to themselves and to the wider community."

"I strongly believe that apart from a policy framework that disincentivises such illicit activities along with aggressive enforcement against the criminals of this trade, sustained awareness campaigns for people and understanding demand behaviour are critical in this fight", he added.

Mr. Hem Kumar Pande, Former Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE while moderating the session said "it is not only the responsibility of the consumers to be aware of the growing illicit trade. But it's time to go beyond & spread awareness amongst sellers about the adverse impacts

In Conversation Series

Welcome Address by

Mr. Anil Rajput
Chairman,
FICCI CASCADE

Prof. Bejon Kumar Misra
Founder,
Consumer Online Foundation

Mr. Hem Kumar Pande
Former Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs,
Food and Public Distribution and Think
Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE

9th March, 2022 | 4:00 P.M

YouTube
LIVE ficciindia

of smuggled & counterfeit products". Mr. Pande said challenge is to unite consumers and voluntary consumer organisations can play an important role in bring them together.

FICCI CASCADE has been over the years working closely with government, industry, enforcement officials, legal fraternity, consumer organizations and the youth to create awareness on the adverse impact of counterfeiting and smuggling. FICCI

CASCADE, in pursuance of its agenda, has been organizing series of multi-stakeholder dialogues to tackle this adversary and spread awareness about the socio-economic impact of counterfeiting and smuggling.

<https://www.ficcicascade.in/in-conversation-with-prof-bejon-kumar-misra-founder-consumer-online-foundation/>



AWARENESS THROUGH ART



World Consumer Rights Day 2022

15 March 2022

FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) collaborated with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Govt of India, to encourage the country's youth to be a part in the socio-economic development of the nation by creating a youth movement against smuggling and counterfeiting. In this endeavour, FICCI CASCADE, jointly with the Ministry, organized a painting competition on the theme 'Youth for Socio-Economic Development - Paving the Way for India's Amrit Kaal'.

With the objective to generate awareness on the adverse impacts of smuggling and counterfeiting, especially among school children who are the consumers of tomorrow, this competition was organized as a run up to the World Consumer Rights Day celebrations by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. This day, which is celebrated world over on 15 March, stands in solidarity with the international consumer movement,

demanding consumer rights to be respected and protected.

Mr Rohit Kumar Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Govt of India said, "Our future generations are the hope for real change. Empowering and strengthening them to act for national development will help in shaping the future of our country in a brighter and more prosperous manner. World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year by our ministry to protect the rights of consumers; and to ensure that the consumers are not subjected to market abuse or social injustice that may undermine their rights."

Mr Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE said, "The youth of India are the country's future. As India marks 75 years of its glorious independence and enters Amrit Kaal, the 25-year-long leadup to India@100, the youth will play a pivotal role in nation building and advocating socially responsible behaviour towards the country's development."

'Youth for Socio-Economic Development - Paving the Way for India's Amrit Kaal' Inter-School Painting Competition Against Smuggling & Counterfeiting



On the occasion of the World Consumer Rights Day, scores of schoolchildren from across the country demonstrated their resolve to put an end to smuggling by generating consumer awareness. The competition saw an overwhelming response, with more than 400 entries received from across the country. The young consumers of India shared their thoughts and ideas through innovative paintings, which depicted the harmful effects of counterfeited and smuggled goods on the country's economy and its people. The winners of the top three paintings were awarded by Shri Ashwini Kumar

Choubey and Sadhvi Niranjn Jayoti, both Ministers of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

The jury members for the competition included Mr. P K Malhotra, Former Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, Mr. Hem Kumar Pande, Former Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Mr. Sanjeev Tripathi, Former Chief, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). Winners were awarded a certificate of recognition, along with a cash prize of Rs 50,000, Rs 25,000 and Rs 15,000, respectively.

THE WINNERS



While the first prize was bagged by Ms. Chandrima Pan of Class X from Delhi's St. George's School, the second prize was won by Ms. Supriya Baital of Class XI from Birla Vidya Niketan School, New Delhi. The third position was shared by Mr. Sajal Jain of Class X from Agra Public School, Agra, and Ms. Aaira Katoch of Class IX from Gurugram's Lotus Valley International School. Besides, all the participants were issued a certificate of participation.



Interactive Session on Strategies to Combat Smuggling and Counterfeiting

26th March 2022 | Amritsar

It is a well-known fact that the illicit trade in terms of counterfeiting and smuggling is a matter of great concern for nations across the globe. Over the years, FICCI CASCADE has been actively involved in creating awareness amongst the stakeholders against the alarming magnitude of illicit trade.

FICCI CASCADE organized an **interactive session on the 'Strategies to Combat Smuggling and Counterfeiting' on 26 March 2022 in Amritsar** to create awareness and sensitize all concerned about the hazardous impact of the smuggling and counterfeiting on the economy, health, security, employment etc. The session focused on issues such as the need for increased consumer awareness; strengthening of the enforcement regime; improvement in the regulatory mechanism; and enhanced stakeholder collaboration.

Highlighting the global menace of counterfeiting and

smuggling, **Justice Manmohan Sarin**, Former Chief Justice Former Lokayukta, NCT of Delhi, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir & Judge, Hight Court of India said "The World Economic Forum, stated that illicit trade has resulted in an annual drain of US\$ 2.2 trillion which was approx. 3 percent of the world GDP in 2020".

While complimenting the enforcement officers of Punjab who have been relentlessly pursuing smugglers and counterfeiters, he said that their hands-on approach had led to large number of seizures in the state, of fake and smuggled consumer goods, alcohol, food products, gold, cigarettes, fertilizers and others.

Mr. Rahul Nangare, Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Amritsar, in his address, accentuated that 32 kgs of gold from Afghanistan, 584 kgs of heroin from Pakistan and 483 kgs of cannabis were recently seized by enforcement authorities.



Talking about the menace of smuggling, he underscored the importance of inter-agency coordination, international collaborations, capacity building of officers and the need for modern Customs examination machinery, which were imperative for creating a balance between enforcement and trade facilitation.

Mr. Sanjay Gaur, Deputy Inspector General, Border Security Force, Punjab highlighted the challenges faced by BSF officers, such as difficult terrains, extreme climate and prours borders, in their day-to-day operations in managing the country's security. "Items such as heroin, arms and ammunition, Fake Indian Currency Note (FICN), gold, silver, tobacco are the most smuggled items across borders", he added.

Ms. Kameswari Subramanian, International Expert, Customs Law, Procedures & Trade facilitation and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE, while delivering the concluding

remarks, shed light on the strategies employed to combat smuggling and counterfeiting activities which were posing a serious threat to the economy.

The interactive session was also addressed by several eminent members including **Dr. Debi Prasad Dash**, Former Principal Director General, DRI and Chairman, Enforcement Committee, World Customs Organisation, **Mr. Hem Kumar Pande**, Former Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, **Mr. Sanjeev Tripathi**, Former Chief Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), **Mr. Narendra Sabharwal**, Former Deputy Director General, WIPO & Chairman, FICCI IPR Committee, **Mr. P K Malhotra**, Former Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice, **Dr. Guriqbal Singh Jaija**, Former Director, SME Division, WIPO and **Mr. Deep Chand**, Advisor, Former Special Commissioner of Delhi Police & Advisor, FICCI CASCADE.

<https://www.ficcicascade.in/interactive-session-on-strategies-to-combat-smuggling-and-counterfeiting/>



IN THE NEWS

‘Strategies to Combat Smuggling & Counterfeiting’, organised by FICCI CASCADE at Amritsar



RECENT INITIATIVES

In Conversation with Mr. Vivek Johri, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

12 May 2022



FICCI CASCADE organized an “In Conversation with Mr. Vivek Johri, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs” on 12th May 2022. The objective of the session was to throw light on the smuggling scenario in India, enforcement of laws related to indirect taxes, steps taken to contain tax evasion and initiatives taken by CBIC to combat this menace.

Addressing the 'In Conversation Series' organized by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) Mr Johri, said, “Gold, narcotics, and cigarettes are highly prone to outright smuggling. He further highlighted the extent of the menace and said that “At CBIC, we are going aggressively against illicit trade in these goods. In 2021-22, we seized 92,000 kg of narcotics worth Rs 17,400 crore, during this period, we also seized 14 crore cigarette sticks”. He added that artificial intelligence and data analytics are playing a pivotal role in targeting instances of smuggling which have significantly helped the department to deal with the growing menace of illicit trade.

Mr. Johri also shared those unscrupulous players indulging in illicit activities misuse free trade agreements, export promotion schemes, and misuse end user-based exemptions. He accentuated that CBIC is trying to overcome these challenges in a systemic way and have ramped up the use of technology in their operations with 22 cargo scanners at 16 locations to ensure 100% scanning of all containers coming into the country through gateway ports.

Mr Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE in his welcome address said that smuggling and illicit trade is increasingly hurting Indian economy and have crept into multiple sections of the society. Immediate steps are required, both in the form of policy intervention and awareness generation, to address this growing menace.

He highlighted that it is indeed heartening to see how CBIC is using AI, Blockchain, Machine Learning to strengthen the enforcement agencies in detecting such malpractices. Complimenting the GST council and CBIC for a well-balanced tax policy and maintaining equal thrust on revenue



augmentation and strict handling of tax evaders. He apprised how this has led to effective compliance and record-breaking revenue collections. He further added that we can already see some green shoots and are hopeful that going forward collaborative efforts between government agencies and industries would bring fruitful results for the country.

Mr P C Jha, Former Chairman, CBIC and Advisor, FICCI CASCADE while moderating the session stated that the magnitude of illicit market is large and with passage of time it is proliferating at an accelerated pace. One in 3 FMCG household and personal goods available in the market, is not

genuine. Similarly, one out of 4 FMCG packaged food items and one out of 5 tobacco products including cigarette sold is an illicit product. Mr. Jha highlighted that FICCI CASCADE study indicates that in FY 2013-14 due to illicit trade in respect of just 7 items, total loss to government revenue was about Rs. 39000 crores and sales loss to the genuine industry was about Rs 1,05,000 crores.

FICCI CASCADE, in pursuance of its agenda, has been organizing series of such interactions with experts to understand various facets of illicit trade and its impact on the economy.

FICCI 10 GLORIOUS YEARS C I A | S | C | A | D | E

IN THE NEWS

FICCI CASCADE- In Conversation with Mr. Vivek Johri Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) 12th May, 2022

Gold, narcotics, and cigarettes are highly prone to outright smuggling, says CBIC Chairman Johri

NEW DELHI: Vivek Johri, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Govt of India on Thursday said, "Gold, narcotics, and cigarettes are highly prone to outright smuggling." Addressing the 'In Conversation Series' organized by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) Mr Johri highlighted the extent of the menace and said that "As CBIC, we are going aggressively against illicit trade in these goods. In 2021-22, we seized 92,000 kg of narcotics worth Rs 17,400 crore, during this period, we also seized 14 crore cigarette sticks". He further added that artificial intelligence and data analytics are playing a pivotal role in targeting instances of smuggling which have significantly helped the department to deal with the growing menace of illicit trade. Johri also shared those unscrupulous players indulging in illicit activities misuse free trade agreements, export promotion schemes, and misuse end user-based exemptions. "CBIC is trying to overcome these challenges in a systemic way, and have ramped up the use of technology in their operations with 22 cargo scanners at 16 locations to ensure 100 per cent scanning of all containers coming into the country through gateway ports," said Johri. Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE said, "Smuggling and illicit trade is increasingly hurting Indian economy and have crept into multiple sections of the society. Immediate steps are required, both in the form of policy intervention and awareness generation, to address this growing menace." It is indeed heartening to see how CBIC is using AI, Blockchain, Machine Learning to strengthen the defence of such malpractices. Complimenting the GST council and CBIC for a well-balanced tax policy and maintaining equal trust on revenue augmentation and strict handling of tax evaders." He highlighted how this has led to effective compliance and record-breaking revenue collections. "We can already see some green shoots and are hopeful that going forward collaborative efforts between government agencies and industries would bring fruitful results for the country, he added.

GST rates on certain sin goods at a point where they can't be hiked anymore: CBIC Chairman

NEW DELHI: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Vivek Johri said that GST rates on certain sin goods such as tobacco and alcohol are at a point where they cannot be hiked further. He said that the government has already taken steps to reduce smuggling and is looking for ways to increase revenue without raising taxes on these goods. He also mentioned that the government is considering other measures to curb smuggling, such as increasing penalties and improving the tracking and tracking of cargo movement.

India's taxman is now using blockchain tech and scanning rail cargo as cutting Customs tax 'doesn't reduce smuggling'

By Honey Bhatnagar | May 12, 2022, 10:27 PM IST Updated

Illicit trade cannot be curbed by simply raising or reducing tax rates: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Vivek Johri believes. His theory is backed by internal studies.

CBIC chief expects average GST collection of ₹1.35-lakh cr this fiscal

Says mop-up consistently higher than GDP rate, ramping up technology to deal with illicit trade

NEW DELHI: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Vivek Johri on Thursday expected average monthly GST collection of ₹1.35 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

Speaking at his conference 'In Conversation Series', organized by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE), Johri said GST collection has been consistently higher than the GDP growth rate.

"There is a feedback in the economy, and also inflation and fuel in all prices have jumped, however, we will see the pressure on the Consumer Inflation and other costs," he said.

Tackling illicit trade

"As CBIC, we are going up against the menace of illicit trade in three goods. In 2021, we seized 92,000 kg of narcotics worth Rs. 17,400 cr, 14 cr cigarette sticks seized in 2021-22," said Johri.

"We added that artificial intelligence and data analytics have significantly helped deal with the growing menace of illicit trade."

"CBIC is trying to overcome these challenges in a systemic way, and has ramped up the use of technology in their operations with 22 cargo scanners at 16 locations to ensure 100 per cent scanning of all containers coming into the country through gateway ports," said Johri.

Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE, said that trade is increasingly hurting the Indian economy, particularly those who are engaged, both in the form of policy intervention and awareness generation, to address the menace.

"It is indeed heartening to see how CBIC is using AI, Blockchain, machine learning to strengthen the defence of such malpractices. Complimenting the GST council and CBIC for a well-balanced tax policy and maintaining equal trust on revenue augmentation and strict handling of tax evaders," he said, while highlighting how this has led to effective compliance and record-breaking collections.

92,000 kg of narcotics worth Rs 17,400 cr, 14 cr cigarette sticks seized in 2021-22: CBIC

NEW DELHI, May 12 (ANI): Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Vivek Johri said that the government has already taken steps to reduce smuggling and is looking for ways to increase revenue without raising taxes on these goods.

Duty cut, commodity price may put pressure on custom and excise collection

NEW DELHI: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Vivek Johri said that duty cut and commodity price increase may put pressure on custom and excise collection.

He said that the government has already taken steps to reduce smuggling and is looking for ways to increase revenue without raising taxes on these goods.

GST rate hike: CBIC Chairman says GST on some sin goods such that it can't be hiked further

NEW DELHI: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Vivek Johri said that GST rates on certain sin goods such as tobacco and alcohol are at a point where they cannot be hiked further.

@cbic_india Chief Vivek Johri expects **#GST** revenue buoyancy to continue this **#fiscal** and help offset the potential fall in customs and excise collections. He also says tax on sin goods cannot be hiked from current levels. **@TimsyJaipuria** has the details



BUSINESS 360
CBIC CHIEF ON GST COLLECTIONS
Customs & Excise Mop-Up To Be Under Pressure

BUSINESS 360
"Tax Rates For Sin Goods Can't Be Hiked Any More"



GST

Infographic showing GST rates and collection trends.



Video thumbnail of Mr. Vivek Johri speaking.

RECENT INITIATIVES

An Effective RESPONSE against SMUGGLING



Anil Rajput

Chairman, FICCI CASCADE

Member - Corporate Management Committee &

Senior Vice President - Corporate Affairs ITC Limited

On 11th February this year, FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) launched the Anti-Smuggling Day to raise its voice against the menace of smuggling across the globe.

A strong demand for earmarking this day comes at a time when illicit trade and smuggling activities continues to grow exponentially amid globalization of trade, finance and rapid changes in technology, giving criminals the opportunity to create new mechanisms for trafficking contraband, laundering money, and engaging in large-scale economic crimes.

The Global Illicit Economy report released in 2021 states that Illicit markets have boomed, diversified and become more networked especially over the last 20 years. While, over the years, the geographic scope, volume and range of goods traded in illegal markets have raised the stakes considerably on societies and global economies, their growth however, can be dated back to centuries.

Smuggling, for instance has a long and controversial history around the 13th century, when it was first recognized as a problem in England, following the creation of a national

customs collection system by Edward I in 1275. Medieval smuggling focussed on the export of highly taxed export goods - notably wool and hides.

Initially the customs service existed only to collect the duties at the ports, and not to prevent smuggling. However, during the 17th and 18th centuries illegal trade increased. From the previously small-scale evasion of duties, smuggling had now developed into an industry. The 18th century was known as the golden age of smuggling where England in particular witnessed smuggling of tea, tobacco, spices, silks, and spirits in the country.

Smuggling continued throughout the early 19th century, but declined after the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 when the preventive effort was stepped up with the introduction of coastal blockades and coastguard.

In the case of North America, smuggling in colonial times was a reaction to the heavy taxes and regulations imposed by mercantilist trade policies. After American independence in 1783, smuggling developed at the edges of the United States at places like Passamaquoddy Bay, St. Mary's in Georgia, Lake Champlain, and Louisiana. During Thomas Jefferson's embargo



of 1807-1809, these same places became the primary places where goods were smuggled out of the nation in defiance of the law.

Like Britain, a gradual liberalization of trade laws as part of the free trade movement led to reduced smuggling. In 1907 President Theodore Roosevelt also tried to cut down on smuggling by establishing the Roosevelt Reservation along the United States-Mexico Border. However, smuggling revived in the 1920s during Prohibition, and drug smuggling became a major problem after 1970.

In the latter half of the 19th century, smuggling also spread to the African continent. Particularly, smuggling of spirits from the Portuguese colonies into the Boer states and from French colonies into the Gold Coast and Nigeria.

The fact of the matter is that smuggling has been around for centuries, however, it is the number of products, the people involved and the nefarious intentions that have increased manifold in the recent years.

As the commercial boom increased the pace of development, so did the illegal businesses. It's not far-fetched to deduce that such illegal activities are one of the most profitable business ventures in the world today. Worldwide, several reports have indicated that in recent times a plethora of illicit activities are performed systematically by criminal enterprises which includes drug trafficking, human trafficking, illegal wildlife trade and illegal arms trafficking. As an alternative to paper currency, gold and cigarettes is most favoured for money laundering and illicit trade. It is high-value, easy-to-transport, making it vulnerable to smuggling.

There is mounting evidence on the economic and social losses caused by smuggling. According to Global Financial Integrity, Illicit flows resulting from transnational crime - such as arms, tobacco or pharmaceuticals smuggling are valued at an average of US\$1.6 trillion to US\$2.2 trillion annually, which is nearly the size of the United Kingdom's GDP. WHO estimates

that with regards to alcohol smuggling, the annual worth amounts to USD 19.4 billion. In 2019, UNODC estimated the annual value of the trade in narcotics lie between USD 400 and 600 billion worldwide. These figures are staggering and underscore the stealthy and prolific rate at which this problem is growing around the world.

In India, a 2019 FICCI CASCADe report stated that the top 5 sectors where smuggling was rampant were Textiles, Tobacco Products Readymade Garments, Capital Goods and Consumer Electronics which were damaging the economy to the tune of Rs 1,17,253 crore. Even the recent COVID pandemic has not been of any deterrence to narcotics gold or cigarette smugglers. Enforcement agencies in India report that, in fact, the methods deployed to hide contraband goods have become smarter during this period.

Despite creation of various enforcement mechanisms, border controls and efforts by officers from various agencies across the world, smuggling is thriving from times immemorial. There is no doubt that along with significant levels of inter-agency and inter-country cooperation, the need of the hour is creation of greater levels of consumer awareness and education in curbing this threat. This will eventually prevent victimization of the people, who are the ultimate sufferers of such malicious practices as they receive poor-quality goods and are exposed to health and safety dangers. More so, smugglers, by evading legal duties and taxes, are an extra burden for the government's budget as well and so, it leads to the citizens being deprived of the much-needed resources and welfare measure too.

Combating smuggling requires a systematic understanding of the nature and scope of the problem and no nation can do this in isolation. Therefore, it is critical that governments across the globe join hands to dialogue, prioritize actions and create a collective global response which in the years to come, will most certainly blunt the detrimental impact of this lethal adversary.

Right Approach to Tax Tobacco Products



P. C Jha

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Former Chairman, Central Board
of Indirect Taxes and Customs

The law of 'unintended consequences' explains such actions of people, as also of governments, that result in such effects which were not expected or desired. While social scientists have heeded its power for centuries, the popular opinion has largely ignored it. An understanding of this is important, especially while crafting policies and regulations and any detachments from the same, may have consequences that are not only unplanned but also counterproductive.

A case in point is the excessive regulatory approach of the government of India towards the sin products, in particular, the cigarettes.

India is the 2nd largest producer of tobacco in the world providing livelihood to 45.7 million people in the country with significant share of the country's tax revenues amounting to around Rs.53,750 crores annually. Despite being an important commercial crop and generating socio-economic benefits in terms of agricultural employment, farm incomes, revenue generation and foreign exchange earnings, this industry has borne the brunt of unreasonable regulatory measures over the years.

If we see the tobacco consumption pattern in India, it is very unique where only 8% of the total tobacco is consumed in the form of legal cigarettes. The remaining 92% consumption is in the form of 29 evasion prone other tobacco products such as bidis, chewing tobacco, khaini etc and illegal cigarettes. This is quite unlike the pattern in rest of the world where tobacco consumption is synonymous with cigarettes which account for as much as 90% of total consumption.

Despite a small share of tobacco consumption, legal cigarettes contribute a very high proportion of the tobacco tax revenue in India. Hence, India's tobacco control policies and regulations need to be specifically tailored to Indian conditions and not based on a "one size fits all" approach as advocated by WHO's tobacco control programme.

In India, some lobbyists pursue untenable views that if taxes on cigarettes are high, the consumption would come down, and the cause of public health would be served better. But the ill-effects of excessive taxation coupled with impractical restrictions stare us in the face. As per a WHO Report of 2021, affordability as a percentage of GDP per capita required to purchase 2000 cigarettes in India is 13.78% as compared to USA 1.16%, Japan 1.22%, China 1.10%, Pakistan 4% etc. Thus, making legal cigarettes in India least affordable. This naturally increases the circulation of either tax-evaded illicit cigarettes which comes at a lower cost or to other forms of cheap and substandard tobacco products which cause much greater harms to public health than genuine tax-compliant products.

According to a report by Euromonitor International, India is now the 4th largest illegal cigarette market in the world. The year 2020 saw an eightfold increase of illicit seizures of cigarettes over the previous year, indicating that India continues to be a target for tobacco smugglers. Also, according to DRI's 'Smuggling in India report' released in 2021, seizure of illegal cigarettes increased by nearly 20 percent in FY20-21, making it one of the most lucrative commodities for smugglers of late.

Moreover, it is estimated that on account of illegal cigarettes alone, revenue loss to the Government is almost 15,000 crore per annum. As per a study by FICCI, large scale smuggling of cigarettes has resulted in a loss of employment to the tune of 3.34 lac in the year 2017-18 in India. With widespread smuggling of cigarettes and large quantities of the same being seized regularly, the likelihood of illicit trade in cigarettes increasing further in the years to come is very high.

Besides loss of revenue and employment, this lucrative criminal enterprise also generates large amount of unaccounted money, a substantial portion of which is also utilized to finance

terrorism making it a grave matter of national threat. It is an established fact that world's largest and most notorious terror organisations get their financing mainly from illicit trade, including smuggling of cigarettes. Conclusive evidence has been found that cigarette smuggling due to its being a low risk, high profit business operation, has been the preferred choice for Al-Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Taliban, Irish Republican Army, Boko Haram and many more to finance their criminal acts.

Further, health warnings on cigarette packs in India are among the most stringent. They cover more than 85% of the surface area of packages. By virtue of this, India ranks eighth in the world, whereas the global average warning size is less than 45%. The United States, China and Japan which collectively account for 50% of the global cigarette consumption have not opted for pictorial warnings. They have text-based warnings which are not found to be less effective in cautioning the consumers.

The unintended consequence of this apparently beneficial measure is that while the graphic warnings are intended to deter consumption, in practice, they actually aggravate the situation further as large quantities of illicit cigarettes are being sold in packages having no pictorial or text warnings. And in all this, consumers are shifting to tax-evaded, sub-standard, and cheaper products which appear safer due to lack of graphical health warnings, but pose much greater health risk as they are manufactured illegally, in unhygienic conditions and are not quality compliant. Thereby, completely defeating the government's well-intentioned objective of controlling the sale and consumption of health injurious products.

Extreme regulations and taxation on any legal product even of the sin ones promote illicit trade. It is difficult to understand why does the government remain oblivious to this obvious reality while taking important fiscal decisions. The government's objective of increasing taxes on cigarettes primarily stems from a public health perspective along with augmenting its exchequer. However, as a result of the present shortsighted approach, both of these noble objectives are getting defeated. There is an immediate need to delve deeper into all related aspects while taking taxation decision about this item.

GOLD- POLICY INTERVENTION REQUIRED



NAJIB SHAH

Former Chairman
Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs

India's love affair with gold continues unabated. Licit imports of gold are in the range of about 750 tonnes annually. As per the RBI's half yearly report on foreign exchange management, the RBI has 743.84 metric tonnes of gold as of end September 2021. In value terms the share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves is at a high of nearly 5.88%. (<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/HalfYearlyPublications.aspx?head=Report%20on%20Foreign%20Exchange%20Reserves>)

Our foreign exchange reserves at the end of November 2021 were at USD 640.4 billion, the fourth largest in the world. As per a 2018 Niti Aayog report, 'Transforming India's Gold Sector', an estimated 23,000-24,000 tonnes of gold are lying unused with households and religious institutions throughout the nation. (<https://www.niti.gov.in/transforming-india-gold-market>)

Yet smuggling continues -through land and air. Concealed in body orifices, in vehicles, in machine parts, as molten metal. The smugglers ingenuity being matched only by the customs officer's alertness. The Rajya Sabha on 21 December 2021 was

informed that 7,288 kgs of gold had been seized in the last three years from 2019-20 to November 2021. (<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1783881>). And seizures admittedly represent a small portion of what has been smuggled.

Demand accompanied by supply restrictions imposed by tariff barriers fuels smuggling. We initially restricted all import of gold. We liberalised. Import was permitted at a specific rate of Rs.300 per 10 gm -this translated to about 1% and dramatically reduced smuggling. We today have a 7.5% basic custom's duty rate.

FICCI's Think Tank, the Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (with the very appropriate acronym, CASCADE given the cascading and debilitating impact of smuggling and counterfeiting) has focussed on raising awareness in the public at large and more importantly among policy makers, about the impact of these nefarious activities on the exchequer and on employment.

CASCADE has highlighted the need for strict enforcement and also the need for policy measures to be put in place which could reduce the menace. In the context of gold, which for reasons specified above by far the most vulnerable to smuggling, several measures have been put in place - obviously these have been insufficient and need a relook.

Thus, November 2015 witnessed the launch of three schemes- the Gold Monetisation Scheme, (GMS) the Sovereign Gold Bond scheme and the India Gold Coin. Schemes which the Prime Minister in his inimitable style described as 'sone pe s u h a a g a a ' (i c i n g o n t h e c a k e) . (<https://archive.pib.gov.in/archive2/erelease.aspx>)

The hope being that citizens would bring out the gold lying dormant to take advantage of these schemes and the demand for gold would be met to this extent. And that this would mean lesser import of gold and lesser smuggling.

There was also the Hallmarking scheme. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act was amended to provide for hallmarking sale of gold jewellery-whereby unique identification numbers guaranteeing purity are provided to each piece of jewellery. This was meant to address both quality and also establish the source of gold.

In early 2021 GMS was revamped (R-GMS). (<https://dea.gov.in/gms2015>) It is estimated that about 22-24 tonnes of gold have so far come under GMS-a very small percentage of the 23-24 thousand tonnes of gold said to be in the economy. There are currently only about 950 hallmarking centres in the country. We are currently in the series VII/VIII/IX and X of the RBI's sovereign gold bond scheme.

Smuggling however continues. It has, as is well known and documented by CASCADE's earlier studies, a multiplier bad impact on the economy. It generates black money, spawns hawala transactions; its proceeds finance other criminal activities. It results in loss of legitimate jobs.

It is obvious that the present basic customs duty rate provides profits which outweigh the risks. As a policy we have never accepted the fact that gold is an integral cultural part of the lives of an average Indian. We always believed that import needs to be checked for fear of a drain on foreign exchange.

Given our foreign exchange reserves, it is time to take a relook. We could reduce the basic customs duty of imported gold- reduce it enough to make the risks of smuggling not worthwhile. And juxtapose the revenue which duty from

imported gold generates with the enormous damage which smuggling results in.

With the Union Budget around the corner, this is an ideal time to examine the entire policy on gold. Basic Customs duty needs to be reduced -reduced enough to make smuggling unattractive. Policy makers could consider bringing down the rate of basic customs duty to the current prevailing GST rate of 3%. Yes, it would result in decrease in customs revenue. The customs revenue in the last fiscal was in the region of Rs.1.12 lakh crore. Revenue from gold admittedly forms a major portion of this revenue. But the decrease in revenue should be juxtaposed with the benefits and positive impact on the economy in the form of lesser generation of black money which lesser smuggling would mean. Further again admittedly there would be some spurt in legal imports and an adverse impact on the current account deficit -but with exports going up, this is a fallout we can live with.

There should be a robust system of tracing licit imports of gold all along the value chain. This is essential to ensure that that gold stays in the licit economy.

The R-GMS needs to be relooked at. The interest of 2.5% which the scheme presently offers is low. This should be increased. Much as one is against an amnesty scheme which in effect rewards the evader of tax, R-GMS should act as an amnesty scheme. No questions should be asked about the source of the gold. A provision should be made in the R-GMS to give back the gold article in its original form if the depositor so desires. This is especially true in respect of ornaments which are family heirlooms.

Another policy measure required is also to look at gold Dore- the semi-pure alloy of gold which is permitted to be imported at a lesser duty currently at 6.9%. Obviously, the duty on such Dore imports also needs to be correspondingly reduced. There are serious concerns that such gold Dore which comes primarily from Africa can potentially be linked to conflict, human rights violations and other abuses. London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) has put in place a Responsible Gold Guidance (RGG). This outlines the responsible sourcing requirements. We should adopt these standards.

Dubai is the major source of gold -both legally imported and smuggled. We should not lose sight of this fact even as we are negotiating an FTA with UAE.

For a government which invests so much in publicising its schemes, the schemes regarding gold have had little publicity. This should be addressed imaginatively.

The Misconceived Aura of Smuggling



NAJIB SHAH

Former Chairman
Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs

Glamorization of crime makes good stories. Be it in books or movies. And if the crime is smuggling it is even more so. Add to it some mirch masala in the form of a pretty village belle, good music and for good measure also throw in a socialist element-the poor versus the rich, the oppressed versus the oppressor, you have a sure winner in your hands. Pushpa, a multilingual super-hit movie with a twist and running in theatres and on OTT, is the latest.

That smuggling and counterfeit activities are detrimental to the economy is well known. There are very few studies however available to establish just how bad these activities are. One major challenge has always been that since smuggling is a clandestine activity, establishing the quantum of smuggling is always a challenge. However, in a study commissioned by FICCI's Think Tank Smuggling Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeit Activities Destroying the Economy, (with the acronym CASCADE) one of the few studies on the subject, attempts have been made to establish the quantum in a few select commodities. This has been done on the basis of the domestic demand, domestic manufacture, licit imports and the gap between these. Obviously, a study of this nature necessarily has to make certain assumptions, but is still a very brave attempt to fill a gap in this literature. The Report is available at <https://www.ficcicascade.in/reports/> and makes very interesting reading. What the Report does emphatically

point out is that smuggling results in loss of revenue, impacts the economy by hurting industry, results in loss of jobs and impinges innovation and investment.

Prof. Arun Kumar, the leading economist, has estimated that India's black economy is about 62% of GDP (generating at 2016-17 prices) about Rs.93 lakh crore of revenue (or \$ 1.4 trillion). It is larger than the income of agriculture and industry which is about 39% of GDP. It is larger than the size of government (center plus states) spending, which is about 27% of GDP. Prof. Arun Kumar goes on to suggest because of its existence, the country's economy has been losing on an average 5% growth since the mid 1970's. This is humongous. For instance, if we add 5 percent to the rate of growth over the past 4 decades the size of the economy would have been Rs 1,050 crore (about \$ 15 trillion) as opposed to Rs 150 lakh crore (\$ 2.2 trillion) economy that it is now. Of course, black money has very many other contributors too- but illicit income generated from smuggling and counterfeit are major contributors. Despite all this smuggling unfortunately makes good story.

Smuggling has been defined by the World Customs Organization (WCO) as 'customs offence consisting in the movement of goods across a Customs frontier in any clandestine manner thereby evading customs control'. The definition is wide and includes within its ambit not just evasion



of tariffs but also other restrictions against import or export which any jurisdiction would have imposed for the time being. The Indian Customs Act defines smuggling 'in relation to any goods, means any act or omission which would render such goods liable to confiscation 'The definition specifies the provisions of import and export under which such confiscation can take place.

When one talks of smuggling invariably it is in the context of goods coming into the country. Illicit import is certainly more prevalent. In the context of India, gold continues to be a commodity which lends itself to such smuggling. But smuggling ultimately is all about demand and supply; it is about controls which are put in place which ironically make the supply even more challenging and increases costs-it makes smuggling a much more profitable venture. Thus, smuggling can also be of illicit export to meet demand in other countries. This is particularly true of Red Sanders wood which falls under the CITES.

The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) which came into force in 1976 was driven by concerns of rampant killing and felling of fauna and flora. The idea of CITES, was to create awareness, ensure global cooperation and thwart through coordinated response, attempts to smuggle. India became a signatory in 1976 to the Convention.

Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus Santalinus*) wood is a species endemic to the tropical dry deciduous forests in the South East part of the Indian peninsula. Its main habitat is the Palakonda and Sheshachalam hill ranges of Cuddapah-Chittoor Districts of Andhra Pradesh and is spread over an area of 5100 kms. It has little domestic demand-but is extremely popular in South East Asian nations and China. Given the indiscriminate felling of Red Sanders, it was included in Appendix II of CITES in 1995. (Appendix II refers to those species which are not endangered but could become endangered if trade in them is not controlled and monitored)

The twist in the movie Pushpa, is that the hero is a Red Sanders smuggler. This must be a first- and unlike the normal movie smuggler who traditionally is deep into only sona, the yellow metal. The movie set in Andhra Pradesh-Telangana, does not explain why and how Red Sanders is a protected species. But it does make it explicit that there is lots of money in smuggling of this wood. It shows whole swathes of forests being cut and carted in vehicles. And the hero is projected with a swagger, an aura, as if urging everybody to join this very lucrative, criminal activity.

Which brings us to the point that awareness campaigns are needed to educate the public at large. Awareness campaigns that enlighten the public that smuggling means moving in or out of the country in violation of the legal provisions. Thus, for instance there are a whole host of goods, export of which is either prohibited or restricted. So, while the general public is aware of illicit imports very few are aware of illicit export. Campaigns to fight the ill effects of movies like Pushpa are essential.

FICCI CASCADE has been having successful outreach programmes with enforcement officials and the public at large with special focus on the youth. Obviously given the extent of the problem there is a lot to be done. It is in this background that an Anti-Smuggling Day is planned to be held annually on 11 February. The first such Anti-Smuggling Day was held in 2022. Events of such nature will bring into sharp focus the problem of smuggling and the damage it causes to the economy. Proceeds of smuggling, like any other crime ultimately finance other anti-national activities. FICCI CASCADE should also urge the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) to also have public awareness programmes. The film industry should also be involved in such campaigns. Perhaps a beginning can be made by inviting the hero of Pushpa for the Anti-Smuggling Day.

Govt, FICCI CASCADE bring youth onboard for anti-smuggling drive

New Delhi: Scores of schoolchildren from across the country demonstrated their resolve to put an end to smuggling by generating consumer awareness on the occasion of the World Consumer Rights Day on Tuesday. At an event organised by ministry of consumer affairs and supported by FICCI CASCADE, the young consumers of India shared their thoughts and ideas through innovative paintings, which depicted the harmful effects of counterfeit and smuggled goods on the country's economy and its people. The winners of top three paintings were awarded minister Piyush Goyal. Congratulating the winners of painting competition, Anil Rajput, chairman, FICCI CASCADE, said, "Our future generations are the real hope for change, therefore, empowering and strengthening them to act against any illicit activity will not only add momentum to the fight against counterfeiting and smuggling but will also help in shaping a brighter future of our country."

Consumer Affairs Ministry, FICCI CASCADE bring youth onboard to boost anti-smuggling drive

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI 5 MARCH

Scores of schoolchildren from across the country demonstrated their resolve to put an end to smuggling by generating consumer awareness on the occasion of the World Consumer Rights Day on Tuesday. At an event organised by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and supported by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities (CASCAD), the young consumers of India shared their thoughts and ideas through innovative paintings, which depicted the harmful effects of counterfeit and smuggled goods on the country's economy and its people. The winners of top three paintings were awarded minister Piyush Goyal. Congratulating the winners of painting competition, Anil Rajput, chairman, FICCI CASCADE, said, "Our future generations are the real hope for change, therefore, empowering and strengthening them to act against any illicit activity will not only add momentum to the fight against counterfeiting and smuggling but will also help in shaping a brighter future of our country."



Apert from having the country's economy, smuggling poses a risk to national security, as most large-scale operations are led by crime syndicates. Through a series of measures, including the Consumer Protection Act, 2008, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs is working on generating awareness among consumers to put an end to the menace of smuggling. Conspicuously the winners of the painting competition, Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE said, "Our future generations are the real hope for change, therefore, empowering and strengthening them to act against any illicit activity will not only add momentum to the fight against counterfeiting and smuggling but will also help in shaping a brighter future of our country."

तस्करी विरोधी अभियान को बढ़ावा देने के लिए युवाओं को जोड़ा

नई दिल्ली, (एन.एन.एस) - विश्व उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस के अवसर पर देशभर के स्कूली बच्चों ने उपभोक्ताओं में जागरूकता पैदा करके तस्करी के संकट को खत्म करने का संकल्प प्रदर्शित किया। फिक्की की समिति (कास्केड) के समर्थन से उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय द्वारा आयोजित कार्यक्रम में युवाओं ने पेंटिंग के माध्यम से अपने विचार साझा किए। यह जानकारी फिक्की कास्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत ने दी।

विश्व उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस के अवसर पर देशभर के स्कूली बच्चों ने उपभोक्ताओं में जागरूकता पैदा करके तस्करी के संकट को खत्म करने का संकल्प प्रदर्शित किया। फिक्की की समिति (कास्केड) के समर्थन से उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय द्वारा आयोजित कार्यक्रम में युवाओं ने पेंटिंग के माध्यम से अपने विचार साझा किए। यह जानकारी फिक्की कास्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत ने दी।

फिक्की कास्केड का तस्करी विरोधी अभियान

नई दिल्ली, विश्व उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस के अवसर पर मंगलवार को देशभर के स्कूली बच्चों ने उपभोक्ताओं में जागरूकता पैदा करके तस्करी के संकट को खत्म करने का संकल्प प्रदर्शित किया। फिक्की की समिति (कास्केड) के समर्थन से उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय द्वारा आयोजित कार्यक्रम में युवाओं ने पेंटिंग के माध्यम से अपने विचार साझा किए। यह जानकारी फिक्की कास्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत ने दी।

Consumer Affairs Ministry, FICCI CASCADE Bring Youth Onboard To Boost Anti-Smuggling Drive



Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India

Consumer Affairs Ministry, FICCI CASCADE Onboards Youth For Anti-Smuggling Drive



FICCI CASCADE, Ministry of Consumer Affairs

FICCI CASCADE, Ministry of Consumer Affairs join hands to encourage youth to participate in nation building



FICCI CASCADE, Ministry of Consumer Affairs

उपभोक्ता मंत्रालय-फिक्की का अभियान

नई दिल्ली। उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय द्वारा आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में अर्थव्यवस्था को नष्ट करने वाली तस्करी और जालसाजी गतिविधियों के खिलाफ फिक्की की समिति ने उपभोक्ता जागरूकता अभियान चलाया। वाणिज्य मंत्री पीयूष गोयल ने भी इस अवसर पर हुए समारोह में हिस्सा लिया।



तस्करी से निपटने के लिए सेशन करवाया

नई दिल्ली, (एन.एन.एस) - उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस के अवसर पर देशभर के स्कूली बच्चों ने उपभोक्ताओं में जागरूकता पैदा करके तस्करी के संकट को खत्म करने का संकल्प प्रदर्शित किया। फिक्की की समिति (कास्केड) के समर्थन से उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय द्वारा आयोजित कार्यक्रम में युवाओं ने पेंटिंग के माध्यम से अपने विचार साझा किए। यह जानकारी फिक्की कास्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत ने दी।

उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय व फिक्की कास्केड ने युवाओं को जोड़ा

नई दिल्ली, (एन.एन.एस) - विश्व उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस के अवसर पर देशभर के स्कूली बच्चों ने उपभोक्ताओं में जागरूकता पैदा करके तस्करी के संकट को खत्म करने का संकल्प प्रदर्शित किया। फिक्की की समिति (कास्केड) के समर्थन से उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय द्वारा आयोजित कार्यक्रम में युवाओं ने पेंटिंग के माध्यम से अपने विचार साझा किए। इनमें नकली सामानों के नुकसान को रोकने के लिए युवाओं को जोड़ा गया।

कस्टम व बी.एस.एफ. सहित अन्य सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के अधिकारियों ने रखे विचार

नई दिल्ली, (एन.एन.एस) - उपभोक्ता अधिकार दिवस के अवसर पर देशभर के स्कूली बच्चों ने उपभोक्ताओं में जागरूकता पैदा करके तस्करी के संकट को खत्म करने का संकल्प प्रदर्शित किया। फिक्की की समिति (कास्केड) के समर्थन से उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय द्वारा आयोजित कार्यक्रम में युवाओं ने पेंटिंग के माध्यम से अपने विचार साझा किए। इनमें नकली सामानों के नुकसान को रोकने के लिए युवाओं को जोड़ा गया।

FICCI CASCADE, Consumer Affairs Ministry join hands to encourage youth to participate in nation building

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SESSION ON 'STRATEGIES TO COMBAT SMUGGLING & COUNTERFEITING' HELD

CHANDIGARH FICCI CASCADE organized an interactive session on the "Strategies to Combat Smuggling and Counterfeiting" at Welcome Hotel Amritsar yesterday. The objective was to facilitate a wider exchange of ideas and ensure a multifaceted perspective to understand the gravity of the menace caused by illicit trade. The session focused on issues such as need for increased consumer awareness; strengthening of enforcement regime; improvement in regulatory mechanism and enhanced stakeholder

MEDIA COVERAGE

Railway Protection Force on successful completion of “Operation Satark” against Illicit Trade

Railway Protection Force is an armed force of the union entrusted with the security of railway property, passenger area and passengers. It is the lead security agency in the field of railway security having a pan India reach. Indian Railways, being the primary transporter of the nation, is likely to be used by tax evaders, smugglers, gun runners, and forces inimical to the nation to transport illegal items to different parts of the country for acting on their nefarious designs. Railway Protection Force is alive to this and has recently started "Operation Satark" with an objective of taking action against illicit liquor/FICN/illegal tobacco products/unaccounted gold/cash/precious items/any other items being transported through railway network for the purpose of tax evasion/smuggling/commission of crime/acts of terror.

Focused effort under "Operation Satark" was launched from 5th April to 30th April 2022 wherein 26 cases of transportation of illegal tobacco products were detected with seizure of tobacco products worth more than Rs 44 Lakhs and arrest of 14 persons involved. 177 cases of transportation of illicit liquor were intercepted with arrest of 97 persons and seizure of illicit liquor worth about Rs 18 Lakhs. Unaccounted gold/silver jewellery and unaccounted cash is transported through rail for the purpose of tax evasion. RPF detected 23 such cases of tax evasion and handed over unaccounted

cash/gold/silver worth about Rs 2.60 Crores to the respective tax authorities.

Being aware of its responsibility as the first responder in cases of smuggling through rail, RPF took concerted action in such cases and seized smuggled items worth about Rs. 3.18 Crores during the period mentioned above.

Arms, ammunition and explosives are sometimes transported by forces inimical to the nation in order to commit crime or realize nefarious design in different parts of the country. RPF has been conducting intensive checks in stations, trains and railway area under "Operation Satark" to thwart the design of such elements. In course of such an effort across the nation, RPF nabbed 17 persons and recovered one AK 47 rifle, one pipe gun, one Double Barrel Gun, one pistol, 06 country made pistols, 3 daggers, 10 pieces of 12 bore ammunition, 140 pieces of .315" bullet, 404 pieces of 7.62 mm bullets and 9 pieces of different caliber ammunition.

Indian Railways is the life line of the nation and RPF, being the sentinels on the rail, will leave no stone unturned to keep it safe and disallow its use for nefarious activities.

The complete news can be accessed at:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1822369>





Social Media Campaigns

#BewareofIllicitGoods



#SavdhanVikretaSavdhan



#DRIatWork



Smuggling: Threats & Impacts



Jaago Sellers Jaago



Anti-Smuggling Day



#ResolutionForNation



Consumer Rights Day



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Auckland woman jailed for smuggling 19 million cigarettes into country

20 January 2022 | Newshub

An Auckland woman has been jailed for three years for her part in smuggling more than \$18.7m of tobacco revenue into the country. Hua Yi Zhu, 50, was sentenced at the Auckland District Court for smuggling 19,419,400 cigarettes and revenue fraud of more than \$18.7m in tobacco revenue spanning a four-year period.

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2022/01/auckland-woman-jailed-for-smuggling-19-million-cigarettes-into-country.html>

2. Over 7 million cigarettes seized from smuggler in Greece

26 March 2022 | Money Control

Greece: The cigarettes were being smuggled into European Union countries and the United Kingdom in over 5,000 yoghurt containers. Greek authorities have seized more than seven million cigarettes being smuggled to EU countries and the United Kingdom, according to the shipping ministry.

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/greece-over-7-million-cigarettes-seized-from-smuggler-8199051.html>

3. RM324,000 unregistered pharmaceutical and cosmetic products seized

9 March 2022 | New Straits Times

ALOR SETAR: The Health Ministry has seized RM324,200 worth of unregistered pharmaceutical and cosmetic products during separate raids in Kulim on Monday. State Health Department director Dr Othman Warijo the 'Ops Putra' raid was carried out by the Pharmaceutical Enforcement branch following complaints from the public.

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/crime-courts/2022/03/778464/rm324000-unregistered-pharmaceutical-and-cosmetic-products-seized>

4. B70m in fake cosmetic products seized

18 March 2022 | Bangkok Post

Police have seized about 70 million baht worth of fake cosmetic products bearing the names of 18 brands during a raid on a house in Bangkok's Suan Luang district. The seizure was made on March 14 but only announced on Friday at a briefing held by the Consumer Protection Police Division (CPPD) the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2281483/b70m-in-fake-cosmetic-products-seized>

5. Mozambique: 20,000 Smuggled Cell Phones Seized

10 May 2022

Maputo — The Mozambican Tax Authority (AT) last week seized 19,800 cell phones that were being smuggled into the country. Addressing a Maputo press conference on Monday, the AT's director of customs operations, Gimo Jona, said the phones were contained in 250 disguised boxes. They were seized for lack of import documents, false declarations and under-invoicing.

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202205110177.html>

6. FBR seizes Rs475m worth of smuggled goods in Balochistan

28 March 2022 | Aaj Tv

In a major operation against smugglers, Pakistan Customs (FBR), Quetta seized 11 containers stuffed with smuggled goods. Four of these containers are fully loaded with fabric, three with new tyres and four with mixed goods including fabric, tyres, cigarettes, betel nuts, etc. CIF Value of the seized goods/ containers is assessed to be Rs.380 million, having market value of approximately Rs.475 million.

<https://www.aaj.tv/news/30282336/>

7. BOC seized P600M of smuggled counterfeit goods

April 8, 2022

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) on Friday said it confiscated more than half-a-billion pesos worth of counterfeit products in Cavite. In a statement, the BOC said it seized, through its Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service-Intellectual Property Rights Division (CIIS-IPRD), smuggled infringing goods with an estimated value of P600,000,000.00 in Kawit, Cavite on March 28, 2022.

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/companies/827848/boc-seized-p600m-of-smuggled-counterfeit-goods/story/>

8. More Than \$300,000 Worth of Electronic Vaporisers and Components Seized at Tuas Checkpoint

5 April 2022 | ICA

On 5 and 7 April 2022, Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers at Tuas Checkpoint detected 1,200 electronic vaporisers (e-vaporisers) and more than 49,000 e-vaporiser related components concealed in various compartments of three Malaysian-registered lorries entering Singapore. The street value of the seized e-vaporisers and components is estimated to be more than \$300,000.

On 5 April, ICA officers foiled an attempt to smuggle 1,200 pieces of disposable e-vaporisers into Singapore via a Malaysian-registered lorry transporting resin. The officers had directed the lorry for further checks and uncovered the disposable e-vaporisers hidden behind the driver and passenger's seats, and below the passenger's leg rest area.

<https://www.ica.gov.sg/news-and-publications/newsroom/media-release/more-than-300-000-worth-of-electronic-vaporisers-and-components-seized-at-tuas-checkpoint>

9. Duo nabbed with smuggled items worth RM200,000

20 April 2022 | New Straits Times

PASIR MAS: The General Operations Force (GOF) nabbed two men for smuggling imitation jeans, women's handbags and sandals worth more than RM200,000 last night.

GOF Seventh Battalion commanding officer Superintendent Azhari Nusi said the GOF members were on their routine rounds at the area when they spotted the lorry about 7.30pm. They directed the lorry driver to stop the vehicle and upon checking, the GOF found several boxes containing the jeans, handbags and sandals. Azhari said initial investigations showed that the items were smuggled from Thailand via an illegal jetty at the border.

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/crime-courts/2022/04/790291/duo-nabbed-smuggled-items-worth-rm200000>

10. Over 20,000 counterfeit items seized

26 April 2022 | The Portugal News

More than 90 people have been arrested and 22,170 items seized between 18 and 24 April as part of the Anti-Counterfeiting Week Operation carried out at fairs, commercial establishments and other spaces, the PSP reported.

During the operation, 92 people were arrested, of which 40 for counterfeiting, imitation and illegal use of a brand, 22,170 items were seized, including clothing, footwear and accessories (bags and belts), with an estimated value of more than €360,000 and three firearms. In the operation, markets, fairs, commercial establishments, warehouses and other spaces where counterfeit goods and/or in violation of property rights could be produced, transported, stored or sold were inspected at a national level.

<https://www.theportugalnews.com/news/2022-04-26/over-20000-counterfeit-items-seized/6659>

NATIONAL NEWS

1. 6k litre liquor worth 35L seized in a week

15 January 2022 | The Times of India

Dehradun: The Uttarakhand police and the excise department have collectively seized 6,619 litre liquor worth upwards of Rs 35 lakh since January 8 when the model code of conduct was imposed in the hill state. Besides, narcotic substances worth Rs 1.24 crore have also been seized in the Himalayan state in the same duration.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/6k-litre-liquor-worth-35l-seized-in-a-week/articleshow/88907217.cms>

2. Man nabbed at Hyderabad airport for smuggling 2.7 kg gold in form of paste, chains

22 January 2022 | The News Minute

Customs officials at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad seized 2,715.800 grams of gold items valued at Rs 1.36 crore from a passenger. Gold chains and gold in paste form were concealed inside hand baggage and check-in baggage.

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/man-nabbed-hyderabad-airport-smuggling-27-kg-gold-form-paste-chains-160134>

3. Officials Seize Large Cache of Fake COVID Vaccines, Drugs, Test Kits in Varanasi

4 February 2022 | Science the wire

New Delhi: In a raid conducted on February 2, the Uttar Pradesh Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has secured a large tranche of spurious COVID-19 vaccines, drugs and rapid antigen test kits from Varanasi. According to a note sent by the state FDA to the Drug Controller General of India, and which The Wire Science has seen, the total seizure is worth Rs 4 crore.

<https://science.thewire.in/health/up-fda-officials-seize-fake-covid-vaccines-drugs-test-kits-varanasi/>

4. Key accused in Rs 12 crore cigarette smuggling held

16 February 2022 | The Times of India

Mumbai: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has arrested a key accused in the smuggling of imported cigarettes worth Rs 12 crore by mis-declaring them as dates.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/key-accused-in-12cr-cigarette-smuggling-held/articleshow/89602224.cms>

5. Hyderabad: Cops unearth duplicate cigarette manufacturing unit, seize raw material worth Rs 2 crore

9 March 2022 | Times Now

Hyderabad: In a good win for the task force sleuths, a duplicate cigarette manufacturing unit was busted in Telangana. Following the bust, one person has been arrested in connection with the case. Furthermore, 500 sacks of tobacco and raw material worth Rs 2 crore has been recovered by the police.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/hyderabad/hyderabad-cops-unearth-duplicate-cigarette-manufacturing-unit-seize-raw-material-worth-rs-2-crore-1-held-article-90102374>

6. Goa-made alcohol worth Rs 25 lakh seized in Kolhapur

19 March 2022 | The Times of India

KOLHAPUR: The flying squad of the state excise department's Kolhapur division on Friday noon conducted a major operation at Morewadi in Kolhapur and have taken a person into custody for stockpiling Goa-made alcohol. A truck used for transporting the alcohol worth about Rs 25 lakh has been seized.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolhapur/goa-made-alcohol-worth-25l-seized/articleshow/90314353.cms>

7. Mizoram : Foreign Cigarettes Worth Rs 1.30 Crores Seized In Champhai

April 23, 2022 by North East Today

In a major haul of smuggled items, the Assam Rifles have recently confiscated a massive stash of illicit foreign-origin cigarettes from Champhai District with an estimated market value of Rs 1.30 Crores. According to official sources, the Serchhip Battalion of the paramilitary troop recently recovered 100 Cases of foreign-origin cigarettes from General Area Zote in Champhai District of Mizoram.

<https://www.northeasttoday.in/2022/04/23/mizoram-foreign-cigarettes-worth-rs-1-30-crores-seized-in-champhai/>

8. Foreign currencies, electronic goods seized at Chennai airport; 3 held

22 April 2022 | The Print

Chennai, Apr 22 (PTI): Foreign currencies equivalent to Rs 1.95 crore, gold foils, cigarettes and electronic goods worth Rs 43.92 lakh have been seized at the airport here in two separate incidents, and three passengers arrested in this connection, the Customs Department said on Friday.

<https://theprint.in/india/foreign-currencies-electronic-goods-seized-at-chennai-airport-3-held/926893/>

9. Gold and electronic goods worth Rs 60.16 lakh seized at Chennai airport

18 April 2022 | The Times of India

CHENNAI: Air customs sleuths seized gold weighing 606 gram from a passenger, who arrived from Sharjah, and from the driver of a battery operated shuttle vehicle at Chennai airport on Sunday. A check revealed that he had hidden gold inside electronics. A total of 475 gram of gold was seized from a driver. The gold was handed over to him by an unknown passenger who arrived from Colombo in an Air India flight. Gold weighing 1.08 kg and electronic goods worth Rs 60.16 lakh were seized.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/gold-and-electronic-goods-worth-rs-60-16-lakh-seized-at-chennai-airport/articleshow/90917172.cms>

10. Goa: Goods worth Rs 25 lakh seized as cops bust interstate burglary racket

22 April 2022 | Free Press Journal

Pernem police has busted an interstate burglary racket with arrest of two persons and recovery of electronic items worth Rs 25 lakh. According to Pernem police, there had been continuous burglaries reported from different places like Ashwem, Morjim, Mandrem and Arambol in the last two months, where burglars used to target foreign and Indian tourists by stealing their valuable items like laptops, Ipad, cameras, mobile phones, cash, etc.

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/goa/goa-goods-worth-rs-25-lakh-seized-as-cops-bust-interstate-burglary-racket>



WHAT'S
NEXT

Capacity Building Programme

for

Police Officers on Prevention of Counterfeiting & Smuggling



Focus States:

Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Haryana, UP

Seminar on Preventive Strategies

To

Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling

June 2022- Banglore & Bhopal



8th edition

MASCRADE 2022

22 -23 September 2022

*Unleashing The Power of Consumers in the
Fight Against Smuggling & Counterfeiting*

Hotel Shangri La, New Delhi



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 [CASCAD]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 - CASCAD on 18th January, 2011.

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