

▶ NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Anil Rajput

Chairman, FICCI CASCADE

Illicit trade in smuggled and counterfeit goods continues to be a matter of grave concern affecting nations across the globe. It is increasingly undermining the safety, security and stability of individuals, societies and economies, and therefore immediate and coordinated counter-measures are the need of the hour.

Recently, the magnitude of illicit trade was once again at display when police officers seized 580 tonnes of counterfeit goods worth £87m in UK's largest fake goods haul. This was the largest find of its kind in European history in the last 20 years, and one of the biggest in the world. Similarly in May, Operation SpecTor, a coordinated international effort against drug trafficking saw record arrests and seizures. The numbers were eye-opening and included 288 arrests, 117 firearms, 850 kilograms of drugs and \$53.4 million in cash and virtual currencies. India has also witnessed a considerable increase in seizures of smuggled goods in the last few months. This year in June, 30 kg gold worth over Rs 20 crore was seized by DRI in separate seizures in Tamil Nadu's coastal areas. In the same month, the officers of Assam Rifles seized foreign origin liquor and cigarettes worth Rs. 88.98 lakh in Mizoram. These are just a few examples that shed light on this massive problem of an insidious nature.

Here, I must applaud the positive attitude and approach of the governments, businesses and international organizations to rein in this adversary. I must also confess, that much more needs to be done as this problem continues to multiply at a rapid pace. The illicit players are aggressively using technological advancements to their advantage, exposing and exploiting the vulnerabilities in supply chains,

in addition, they operate across borders and engage in large-scale economic crimes that also threaten public health and safety.

As the complexities of illicit trade grows, so must our efforts towards collaboration, information sharing and capacity building. I am pleased to share that FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has been dedicatedly working for over a decade now with the policy makers, enforcement agencies, industry, media, and general consumers, including the youth of the country. We do this with the objective of generating large-scale awareness and deep dive into issues to provide effective strategies to mitigate the mounting challenge of smuggling and counterfeiting.

In the recent months, CASCADE has significantly ramped up its engagement with all stakeholders, organizing a wide array of seminars, police training sessions, and youth awareness programmes across the nation. These endeavours have played a pivotal role in starting a nationwide movement on this subject with various states at the core. The current issue of our Newsletter showcases our activities in this direction.

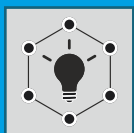
It was indeed motivating to see the wholehearted support of the policy makers and senior representatives of the state governments in our recent state engagements in Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. Apart from eliciting policy response in addressing this critical area of concern, CASCADE also organised impactful capacity-building programs for police officers in the states of Kerala and Chandigarh. Over 400 officers of ranks SIs, ASIs, DSPs, ACPs, and DCPs, actively participated during these sessions.

I am of the firm belief that the youth of our nation can make a significant impact in this war against illicit trade. In line with our mission to empower the next generation of consumers and foster a learning

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environment that motivates young minds to combat such unlawful activities, FICCI CASCADE successfully organized youth awareness programmes on the theme titled "Role of Youth in Making India Free from Smuggling & Counterfeiting". The event witnessed an overwhelming participation of over 1200+ students from 100+ renowned schools of Bihar and Kerala. The enthusiasm and interest displayed by the youth reinforces our belief in their potential to make a significant impact in our fight against smuggling and counterfeiting.

FICCI CASCADE has been meticulously monitoring media coverage on illicit trade through the monthly Media Monitor. I am happy to note that numerous media reports in recent months have highlighted the commendable efforts of enforcement agencies in apprehending illicit operators and confiscating smuggled and counterfeit goods, including gold, cigarettes, liquor, and electronic items worth crores on a consistent basis. Since the beginning, FICCI CASCADE has

been recognizing the exemplary work undertaken by the enforcement agencies and salutes their dedication and efforts in maintaining vigil and securing our borders from the illicit traders.

I would like to underscore that FICCI CASCADE remains committed towards working closely with all stakeholders to effectively address this menace. I am certain, that together, we can make a significant impact in raising awareness and safeguarding our society and economy from the multitude of threats posed by illicit trade.

I'm confident that you will find this issue a meaningful read and look forward to your comments and feedback on the same.

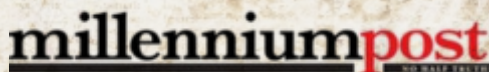
Warm Regards

Anil Rajput

Chairman
FICCI CASCADE



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Counterfeiting, smuggling poses health & safety threat to consumers

6 April 2023 | Millennium Post

MUZAFFARPUR: Gopal Meena, Commissioner, Muzaffarpur, Govt of Bihar yesterday said, "Counterfeiting and smuggling poses significant health, safety threats to consumers and such awareness programs will play a pivotal role in protecting them from the hazards posed by illicit trade." Addressing the FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) program on 'Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling' Meena stated that before buying any product consumer should check the originality of the product by using the advance technological solutions such as bar codes, QR codes, holograms etc. He further urged them to take strong and effective measures to combat this growing menace. Rajiva Ranjan Verma, Former Director General, RPF, NCRB, Civil Defense, Home Guard & Fire Services and BPR&D said, "Raising awareness is an important aspect of combating illicit trade in terms of smuggling and counterfeiting which needs to be pursued vigorously." The role of youth is

paramount in battling the menace of smuggling and counterfeiting, he noted. The Commissioner also felicitated School Children for the inter-school competition organised by FICCI CASCADE on the theme 'Role of Youth in Making India Free from Smuggling & Counterfeiting'. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 280 students from 30 schools of Muzaffarpur, Bihar.



<https://www.millenniumpost.in/business/counterfeiting-smuggling-poses-health-safety-threat-to-consumers-514298>

Foreign Cigarettes Worth ₹ 24 Crore Seized In Mumbai, 5 Arrested

14 May 2023 | NDTV

Mumbai: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Mumbai, has seized 1.2 crore sticks of foreign origin cigarettes with an estimated market value of ₹ 24 crore and arrested five persons including an importer for allegedly trying to smuggle them, the DRI said on Sunday.

These cigarettes are banned for import into India due to their non-compliance with Indian standards, the DRI said in a release.

Based on specific intelligence, the cigarettes were seized from a container which was supposed to be trans-shipped to Arshiya Free Trade Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) for further clearance, it said.

The DRI officials maintained a discrete vigil on the container's movement.

It was found that after the container left the Nhava Sheva Port in Navi Mumbai, instead of reaching its destination, the same was diverted to a private godown while it was enroute to Arshiya FTWZ. The DRI officials then intercepted the container at the godown, the release said.

The entire 40-feet container was found to be stuffed with foreign-origin cigarettes which are banned for import into India due to their non-compliance with Indian standards, it said.

The syndicate had planned to smuggle the cigarettes by removing them out of the container and replacing the same with goods declared in import documents in order to hoodwink customs authorities, the release said.

The godown was already stocked with the declared goods which were supposed to be stuffed in the container after removing the cigarettes, before the container was taken into Arshiya FTZ.

A total of 1.07 crore sticks of foreign origin cigarettes of various brands were recovered from the container, the DRI said.

In a swift follow-up operation, another stash of 13 lakh cigarettes of foreign origin which were smuggled earlier by the same syndicate were seized from another godown, the release added.

<https://www.ndtv.com/mumbai-news/foreign-cigarettes-worth-rs-24-crore-seized-in-mumbai-5-arrested-4033156>



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Youth Awareness Programme and Seminar to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling

Focus State: Muzaffarpur, Bihar
5th April 2023

FICCI CASCADE acknowledges that the youth of our nation have a crucial role to play in addressing illicit trade. As the future leaders of our society, they are invested in creating a safer, more just, and prosperous society by combatting the harmful impact of illicit trade. With the objective to sensitize the young minds on the need to fight against illicit trade which brings havoc to the entire society, FICCI CASCADE organized a youth awareness programme on the theme **"Role of Youth in Making India Free from Smuggling & Counterfeiting"** at R D S College, Muzaffarpur, Bihar on 5th April 2023.

The programme was divided into three competitions:

Painting, Extempore and Jingle Writing. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 350 students from various educational institutions of Muzaffarpur. The competition showcased an enormous sight of young budding minds exhibiting their skills in eliminating the threat of illicit trade from the nation. The objective of the competition was to increase awareness among the youth of the country and encourage their support in reinforcing our efforts to combat illicit trade.

The competition was judged by various teachers from different schools of Muzaffarpur. The list of the winners are as follows:

Winners	Extempore Competition	Painting Competition	Jingle Writing Competition
1st Prize	Krishna Kedia D. N. High School	Prem Singh RDS College	Simran Kumari R K kedia Grils High School
2nd Prize	Sweety Kumari, Mahila Shilp Kala Bhawan High School	Abhijeet Dhar Sunshine Preparatory/ High School	Priti Kumari M S K B Girls High School
3rd Prize	Pranav Pratyush D. N. High School	Jiya Jahnvi ACME Public School	Kashish Paras Chapman Girls High School





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This was followed by a seminar on "**Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling**" to raise awareness and outreach amongst the policy makers, industry, media and enforcement officials in building a proactive strategy to curb this growing menace of counterfeiting and smuggling. The winners of the competition were awarded at the seminar.

Mr. Gopal Meena, Commissioner, Muzaffarpur, Govt of Bihar was the chief guest at the programme. Mr. Meena highlighted that counterfeiting and smuggling poses significant health and safety threats to consumers and such awareness programs will play a paramount role in protecting them from the hazards posed by illicit trade. He stated that before buying any product consumers should check the originality of the product by using advanced technological solutions such as bar codes, QR codes, holograms etc. He further urged them to take strong and effective measures to combat this growing menace.

Mr. Pankaj Sinha, Inspector General of Police, Bihar in his address stated that smuggling and counterfeiting impacts the economic stability of the country. India has vast porous

borders which further adds to the problem of smuggling. Mr. Sinha mentioned that effective enforcement action, increased border management, better surveillance mechanisms, latest technology, enhanced consumer awareness and more youth engagement are few measures to address the twin hazards of smuggling and counterfeiting.

Mr. Pranav Kumar, Collector, Muzaffarpur opined that awareness is the key in eradicating the growing menace of illicit trade impacting our day-to-day life, which needs to be addressed on a priority. He emphasized to ask a bill while making a purchase to safeguard the consumers from being duped by illicit market operators. Mr. Kumar congratulated FICCI CASCADE for taking the initiative to spread knowledge and empower the public by organizing such an enlightening seminar in the state of Bihar.

While giving the overview on smuggling and counterfeiting, **Mr. P C Jha**, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) highlighted that they are a huge area of concern as it impacts the health and safety of the general public, along with



revenue losses to industry and tax losses to the government. The individuals engaged in such illicit trading activities have established criminal networks that have expanded globally. Mr. Jha apprised that staying vigilant is the need of the hour for fighting the menace of smuggling & counterfeiting.

Mr. Rajiva Ranjan Verma, Former Director General, RPF, NCRB, Civil Defense, Home Guard & Fire Services and BPR&D accentuated that by raising awareness about the harmful impact of illicit trade, we can keep the public informed and educated about the dangers and consequences of illicit

trade. Mr. Verma mentioned that undoubtedly, the vision and support of youth is paramount in freeing the nation from the grip of illicit trade.

FICCI CASCADE is implementing various measures to raise widespread awareness in society about the grave danger of smuggling and counterfeiting, with the aim of preventing their detrimental impact. FICCI CASCADE has arranged a series of programmes throughout the country to underscore the escalating threat of illegal trade and to promote effective preventive measures to tackle this issue.



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

April 27-28, 2023, North-Eastern Police Academy, Umiam, Meghalaya



It is a well-known fact that due to the ease of market entry and potential for infiltration, law enforcement agencies, such as the police, have a crucial responsibility in safeguarding and implementing measures to protect the rights of public. FICCI CASCADe has been actively involved in imparting training to equip law enforcement officials with the knowledge of relevant laws and empower them to take necessary actions against smugglers and counterfeiters. With this objective, FICCI CASCADe organized two-day program on April 27-28, 2023 at the North-Eastern Police Academy to raise awareness among Northeast police officers regarding the necessity of combating the socio-economic harms caused by illicit trade. Illicit trade is a perilous menace to the economy and poses a threat to people's lives.

Mr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Deputy Assistant Director, Police Science, NEPA mentioned that tackling the crimes of illicit trade has been a major concern for nations for decades. The north-eastern police forces have always been on their toes to capture the criminals who are operating the illegal market. The police department holds a crucial position in upholding law and order and safeguarding lawful businesses from illicit market operators as the primary law enforcement agency in our nation.

Mr. Sharma stated that at NEPA we are engaged in shaping police officers for equitable, effective and sensitive policing. It is dedicated to teaching the police personnel of Northeastern states and from across the country to

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safeguard the value of freedom from disorder, criminal acts and criminals.

Mr. P C Jha, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in his address, accentuated that illicit trade has a significant adverse effect on security, environment, health, safety and economy. It is a criminal activity with high profits and low risks. Virtually every illicit product is available in the market without exception. Mr. Jha emphasized that the lack of sufficient penalties and prolonged legal processes for prosecution and adjudication fail to deter illicit market operators effectively.

Practical Aspects of Investigation of Counterfeiting and Smuggling were discussed by **Mr. Deep Chand IPS**, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi. He stated that the growing intensity of smuggling and counterfeiting is posing a significant risk for knowledge-based, open & globalized economies. NEPA is one of the best police training academies of India which has been imparting training to the police fraternity of north-east states. The police officers of NEPA are proactive in intercepting the movement of smuggled products and are

taking a definitive step towards putting the fear in the hearts of smugglers who deal in illicit trade activities. He appreciated the untiring efforts of the officers for successful interception of products such as illicit cigarettes, liquor, currency, contrabands and many more in the recent past in the Northeastern states.

Industry issues and collaborative actions which are needed to counter such economic offences were discussed by **Mr. Pradeep Dixit**, Executive Vice President - Industry Affairs, ITC Ltd. and **Mr. Milind Palany**, Senior Manager, Global Brand Protection, Southern Asia and ANZ Cluster, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Health.

"India's illegal cigarette market is the world's fourth largest and is expanding rapidly, making it imperative to increase awareness and sensitize individuals within society", said Mr. Dixit. He also opined that raising widespread awareness among consumers is a crucial way to reduce the dangers associated with the increasing prevalence of illegal trade.

Mr. Palany also addressed illicit activities such as smuggling, counterfeiting and tax evasion as unlawful economic operations. He said that such practices result in reduced government revenues which could be used to fund crucial



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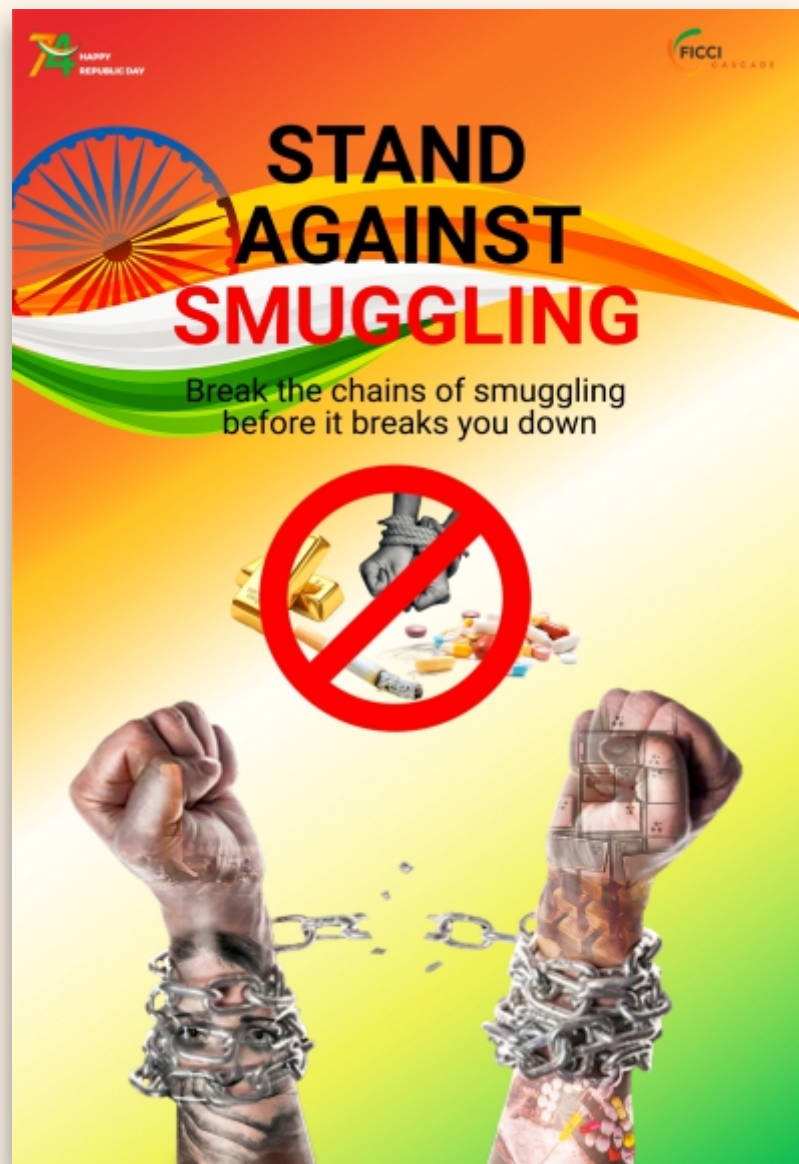
public services, while simultaneously uprooting millions of lawful jobs and causing harm to both public health and safety. In order to curb the menace of counterfeiting, illicit trade & illegal parallel import, it is important to strengthen enforcement and stop this menace at the border itself, he added.

Mr. Jitender Kumar Dwivedi, Deputy Director, North-Eastern Police Academy accentuated that India, as a rising economic superpower need to take offences related to counterfeiting and smuggling very seriously and police has

a significant role in fighting this menace. For, a police officer investigating cases involving smuggling and counterfeiting, it is crucial to comprehend the potential outcomes of their actions on the ground. This understanding is necessary to make informed decisions and take appropriate measures, emphasized Mr. Dwivedi.

The programme witnessed an enthusiastic participation of over 400 officers including (DySPs, cadets and sub inspectors) from different states of Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

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

*Focus State: Kerala
Date: 18th May 2023*

As part of the relentless efforts to combat the dangers posed by illicit trade, FICCI CASCADE organized a capacity building programme for police officers in Kochi, Kerala. With a focus on combating trade in illicit products, the program aimed to provide officers with the necessary learning and skills to comprehend relevant laws and effectively combat counterfeiters and smugglers through appropriate actions.

Mr. K Sethu Raman, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Kochi, Kerala, graced the occasion as the chief guest for the programme. During his address at the 'Capacity Building Programme for Police Officers of Kerala on Prevention of Counterfeiting and Smuggling,' Mr. K Sethu Raman accentuated that in recent times there has been a notable surge in online counterfeiting and smuggling cases, necessitating a strong and proactive response to effectively prevent such fraudulent practices is the need of the hour. Illicit trade in terms of counterfeiting and smuggling is a significant impediment to the growth of the economy affecting it in multiple ways, emphasized Mr. Raman.

Commissioner in his address highlighted the importance of a strong and proactive response to combat counterfeiting and smuggling. He stressed on the need for comprehensive training programs that equip police officials with the necessary knowledge and skills to identify, investigate, and dismantle these illicit networks. Additionally, creating



extensive awareness among law enforcement agencies and the public about the scale and repercussions of counterfeiting and smuggling is crucial for generating effective collaboration and engagement, he added.

Mr. Deep Chand, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi gave an overview on the socio-economic impact of counterfeiting and smuggling. He mentioned that the growing intensity of smuggling and counterfeiting is posing a significant risk for knowledge-based, open & globalized economies. The police department's role is vital in safeguarding the country's national security and economic interests. This involves preventing criminal organizations from making gains from illegal activities and ensuring that legitimate businesses can



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operate in a secure and safe environment. This capacity building program is aimed to sensitize the Kerala police officers on the importance of continued awareness and seriousness of the impact of counterfeit and smuggled products, added Mr. Chand.

Mr. S Satyanathan S, Regional Manager- Industry Affairs (South) at ITC Ltd, and **Mr. Anish Parackal Joseph**, Regional Business Manager at Nokia, engaged in a discussion regarding industry-related challenges and proposed collaborative measures with enforcement agencies to effectively combat economic offenses.

Mr. Satyanathan S highlighted that the illegal trade of cigarettes has become one of the most profitable and rapidly growing forms of illicit activity, accounting for one-third of the legal cigarette market in India. This alarming trend underscores the urgent need for heightened

surveillance and stricter enforcement measures to effectively curb the proliferation of illegal cigarettes in the country.

Mr. Joseph talked on the challenges posed by mobile handset duplication and smuggling which are escalating at an alarming rate. He highlighted the need to redouble our efforts in enforcing the implementation of IMEI numbers. The robust system is essential for establishing fool proof security and enabling the law enforcement agencies, customs, and regulatory bodies to track and seize smuggled or counterfeit devices, protecting consumers from potential risks and curbing the growth of illicit activities, emphasized Mr. Joseph.

The program witnessed an enthusiastic participation from over 120 officers hailing from various regions of the state, reflecting their enthusiasm and commitment towards the cause.

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Youth Awareness Programme and Seminar to Combat Counterfeiting & Smuggling

Focus State: Kerala
Date: 19th - 20th May 2023

FICCI CASCADE firmly recognizes the importance of involving the country's youth to foster awareness and in-depth understanding of counterfeiting and smuggling, ultimately enabling the formulation of effective strategies to address the escalating threats of illicit trade.

A youth awareness programme on the theme "Role of Youth in Making India Free from Smuggling & Counterfeiting" was organized at Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Kochi. The programme encompassed three distinct competitions: Painting, Speech, and Jingle Writing. These competitions garnered enthusiastic participation from over 150 students representing various educational institutions in Kochi. It was truly inspiring to witness the impressive display of young prodigious talent showcasing their skills in combating the perils of counterfeiting and smuggling. The objective behind organizing these competitions was to raise awareness among the youth of our nation and solicit their support in fortifying our collective fight against illicit trade.



The esteemed panel of judges for the competition included **Mr. Deep Chand IPS**, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi; **Mr. P C Jha**, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and **Ms. Deepa Ravishankar**, English Lecturer, Chinmaya Vidyalaya Vaduthala.



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The list of the awardees are as follows:

Winners	Speech Competition	Painting Competition	Jingle Writing Competition
1st Prize	Jishnu Dhananjai	Vasudev K	Aishwarya K
2nd Prize	Neelima M	Arya Menon	Niya Wilson
3rd Prize	Abhinav Nair	Gouri	Roopshika Rupesh



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Identifying the significance of awareness and outreach in formulating a proactive approach to combat the mounting threat of counterfeiting and smuggling, FICCI CASCADE organized a seminar titled "Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling" on May 20, 2023, at Hotel Gateway by Taj in Kochi. The winners of the competition were felicitated during the seminar.

Shri. P Rajeeve, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of Kerala was the chief guest at the seminar. While addressing the programme, he stated that the problem of counterfeiting and smuggling represents a colossal global issue that exerts its influence across virtually all industry sectors on a worldwide scale. It erodes the lawful competitive advantage held by rightful owners, impeding innovation,

employment opportunities, and the sustainable economic growth of the nation.

Shri Rajeeve mentioned that it is important for consumers to comprehend the complexities of this problem. The youth, as the consumers of tomorrow, possess the power to inspire and drive the necessary change through their choices and behaviors. To combat this global scourge, it is imperative to prioritize education and awareness initiatives that shed light on the detrimental consequences of counterfeiting and smuggling.

Speaking on the topic 'Outlining the landscape of illicit trade practices - Analysis & Implications', Mr. P C Jha, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) highlighted the detrimental effects of illicit trade on the economy, environment, and public health and safety. He expressed concern over the escalating nature of this criminal activity, fueled by high profits and low risks. This alarming trend of counterfeit and smuggled goods in the market poses significant threats to India's economic growth. As India assumes the G20 Presidency, Mr. Jha emphasized the urgent need to eradicate this menace from its core, paving the way for a new and prosperous India.

The panel discussion on policies to prevent counterfeiting and smuggling featured distinguished panelists, including Mr. Rajendra Kumar, Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Kochi and Mr. K Sethu Raman IPS, IGP & Commissioner of Police, Police Commissionerate, Kochi City who shared their valuable insights on this serious issue.

Mr. Kumar stated that customs play a pivotal role in upholding border control, acquiring intelligence, performing risk assessments, fostering stakeholder collaboration, and enhancing public awareness as part of its





mission to effectively combat smuggling and counterfeiting. In the year 2022-23, Kerala customs successfully handled 810 cases, leading to the seizure of a significant quantity of 630 kg of gold, with an estimated value of 311 crores. Additionally, Kerala customs also filed 123 cases of smuggled cigarettes, worth Rs. 329 lacs, informed Mr. Kumar.

Mr. Raman opined that there has been a significant shift in smuggling and counterfeiting practices over the past decade, largely due to the rise of the digital economy. This transformation has posed a considerable challenge for police investigations, as it has led to an increase in cyber fraud incidents. Each month, hundreds of complaints related to such crimes are being reported. Furthermore, the advancements in technology have given rise to new types of financial products, such as bitcoin and cryptocurrencies.

Mr. Deep Chand, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi, highlighted that smuggling and counterfeiting are a major threat to the economy and is a hindrance for a globalized world. The efforts of Kerala in this regard are applaudable. It has been effectively dealing with the challenge through policies targeted at curbing counterfeiting and smuggling. The enforcement department of the state should also be credited for taking quick action in resolving the problem and seizing illegal products. However, to get to the root of the problem, widespread consumer awareness is required and the public needs to be sensitized on the gravity of the situation.

Adv. Vizzy George, High Court of Kerala accentuated that to effectively address the challenges posed by counterfeiting and smuggling, it is fundamental to adopt and implement best practices that enhance legislative policies. It is of utmost importance for trade bodies like FICCI to urge the government to establish a robust legislative framework to eradicate this growing menace.

Mr. Bibu Punnooran, Chair, FICCI Health Care Sub Committee and Director, Medivision Scan & Diagnostic Research Centre Pvt Ltd mentioned that illicit trade stifles market growth, undermines global supply chains, depletes natural resources, and poses a threat to market security. He emphasized the criticality of addressing illicit trade as a top priority due to its severe consequences. The other distinguished panelists who contributed their valuable insights on the subject were Mr. Gopa Kumar, Chief Operating Officer, Bhima Jewellers, Mr. Antony Kottaram, Managing Partner, Kottaram Business Corporation and Mr. Saji MV, CEO, TecQ.

Mr. Savio Mathew, Head, FICCI Kerala State Council proposed a vote of thanks to all the esteemed guests and delegates and mentioned that FICCI CASCADE is actively engaged in raising awareness regarding the substantial risks posed by counterfeiting and smuggling to public health and safety.

The seminar saw a gathering of over 150 industry captains, consumer forum representatives, government officials, and various stakeholders from across sectors.

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SEMINAR ON Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling

21 June 2023 | Taj Lakefront, Bhopal



In the past ten years the magnitude of illicit trade has grown from USD 650 billion to about USD 3 trillion, representing 10 per cent of the global trade and rightly been termed as the crime of the 21st century by the FBI. Hence its existence and operation are broad in scope and large in value impacting not only the global economy causing losses to both industry and government, but also adversely affecting consumer health and safety.

In an effort, to underscore the detrimental effects of counterfeiting and smuggling on the economy and propose collective actions to combat this problem, FICCI CASCADE organized a seminar titled "**Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling**" on June 21, 2023, in Bhopal. Throughout the day-long programme, esteemed experts shed light on different aspects of counterfeiting and smuggling, sharing insights and perspectives on effective measures to mitigate these issues.

Dr. Navneet Mohan Kothari, Managing Director, MP Industrial Development Corporation, Bhopal was the chief guest at the seminar. Dr. Kothari opined that in the past the society has glamorized smuggling, with some individuals

avoiding tax payments and utilizing smuggled money for illicit purposes. Smuggling not only inflicts considerable financial harm on government revenues but also undermines the stability of the economy. It is imperative to foster awareness about the inherent perils and risks connected with smuggling, he emphasized.

Dr. Kothari stated that counterfeiting poses a deeper problem, particularly in the realm of mass consumer products like FMCG where an alarming 25-30 per cent of goods are found to be counterfeit. The money derived from smuggling is employed for illicit and nefarious purposes. The prevalence of packaged products has made counterfeiting easier, allowing counterfeiters to evade quality standards. Smuggling also serve as a source of financial support for activities that are detrimental to national interests.

Mr. Mahesh Kumar Yadav, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Central GST and Central Excise highlighted that crimes relating to smuggling and counterfeiting have increased manifold in global market as a result of which the government, businesses, society and consumers are losing millions of rupees. Smugglers are opportunistic who aims to

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exploit market to gain economic advantages, added Mr. Yadav.

Mr. Shiyas A., DIG(I), CID, PHQ, Bhopal talked on the clandestine nature of smuggling operations which allows perpetrators to evade taxes, tariffs, and customs duties, resulting in substantial revenue losses for governments. Smuggling inflicts economic losses, and there is a deficiency in adequate penal provisions to address the issue effectively.

Speaking on the topic 'Outlining the landscape of illicit trade practices - Analysis & Implications', **Mr. PC Jha**, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) accentuated that the illicit trade has wide-ranging consequences on the economy, environment, as well as public health and safety. Presently, India is experiencing a troubling upswing in this unlawful yet highly profitable activity, largely due to the minimal risks involved. The market is being flooded with counterfeit and smuggled products, which is causing a disastrous impact on India's economic advancement.

Mr. Deep Chand, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi mentioned that the Madhya Pradesh government and enforcement agencies have made commendable strides in tackling the menace of illicit trade. Through their methodical approach and vigilance, they have successfully confiscated a substantial quantity of illegal cigarettes, liquor, synthetic milk, counterfeit currency, and various other illicit products. Their dedicated efforts instil hope that they will persist in their relentless pursuit to curb the expansion of illicit trade and lend their unwavering support to our ongoing fight against it.

The other eminent panellists who shared their valuable

insights and perspective on the subject included **Mr. Kunal Giani**, Convener, FICCI MP Panel on Trade Promotion and MD, Sarvafoam; **Dr. P.C. Kothari**, President District Bar Association Bhopal; **Mr. Rajeev Agrawal**, Convener FICCI MP Panel on MSME and **Ms. Giribala Singh**, President District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

During the discussion, **Mr. Kunal Giani**, Convener, FICCI MP Panel on Trade Promotion and MD, Sarvafoam shared his encounters with the repercussions of illicit trade, particularly regarding the misdeclaration of products. He emphasized that consumers can significantly reduce illicit trade by demanding a bill for every purchase, as approximately 80% of such activities can be curbed through this simple act. When a shopkeeper hesitates or refuses to issue a bill, it should serve as a clear warning signal, added Mr. Giani.

Dr. P.C. Kothari, President District Bar Association Bhopal, expressed his perspectives on the legal aspects concerning smuggling and counterfeiting. He shed light on the significance of robust laws to effectively combat these illicit activities. Mr. Rajeev Agrawal, Convener FICCI MP Panel on MSME, highlighted the significance of youth engagement in the fight against illicit trade, a pervasive threat that jeopardizes our economy and nation. He emphasized that this unlawful activity poses substantial risks to businesses, brands, government institutions, consumers, and to the overall welfare of the nation.

Ms. Giribala Singh, President District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission urged consumers to proactively come forward and bravely confront the detrimental consequences of smuggling and counterfeiting.

The seminar saw a gathering of over 150 industry captains, consumer forum representatives, government officials, and various stakeholders from across sectors.

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

Focus State: Chandigarh | Date: 27 July 2023



The role of police department in combating illicit trade requires a comprehensive approach involving enforcement, intelligence, collaboration, public awareness, and technology utilization. In an effort, to tackle the escalating problem of counterfeiting and smuggling, FICCI CASCADE organized an extensive training program benefiting over 100 police officers from the Chandigarh Police. The programme underscored the pressing importance for law enforcement agencies to remain proactive in addressing the ever-evolving challenges presented by counterfeiting and smuggling, given their far-reaching global implications.

Mr. Deepak Purohit, IPS, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG)- UT, Chandigarh was the chief guest at the programme. Mr. Purohit stated that illicit activities such as counterfeiting and smuggling create an adverse impact on our aspirations of becoming a 5 trillion-dollar economy. This clandestine activity undermines legitimate businesses, siphons off government revenue, and stifles economic growth. To realize our vision, we must collectively address

the menace of illicit trade, fortifying our economy against its corrosive effects, emphasized Mr. Purohit.

Mr. Purohit mentioned that the scourge of counterfeiting and smuggling undermines the very essence of our mission of Amrit Kaal. These illicit activities not only cripple our economy and rob legitimate businesses of their rightful earnings but also jeopardize the well-being of our society. The consequences of counterfeiting and smuggling extend beyond mere financial losses. They create breeding grounds



RECENT INITIATIVES



for anti-national elements, enabling the activities of terrorist networks. This underscores the urgent need for law enforcement agencies to be well-equipped and knowledgeable in safeguarding consumers from the inherent dangers associated with these illegal practices, added Mr. Purohit.

Mr Deep Chand, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi highlighted that the illicit market is fostering an illegitimate industry, resulting in a rise in criminal activities within society. The purpose of this capacity building program is to raise awareness among Chandigarh police officers about the critical significance of sustained vigilance and the gravity of the consequences stemming from counterfeit and smuggled products.

Col Atul Yadav, General Manager- North, Industry Affairs, ITC Ltd. apprised that the market is being inundated with substandard counterfeit and smuggled products due to illegal activities like counterfeiting and smuggling. These

goods are often manufactured without adhering to quality standards and are sold through illegal means, leading to a surge in unreported income. A major contributing factor to the rampant rise in smuggling is the imposition of high taxes, creating significant arbitrage opportunities that fuel such illicit activities. The scale of smuggling in the country is a matter of great concern. However, addressing this growing menace in India requires comprehensive efforts to strengthen compliance, streamline processes, and enhance the detection capabilities to effectively combat such criminal activities.

Mr. Gagan Rajpurohit, Legal Counsel, HUL opined that counterfeiting and smuggling pose a vast global problem, affecting virtually every industry sector across the world. These illicit activities destabilize legitimate industries, diminish government revenues, facilitate terror financing, and jeopardize the health and safety of consumers. The scale and impact of these practices call for urgent and concerted efforts to mitigate their consequences.

BURGEONING MENACE



ANIL RAJPUT

Chairman, FICCI CASCADE
Member-Corporate Management Committee
& President, Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd.

In addition to maintaining a stable tax regime, governments must impose stricter measures, deploy technologies and raise public awareness to control smuggling of cigarettes

More than 100 international smuggled cigarette brands are flooding the Indian market from all over the globe, with smugglers utilising all possible modes of shipment

The Government of India's GST revenue collection is significantly high today and is setting new milestones. For the first time, gross GST collection stands at Rs 1.87 lakh crore lakh with revenues for the month of April 2023 being 12% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year. This goes on to show that various measures taken, be it in policy, tax or enforcement to strengthen the tax administration and initiating appropriate action against nefarious elements and tax evaders. This has most certainly ensured greater compliance and led to record collection of revenues.

The entire team of officers must be complimented who have been working round the clock for not only maintaining the thrust on revenue augmentation, but for equally addressing the issue of anti-evasion and illicit trade with an iron hand.

Ensuring that every offender of India's economic frontier is taken to task, operations involving various enforcement authorities during the first three months of this year has led to the seizure of over 22.52 crore of smuggled cigarettes across different states in India. Media reports indicate that Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Customs, GST Commissionerate, Police Railway Protection Force and Assam Rifles conducted multiple operations across and carried out around 35 seizures in various states in India to counter the mounting challenge of smuggled cigarettes in the country which exceeds one-third of the legal cigarette volumes.

While detection of such large cases and thwarting the attempts of illicit traders may have given us a moment to cheer, but they have also provided us food for thought on the scale and size of proliferation of smuggled cigarettes in our country.

If we glance through the recent seizures, we will see high end, mid and low-end brands of foreign cigarettes were smuggled into India in large numbers. The consignments either originated or passed through Myanmar and/or Sharjah & Dubai in UAE. In fact, sources indicate that when it comes to smuggled cigarettes, 47 per cent of them originate from Myanmar, 22 per cent from the UAE and the remaining 31 per cent from a couple of other countries.

Interestingly, the Trade Journal - World Tobacco admitted in a 1996 report that "Although sales of contraband cigarettes have affected the level of income that governments worldwide derive from tobacco sales, smuggling has also helped to promote some of the world's leading brands in markets which had remained closed to foreign imports and where demand for western cigarettes has continued to grow." Writing in Tobacco Journal International in 1993, Michael Barford stated: "Whose brands sell best in contraband trade? Traditional smuggling has focused on well-known international brands, since instant recognition and confidence in the merchandise are essential to these quick, furtive transactions."

Presently, more than 100 international smuggled cigarette brands are flooding the Indian market from all over the globe with smugglers utilising all possible models of shipment, including courier consignments, land borders, by sea cargo as well as by air.

It is quite evident that criminal entrepreneurs involved in

such illegal activities are opportunistic by nature and seek to exploit market and regulatory arbitrage opportunities for economic gain. These smuggled cigarettes are approximately 5 times cheaper than the duty paid by legal cigarettes and also does not carry any pictorial or textual warning on 85% of package area as mandated by COTPA 2003, thus making their trafficking a lucrative business in our country.

This is a serious concern and has been rightly highlighted in the DRI - Smuggling in India report of 2021-22 as well, which states that 'in order to evade the high rate of tax and cess levied on cigarettes as also to avoid printing of pictorial or textual warning, illegal means of importation of cigarettes is resorted to meet demand and rake in exorbitant profits.'

While globally, governments across the world lose about US\$ 40.5 billion in revenue from the illicit trade of tobacco products every year, in India, according to a report - Illicit Markets: A Threat to Our National Interests by FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) the illicit cigarette market is a massive Rs 22,930 crore in 2019-20 causing tax loss of Rs 13331 crore to the government and a job loss of 9.89 lakh for the same period.

Undoubtedly, our enforcement agencies are playing a pivotal role in combating this mounting threat. The indefatigable efforts of our enforcement officers have relentlessly apprehended the illicit traders, despite their constant and innovative attempts to smuggle this product in our country. Data from DRI on the value of seizures of Illegal cigarette in the last five years has seen an astounding growth of 172% from 34.29 crore in 2017-18 to 93.32 crore in 2021-22.

Having said that, one must also keep in mind that these seizures are only the tip of the iceberg. Looking at the new modus operandi of the illicit traders, it is highly possible that multiple consignments escape the surveillance net, despite the best efforts of our officers. Therefore, constant thrust of this issue which not only has financial and economic impact but also fuels transnational crime, corruption, and terrorism and exposes consumers to greater health risks, must be maintained.

And how do we ensure that? Apart from a stable tax regime which has been demonstrated by the Government, we need the Centre as well as State Governments to also put in place

stricter measures such as higher fines, penalties and imprisonment that will communicate the we are seriously committed in addressing this issue. Cutting edge, new age technologies such as AI, Blockchain, ML can also be a potent tool in clamping down such illicit businesses, and most importantly extensive public awareness and multistakeholder partnerships. All of this would provide the much-needed impetus to our fight against this formidable enemy.

We are living in uncertain times, when the world confronts several challenges and grave risks. For some time now India has been the leading voice for coordinated actions in intelligence, investigation and indictment of economic offenders and organised crime syndicates. As we advance on the path to build a strong and developed nation, enhanced and sustained actions to eradicate this threat of mammoth proportion will be at the forefront of this much anticipated progress.

Burgeoning menace



ANIL RAJPUT

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It is quite evident that criminal entrepreneurs involved in such illegal activities are opportunistic by nature and seek to exploit market and regulatory arbitrage opportunities for economic gain. These smuggled cigarettes are approximately five times cheaper than the duty paid by legal cigarettes and also do not carry any pictorial or textual warning on 85 per cent of the packaging area, as mandated by COTPA 2003, thus making their trafficking a lucrative business in our country.

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Undoubtedly, our enforcement agencies are playing a pivotal role in combating this mounting threat. The indefatigable efforts of our enforcement officers have relentlessly apprehended the illicit traders, despite their constant and innovative attempts to smuggle this product into our country. Data from DRI on the value of seizures of illegal cigarettes in the last five years has seen an astounding growth of 172 per cent from 34.29 crore in 2017-18 to 93.32 crore in 2021-22.

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iceberg. Looking at the new modus operandi of the illicit traders, multiple consignments may escape the surveillance net, despite the best efforts of our officers. Therefore, the constant thrust of this issue which not only has a financial and economic impact but also fuels transnational crime, corruption, and terrorism and exposes consumers to greater health risks, must be maintained.

And how do we ensure that? Apart from a stable tax regime which has been demonstrated by the Government, we need the Centre as well as State Governments to also put in place stricter measures such as higher fines, penalties and imprisonment that will communicate that we are seriously committed to addressing this issue. Cutting-edge technologies such as AI, Blockchain, and ML can also be potent tools in clamping down on such illicit businesses, and most importantly extensive public awareness and multistakeholder partnerships. All of this would provide the much-needed impetus to our fight against this formidable enemy.

We are living in uncertain times when the world confronts several challenges and grave risks. For some time now, India has been the leading voice for coordinated action in intelligence, investigation and indictment of economic offenders and organised crime syndicates. As we advance on the path to building a strong and developed nation, enhanced and sustained actions to eradicate this threat of mammoth proportions will be at the forefront of this much-anticipated progress.

The writer is President - Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd. & Member, Corporate Management Committee, ITC Ltd. and Chairman, FICCI CASCADE. Views expressed are personal

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EFFECTIVE POLICING FOR NATIONS GROWTH



ANIL RAJPUT

Chairman, FICCI CASCADE
Member-Corporate Management Committee
& President, Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd.

The term police have been derived from the Latin word 'politia' which means the condition of a State. In this sense, the police are a constituted body of persons empowered by a state, with the aim to enforce the law, to ensure the safety, health, and possessions of citizens, and to prevent crime and civil disorder - all extremely crucial components for nations to grow and prosper and so it will be fair to state that police forces across the world are not just protecting people, but are furthering social welfare and playing a key role in progress of nations.

India is at a decisive point in its journey towards being a developed nation. Hailed as the fifth largest economy of the world in terms of GDP, it has emerged into an economic powerhouse with remarkable growth across several domains. While the country is taking immense strides to achieve its goal of being a developed nation by 2047, this thriving economy has unfortunately also attracted illicit market forces that run criminal activities with the end

objective of making quick money, push illegal, smuggled, counterfeit and substandard products into the nation's dynamic consumption environment. With increased population, technological advancements and heightened competition for economic resources the change in the nature of this crime and its pattern is rapid and continuously evolving.

This naturally has thrown new set of challenges for our law enforcement agencies and therefore, the task to combat this menace that not only effects economic activity, but also facilitates an underground economy and organized crime, depriving governments of revenues for vital public services, forcing higher burdens on taxpayers and incurring job losses, becomes more and more arduous.

Looking at the scope and scale of the issue, UNCTAD (The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) estimates that the global economy loses more than US\$ 2 trillion annually to various forms of illicit trade, nearly 3% of

the world's economy. Rightfully, it has been termed as the crime of the 21st century by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The growth of illicit market in India is quite evident as well. According to a recent report by FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy), the size of illicit market in the five key industries (Mobile Phones, FMCG-Household and Personal Goods, FMCG-Packaged Foods, Tobacco Products, and Alcoholic Beverage) only was ₹2,60,094 crore for the year 2019-20 and the total estimated employment loss was 15.96 lakh along with ₹58,521 crore tax losses to the government during the same period.

To thwart this illegal business, different government agencies are involved at various stages, right from detection, investigation, prosecution to prevention of such offences, often including the recovery of the proceeds of crime. The Police department being the primary law enforcement agency in our country, play a significant role in quelling the nefarious agendas of the illicit players. Although there are adequate laws available, their enforcement makes the role of police officers even more important in the fight against counterfeiters and smugglers.

I must say that despite constant struggles such as limited resources, inadequate technical and administrative tools, fine and punishment for such crimes not deterrent enough, our valiant officers have been determined to push back the offenders. Police officers across the states have been conducting multiple operations each day to counter the mounting challenge of illicit goods. In fact, almost every day, raids and seizures of smuggled and spurious goods including medicines, toiletries and cosmetics, electronic goods, cigarettes, packaged food, auto parts, alcohol, fake currency and several other items by police officers across various states in the country are cited in media reports.

Joint operations of State Police with Customs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and paramilitary forces have also foiled several attempts of perpetrators to smuggle weapons and drugs into the country, threatening our national safety and security. An example of this was 'Operation Garuda' in 2022 that saw cohesive forces of the Central Bureau of Investigation and Narcotics Control Bureau with Interpol and state police forces of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Manipur successfully dismantle drug networks in India with international links.

Despite successes like the above and many more, illicit

markets, and its associated profit remain a threat of enormous proportions. Therefore, institutional capacities are urgently needed to improve efforts to counter this hazardous activity. Along with enhancing effectiveness of the penalties, greater use of analytics and technological assistance, strong coordination among law enforcement agencies & government departments and intelligence exchange, greater sensitization of our officers is also needed. For a police officer investigating cases involving smuggling and counterfeiting, it is crucial to comprehend the potential outcomes of their actions on the ground. This understanding is absolutely imperative for them to make informed decisions and take appropriate measures.

It is with this objective in mind that FICCI CASCADE has been building capacities of police officers through training programmes and seminars across India emphasizing the importance of awareness and seriousness of such crimes.

CASCADE in the past few months organized capacity building programmes for the police officers of Lucknow, Goa and Chhattisgarh, where over 600 officers from these states were sensitized on this issue. The programmes were addressed by several dignitaries including Mr. Nilabja Chaudhary, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police, Crime and Hq, Lucknow, Mr. Jaspal Singh, IPS, Director General of Police, Goa and Mr. Ratan Lal Dangi IPS, Director, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose State Police Academy, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Taking cognisance of the growing instances on smuggling across the north eastern borders of our country, CASCADE organised a 'Capacity Building Programme for Police Officers of North-Eastern Police Academy (NEPA) on Prevention of Counterfeiting and Smuggling' as recent as 27-28th April, 2023. This two-day training programme witnessed an enthusiastic participation of 400 officers including DySPs, cadets and sub inspectors from the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

The programme sensitised the officers on the evolving nature of this crime, its growing magnitude, and aimed to equip the officers on identifying and intercepting such illegal activities through intelligence gathering, investigation, and evidence collection. It also shared best practices to further enhance police actions in dealing with such offences. To keep the momentum going, CASCADE has lined up a slew of such engagements, with police officers

across different states in India in the coming months as part of its nation-wide awareness campaign against illicit trade.

Navigating the complexities of crimes relating to illicit trade while producing tangible results will remain an uphill task for our police officers. Having said that, the Government of India is continuously taking necessary measures to ensure that our police force is always ready to face existing and new challenges. Be it the establishment of National Forensic Science University, creation of the Criminal Tracking Network and Systems, Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center or having a national database on crimes such as terrorism, narcotics and economic offences, significant steps are being taken for effective policing - after all, a modern police force is necessary for a modern nation.

In the past few years, India has been a leading voice for a coordinated effort to combat smuggling and transnational organized crime. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi during his address at the 90th INTERPOL General Assembly held last year in India said, "Let communication, collaboration and cooperation defeat crime, corruption and terrorism." Therefore, as we work tirelessly to advance peace, stability and shared prosperity among nations in the world, sustained and concrete actions by the police forces will be fundamental in our fight against such perils. Only then can we safeguard people and their livelihoods and spur growth and development.

EFFECTIVE POLICING FOR NATION'S GROWTH

ANI RUPAS is Chairman of FICCI CASCADIE, Member of the Corporate Management Committee & President of Corporate Affairs of ITC Limited. He discusses why a stable and good law & order and policing are imperative to the growth of a nation's economy.

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MEDIA COVERAGE



'Besides inflicting financial harm on govt revenues, smuggling also undermines stability of economy'

AGENCIES BHOPAL, 21 JUNE

Naveet Mohan Kohari, Managing Director of the Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation, said here on Wednesday that smuggling not only inflicts considerable financial harm on government revenues but also undermines the stability of the economy.

CASCADE's (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) seminar on 'Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling'.



Senior Deputy Commissioner, Central GST and Central Excise said, 'Crimes relating to smuggling and counterfeiting have increased manifold in the global market as a result of which the government, businesses, society and consumers are losing millions of rupees. Smugglers are opportunistic who aims to exploit market in order to gain economic advantages.'

Shiyas A., DIG(CI), CID, PHQ, Bhopal said, 'The clandestine nature of smuggling operations allows perpetrators to evade taxes, tariffs, and customs duties, resulting in substantial revenue losses for governments. Smuggling inflicts economic losses, and there is a deficiency in adequate penal provisions to address the issue effectively.'

जालसाजी, तस्करी से उपभोक्ताओं की सेहत एवं सुरक्षा को खतरा

पटवो (आसते)। फिकी कास्केड (अर्थव्यवस्था को गूट करने वाली तस्करी और जालसाजी से रोकने के लिए) द्वारा जालसाजी एवं तस्करी के विरुद्ध बचाव की रणनीति पर विचार पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए...

കളളകടത്ത് കേസുകൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചത് പോലീസ് കൊച്ചി | അടുത്ത കാലത്തായി ഓൺലൈൻ കളളപ്പണം, കളളക്കടത്ത് കേസുകളിൽ വലിയ വർദ്ധനവുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും അത്തരം വഞ്ചനാപരമായ നടപടികൾ ഫലപ്രദമായി തടയുന്നതിന് ശക്തമായതും സജീവവുമായ പ്രതികരണം ആവശ്യമാണെന്നും സിറ്റി പോലീസ് കമ്മീഷണർ കെ സേതു രാമൻ പറഞ്ഞു.

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മന്ത്രി പി രാജീവ് സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച സെമിനാർ മുൻപിൽ മന്ത്രി പി രാജീവ്
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കേരള കാമുറി
21 May 2023

കളളനോട്ടും കളളക്കടത്തും രാജ്യം നേരിടുന്ന പ്രധാന വെല്ലുവിളി: പി. രാജീവ്

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FICCI-CASCADE holds capacity building prog for police personnel

GUWAHATI, MAY 1: Pawan Kumar Sharma, Deputy Assistant Director, Police Services, North-Eastern Police Academy (NEPA) today said, 'Taking crimes of illicit trade has been a major concern for national since decades. The North-Eastern police forces have always been on their toes to capture the criminals who are operating in the legal market. The police department holds a crucial position in upholding law and order and safeguarding lives. Businesses that are not market operators as the primary law enforcement agency in our region.'

MEDIA COVERAGE

MEDIA COVERAGE



'Police dept holds crucial position in safeguarding lawful businesses'

UMIAM, MEGHALAYA: Pawan Kumar Sharma, Deputy Assistant Director, Police Science, North-Eastern Policy Academy (NEPA) on Monday said, "Tackling crimes of illicit trade has been a major concern for nations since decades. The North-Eastern police forces have always been on their toes to capture the criminals who are operating the illegal market. The police department holds a crucial position in upholding law and order and safeguarding lawful businesses from illicit market operators as the primary law enforcement agency in our nation."

Addressing the 'Capacity Building Program for Police Officers of NEPA on Prevention



of Counterfeiting and Smuggling' organised by FICCI-CASCADE, Sharma stated that at NEPA, we are engaged in shaping police officers for equitable, effective, and sensitive policing.

It is dedicated to teaching the police personnel of North-Eastern states and from across the country to safeguard the value of freedom from disorder, criminal acts, and criminals. **MPO5T**

Police department holds crucial place in upholding law and order, safeguarding businesses: Dy Assistant Director

Uttarakhand: Pawan Kumar Sharma, Deputy Assistant Director, Police Science, North-Eastern Policy Academy (NEPA) said, "Tackling crimes of illicit trade has been a major concern for nations since decades. The North-Eastern police forces have always been on their toes to capture the criminals who are operating the illegal market. The police department holds a crucial position in upholding law and order and safeguarding lawful businesses from illicit market operators as the primary law enforcement agency in our nation."



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FICCI-CASCADE holds capacity building program for police personnel

GUWAHATI, April 28: Addressing the 'Capacity Building Program for Police Officers of NEPA on Prevention of Counterfeiting and Smuggling' organised by FICCI-CASCADE, Pawan Kumar Sharma, Deputy Assistant Director, Police Science, North-Eastern Policy Academy (NEPA) stated that the academy is engaged in shaping police officers for equitable, effective, and sensitive policing. It is dedicated to teaching the police personnel of North-Eastern states and from across the country to safeguard the value of freedom from disorder, criminal acts, and criminals. **Sharma, maintained, "Tackling crimes of illicit trade has been a major concern for nations for decades. The North-Eastern police forces have always been on their toes to capture the criminals who are operating the illegal market. The police department holds a crucial position in upholding law and order and safeguarding lawful businesses from illicit market operators as the primary law enforcement agency in our nation." On the other hand, Jitender Kumar Dwivedi, Deputy Director, North-Eastern Police Academy added, "India, as a rising economic superpower, needs to take offences related to counterfeiting and smuggling very seriously and police have a significant role in fighting this menace." For police officers investigating cases involving smuggling and counterfeiting, it is crucial to comprehend the potential outcomes of their actions on the ground. This understanding is necessary to make informed decisions and take appropriate measures. The purpose of the two-day training program was to raise awareness among Northeast police officers regarding the necessity of combating the socio-economic harms caused by illicit trade.**

कारोबार की सुरक्षा में पुलिस की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका : उप सहायक निदेशक

उत्तराखण्ड (शिलांग) : 2 मई (पूर्व) : पूर्वोत्तर पुलिस अकादमी (नेपा) के उप सहायक निदेशक, पुलिस विभाग, पुलिस विभाग पवन कुमार शर्मा ने आज कहा कि अर्थव्यवस्था को सुरक्षित रखने और अवैध कारोबार को पकड़ने की दिशा में पूर्वोत्तर पुलिस का महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रहा है। फिककी-कास्केड द्वारा आयोजित 'कालाबाज़ारी और नकली

FICCI-CASCADE holds capacity building progfor police personnel

GUWAHATI, MAY 1: Pawan Kumar Sharma, Deputy Assistant Director, Police Science, North-Eastern Policy Academy (NEPA) today said, "Tackling crimes of illicit trade has been a major concern for nations since decades. The North-Eastern police forces have always been on their toes to capture the criminals who are operating the illegal market. The police department holds a crucial position in upholding law and order and safeguarding lawful businesses from illicit market operators as the primary law enforcement agency in our nation."

Addressing the 'Capacity Building Program for Police Officers of NEPA on Prevention of Counterfeiting and Smuggling' organised by FICCI-CASCADE, Mr Sharma stated that at NEPA, we are engaged in shaping police officers for equitable, effective, and sensitive policing. It is dedicated to teaching the police personnel of North-Eastern states and from across the country to safeguard the value of freedom from disorder, criminal acts, and criminals. **Jitender Kumar Dwivedi, Deputy Director, North-Eastern Police Academy said, "India, as a rising economic superpower need to take offences related to counterfeiting and smuggling very seriously and police has a significant role in fighting this menace." For a police officer investigating cases involving smuggling and counterfeiting, it is crucial to comprehend the potential outcomes of their actions on the ground. This understanding is necessary to make informed decisions and take appropriate measures. The purpose of the two-day training program was to raise awareness among Northeast police officers regarding the necessity of combating the socio-economic harms caused by illicit trade. The program witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 400 officers from different states of Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh. NET STAFFER**

बाणिज्यिक अपराध बोधक पदरूपेण फिकी काश्केड

प्रतिदिन बज्जि सबदः अर्थे बज्जिह्यै निराणय, परिवेष, शान्ति, सुख, आर्य कर्मिणोः उपरतं चोपतं विषय प्रत्येकं पेश्या। अर्थे वदन्ते तेषु अर्थे नात आर्य कर्म विषयशुद्धं अपराधपूर्णं कार्यकलाप। एतन् अर्थे बज्जिह्यै अपराध बोधक पदरूपेण फिकी काश्केड का महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रहा है। फिककी-कास्केड द्वारा आयोजित 'कालाबाज़ारी और नकली

कानून-व्यवस्था बनाए रखने और कारोबारों की सुरक्षा में पूर्वोत्तर पुलिस विभाग की है महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका : नेपा

उत्तराखण्ड (शिलांग) : 2 मई (पूर्व) : पूर्वोत्तर पुलिस अकादमी (नेपा) के उप सहायक निदेशक, पुलिस विभाग पवन कुमार शर्मा ने आज कहा, अर्थव्यवस्था को सुरक्षित रखने और अवैध कारोबार को पकड़ने की दिशा में पूर्वोत्तर पुलिस का महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रहा है। फिककी-कास्केड द्वारा आयोजित 'कालाबाज़ारी और नकली

MEDIA COVERAGE

MEDIA COVERAGE



Illicit activities create adverse impact on India's aspiration of becoming \$5 trillion economy: UT DIG

SHASHI PAL JAIN CHANDIGARH, JUNE 27

"Illicit activities such as counterfeiting and smuggling creates an adverse impact on our aspirations of becoming a 5 trillion-dollar economy, this clandestine activity undermines legitimate businesses, siphons off government revenue, and stifles economic growth. To realize our vision, we must collectively address the menace of illicit trade, fortifying our economy against its corrosive effects."

Chandigarh UT DIG Deepak Purohit stated this while addressing a 'Capacity building programme for police officers on prevention of counterfeiting and smuggling' organized by FICCI-CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) at Recruitment Training Centre,



Police Lines in sector 26 here on Tuesday. Purohit further said that the scourge of counterfeiting and smuggling undermines the very essence of our mission of Amrit Kaal. These illicit activities not only cripple our economy and rob legitimate businesses of their rightful earnings but also jeopardize the well-being of our society, he maintained. The consequences of counterfeiting and smuggling extend beyond mere financial losses and create breeding grounds for anti-national elements, enabling the activities

of terrorist networks, he asserted. This underscores the urgent need for law enforcement agencies to be well-equipped and knowledgeable in safeguarding consumers from the inherent dangers associated with these illegal practices, he emphasized. Purohit also emphasized the crucial importance of establishing an in-house training module within the police department which would serve as a comprehensive resource for enhanced learning and empowering officers with the necessary skills.

केपिसिटी बिल्डिंग प्रोग्राम | सैक्टर-26 पुलिस लाइन के प्रशिक्षण सेंटर में हुआ कार्यक्रम जालसाजी और तस्करी से वित्तीय नुकसान और राष्ट्र-विरोधी तत्वों को मिलता है सहारा : डी.आई.जी.

गैरकानूनी प्रैक्टिस से जुड़े खतरों से बचाने के लिए लाॅ एम्प्लोईमेंट एजेंसियों को मजबूत होना पड़ेगा



पुलिस लाइन में कार्यक्रम के दौरान वीरूध पुलिस अधिकारी (एम्प)



पुलिस लाइन में कार्यक्रम के दौरान वीरूध पुलिस अधिकारी (एम्प)

चंडीगढ़, 27 जून (संवाद) : जालसाजी और तस्करी के रीति-रिवाजों को रोकने के लिए अक्षय वर्मा, बचने की महत्वपूर्ण बातों पर प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करते हैं। यह कार्यक्रम पुलिस को नुकसान और अवैध विकास से रोकता है। अवैध व्यापार के खतरों से निपटारा होगा। यह कदम है चंडीगढ़ पुलिस के टी.आई.डी.

चंडीगढ़ पुलिस लाइन के प्रशिक्षण सेंटर में पुलिस अधिकारियों के लिए 'केपिसिटी बिल्डिंग प्रोग्राम' आयोजित किया गया। टी.आई.डी. ने कहा कि जालसाजी और तस्करी का संकेत बहुत बड़ा है। इनसे मिलने से ही लाॅ एम्प्लोईमेंट एजेंसियों को और मजबूत होना पड़ेगा।

अर्थव्यवस्था पर जालसाजी और तस्करी के प्रभाव पर जागरूकता पैदा करना जरूरी: कोटारी अवैध व्यापार के कारण सरकार को 58,521 करोड़ रुपए का कर घाटा

अर्थव्यवस्था पर जालसाजी और तस्करी के प्रभाव पर जागरूकता पैदा करना जरूरी: कोटारी

अवैध व्यापार के कारण सरकार को 58,521 करोड़ रुपए का कर घाटा

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हमको न केवल सकारात्मक नुकसान पर ध्यान देना चाहिए बल्कि अवैध व्यापार के कारण सरकार को 58,521 करोड़ रुपए का कर घाटा हो रहा है। यह घाटा जालसाजी और तस्करी के कारण है। हमें इन गतिविधियों को रोकने के लिए कठोर कदम उठाने चाहिए।

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फिक्की के सेमिनार में वक्ताओं ने किया खुलासा स्मगलिंग, नकली उत्पादों से प्रदेश को सालाना ₹5500 करोड़ का नुकसान



विशेष संयोजक | भोवता

स्मगलिंग और नकली उत्पादों के कारण देश को 5 प्रमुख खंडों में मिलने वाली 58521 करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान हो रहा है। यह नुकसान मुख्य रूप से फिक्की सेमिनार में आयोजित कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से सामने आ रहा है।

2019-20 में अवैध व्यापार 2.60 लाख करोड़ था। फिक्की ने सरकार और अन्य एजेंसियों के साथ फिक्की कास्टमर चेंज प्रोग्राम को लागू करने की योजना बनाई है।

Address illicit trade menace collectively: DIG

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 27 Illicit activities such as counterfeiting and smuggling create an adverse impact on our aspirations of becoming a 5 trillion-dollar economy. This clandestine activity undermines legitimate businesses, siphons off government revenue and stifles economic growth. To realise our vision, we must collectively address the menace of illicit trade, fortifying our economy against its corrosive effects. UT DIG Deepak Purohit stated this while addressing a capacity building programme for police officers on prevention of counterfeiting and smuggling 'organized by FICCI-CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) at Recruitment Training Centre, Police Lines, in Sector 26 here today. Purohit said: "The scourge of counterfeiting and smuggling undermines the very essence of our mission of Amrit Kaal. These illicit activities not only cripple our economy and rob legitimate businesses of their rightful earnings but also jeopardize the well-being of our society". The consequences of counterfeiting and smuggling extend beyond mere financial losses and create breeding grounds for anti-national elements, enabling the activities of terrorist networks, he asserted. This underscores the urgent need for law-enforcement agencies to be well-equipped and knowledgeable in safeguarding consumers from the inherent dangers associated with these illegal practices, he said. Purohit also emphasized the crucial importance of establishing an in-house training module within the Police Department. — TNS

'Illicit activities hamper India's economic aspirations' CHANDIGARH: While addressing a capacity building programme for police officers on prevention of counterfeiting and smuggling, organised at recruitment training centre, Police Lines, Sector 26, UT Deputy Inspector general Deepak Purohit emphasised on the adverse impact of the illicit activities on India's goal of becoming a five trillion-dollar economy.

Illicit activities create adverse impact on India's aspiration of becoming \$5 trillion economy: UT DIG

Deputy Inspector General Chandigarh, June 27 Illicit activities such as counterfeiting and smuggling create an adverse impact on our aspirations of becoming a 5 trillion-dollar economy, this clandestine activity undermines legitimate businesses, siphons off government revenue, and stifles economic growth. To realise our vision, we must collectively address the menace of illicit trade, fortifying our economy against its corrosive effects. UT DIG Deputy Inspector general Deepak Purohit emphasised on the adverse impact of the illicit activities on India's goal of becoming a five trillion-dollar economy.

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MEDIA COVERAGE

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

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

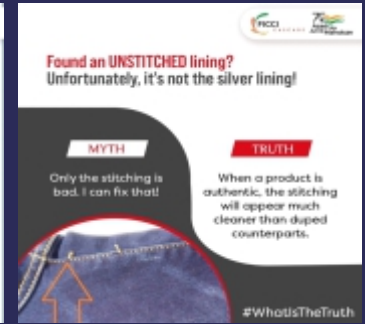
#Time4Action

#CASCADEReports



Seminar on 'Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling'

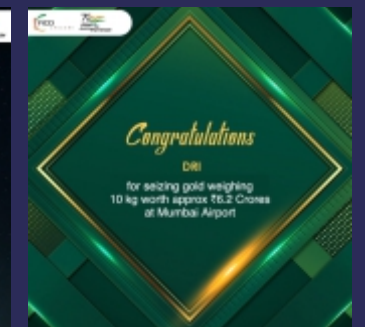
#WhatsTheTruth | #MythVsTruth



Capacity Building Programme for Police Officers on 'Prevention of Counterfeiting & Smuggling' in Chandigarh

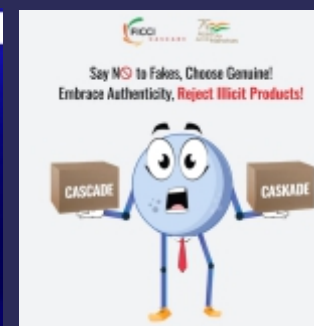
Moment Marketing

Congratulatory



'Awareness Programme on Breaking the Chains of Illicit Trade: Seminar to Curb Counterfeiting and Smuggling'

#CaspysHere



SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Hong Kong customs seizes HK\$200 million worth of illegal cigarettes in 2 operations against cross-border smuggling syndicate

31 May 2023 | SCMP

Hong Kong customs officers have seized HK\$200 million worth (US\$25.5 million) of black market cigarettes in two operations in less than two weeks, striking a blow against a cross-border smuggling syndicate. The Customs and Excise Department on Wednesday said an investigation found the syndicate used barges to deliver the illegal tobacco products to the Tuen Mun public cargo working area, where trucks would collect the contraband and transport it to a storage centre.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3222446/hong-kong-customs-seizes-hk200-million-worth-illegal-cigarettes-2-operations-against-cross-border>

3. Counterfeit clothes worth more than £6m seized in Manchester raids

9 April 2023 | BBC

Greater Manchester Police said officers had closed down 18 shops in Manchester's Cheetham Hill and Strangeways areas in a two-week period. It said it found "dilapidated", rat-infested buildings with "dangerous homemade electricity, hidden weapons and [no] proper means of escape".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-65225192>

5. Counterfeit Apple Products Worth Nearly Rs 2.3 Crore From China Seized At Dulles Airport In Shipment

27 April 2023 | Mashable

Apple items were fakes and estimated their value to be \$289,550 if they had been authentic. Last month, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents confiscated about \$290,000 in counterfeit Apple Watch and AirPods that had been smuggled from China to Washington Dulles International Airport. The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspected four shipments from Fairfax County on March 15. A total of 50 Apple Watches and 1,000 second-generation Apple AirPods Pro were included in these shipments. The products were taken over by the officers for additional scrutiny because they suspected they may be fake.

<https://in.mashable.com/tech/51665/counterfeit-apple-products-worth-nearly-rs-23-crore-from-china-seized-at-dulles-airport-in-shipment>

7. B4 million in fake herbal products seized

26 May 2023 | Bangkok Post

Police have confiscated fake herbal products worth about 4 million baht during raids on four locations in Bangkok and Pathum Thani following an investigation into sales of the products by Chinese nationals to Chinese tourists. The raids took place on May 18 at two shops, a warehouse and a house, said Pol Maj Gen Anan Nanasombat, commander of the Consumer Protection Police Division (CPPD).

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2579095/b4-million-in-fake-herbal-products-seized>

9. Ireland takes part in European operation that seized €87m worth of fake clothes and shoes

6 June 2023 | Sunday World

Ireland has taken part in a major European-wide operation that resulted in the seizure of €87 million worth of fake clothes, shoes and accessories. There were 378 arrests and almost two million fake items discovered during the nine-month Europol-coordinated action that took place between March and December of last year.

This led to the seizure of a total of 1,956,607 counterfeit clothes, shoes and garments with "very important" sports and luxury goods at the top of the seized counterfeit list.

<https://www.sundayworld.com/crime/world-crime/ireland-takes-part-in-european-operation-that-seized-87m-worth-of-fake-clothes-and-shoes/a1325851416.html>

2. Belfast: Eleven million cigarettes seized at Belfast Port

26 June 2023 | BBC News

Almost eleven million smuggled cigarettes with an unpaid tax value of more than £5m have been seized at Belfast Port. The cigarettes were found on 20 June by Border Force staff and His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) staff in boxes packed into a container.

The 10.8m cigarettes were discovered during a scan of the container. No arrests have been made in relation to the seizure. Lucie Irving, of HMRC's fraud investigation service, described the discovery of the illegal cigarettes as "huge".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-66023143>

4. Cheetham Hill: Tonnes of fake goods seized in raids repurposed

12 April 2023 | BBC

Police have repurposed about 300 tonnes of counterfeit goods seized from shops masquerading as legitimate businesses. The items, retrieved from Cheetham Hill and Strangeways in Manchester, have now been recycled for the community. The work forms part of Operation Vulcan, which has shut down more than 100 fake designer shops in the city. Greater Manchester Police (GMP) said there was still a "long way to go" to eradicate criminality from the area.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-65249750>

6. \$290,000 WORTH OF APPLE AIRPODS FOUND TO BE FAKE

28 April 2023 | Gizchina

The United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has seized over 1000 counterfeit Apple AirPods and 50 fake Apple Watches worth \$290,000. The culprits were apprehended at the Washington Dulles International Airport. The fake products were coming in from China as the report has said. Due to the 1 to 1 accuracy of the products, they intended to sell them at the same prices as the original products. The report also says the CBP made this announcement of the 25th of March 2023.

<https://www.gizchina.com/2023/04/28/290000-worth-of-apple-airpods-found-to-be-fake/>

8. Patagonia accuses Nordstrom of selling counterfeit products in a new lawsuit

1 June 2023 | Apparel Resource

In a new lawsuit, Patagonia has accused Nordstrom of selling imitations of its clothing and is suing the company. The lawsuit, which was filed in a Los Angeles District Court, claims that the department store retailer is peddling "thousands of counterfeit Patagonia sweatshirts and T-shirts" through its Nordstrom Rack network. The selling of these knockoff products, which have bogus Patagonia labels on them, harms the reputation of the outdoor company's brand and deceives customers about the calibre of the goods they are purchasing, claims Patagonia.

<https://apparelresources.com/business-news/retail/patagonia-accuses-nordstrom-selling-counterfeit-products-new-lawsuit/>

10. Customs seizes fake Nike shoes, apparel worth ₱1.56B

20 June 2023 | CNN Philippines

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 20) — Customs agents in the Philippines confiscated millions of counterfeit Nike footwear as well as apparel, estimated to be worth ₱1.56 billion. In a statement on Tuesday, the Bureau of Customs said it received recognition from the Nike Asia Pacific Brand Protection Team following its massive crackdown against replica footwear products.

<http://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2023/6/20/customs-fake-nike-shoes.html>

NATIONAL NEWS

1. Foreign Cigarettes Worth Over Rs 1 Crore Recovered From Mizoram

5 May 2023 | NDTV

The operation was carried out by a combined team of Assam Rifles and the Customs Department of Zokhawthar based on specific information on Thursday. Deized consignment was handed over to the Land Customs Station of Zokhawthar

In yet another success in its crusade against smuggling activities, the Serchhip Battalion of 23 Sector Assam Rifles recovered illegal Foreign-origin cigarettes worth Rs 1.53 Crore near Melbuk Xg at Zokhawthar, according to an official statement.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/foreign-cigarettes-worth-over-rs-1-core-recovered-from-mizoram-4009248>

2. Foreign Cigarettes Worth ₹ 24 Crore Seized In Mumbai, 5 Arrested

14 May 2023 | NDTV

Mumbai: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Mumbai, has seized 1.2 crore sticks of foreign origin cigarettes with an estimated market value of ₹ 24 crore and arrested five persons including an importer for allegedly trying to smuggle them, the DRI said on Sunday. These cigarettes are banned for import into India due to their non-compliance with Indian standards, the DRI said in a release.

<https://www.ndtv.com/mumbai-news/foreign-cigarettes-worth-rs-24-crore-seized-in-mumbai-5-arrested-4033156>

3. Fake currency worth Rs 25.20 lakh seized in Mizoram, 2 arrested

17 May 2023 | Northeast Live

The seized FICN consisted of 1007 notes of Rs 2000 denomination and 1012 notes of Rs 500 denomination. Mizoram Police seized Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) valued at Rs 25.20 lakh and arrested two persons including a woman in the connection late Tuesday night. The seized FICN consisted of 1007 notes of Rs 2000 denomination and 1012 notes of Rs 500 denomination.

<https://northeastlivetv.com/around-ne/mizoram/fake-currency-worth-rs-25-20-lakh-seized-in-mizoram-2-arrested/>

4. Gujarat: Fake currency notes with Rs 23.44 lakh face value seized; 3 held

25 May 2023 | The Print

Rajkot, May 25 (PTI) Police have busted a fake currency note printing racket in Gujarat's Rajkot city and arrested three persons after seizing counterfeit notes with a face value of Rs 23.44 lakh from their possession, officials said on Thursday. A total of 4,957 Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) were recovered from the possession of the accused, they said.

<https://theprint.in/india/gujarat-fake-currency-notes-with-rs-23-44-lakh-face-value-seized-3-held/1594122/>

5. Rs 6 crore gold seized at Mumbai international airport, second biggest haul of 2023

3 April 2023 | The Economic Times

MUMBAI: Customs officers arrested two persons, including a United Arab Emirates (UAE) national, with 10kg gold worth Rs 6 crore in two separate cases at the Mumbai international airport on Saturday. This is the second biggest seizure at the city airport this year so far. In February, two Kenyans were caught with 18 kg of gold worth Rs 9 crore.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/rs-6-crore-gold-seized-at-mumbai-international-airport-second-biggest-haul-of-2023/articleshow/99197030.cms?from=mdr>

6. Cash & goods worth 47cr seized in less than a week

4 April 2023 | The Times of India

Bengaluru: Almost a week since the announcement of the model code of conduct (MCC) on March 29, Election Commission officials have seized cash, goods, liquor and drugs worth Rs 47 crore in several parts of Karnataka. This apart, flying squad teams have seized Rs 30 lakh in Bengaluru's Chickpet and another Rs 43 lakh in Bailhongal constituency of Belagavi district.

According to an official release by Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka, until Monday, police, income tax officials and other squads have cumulatively seized Rs 13 crore in cash from various assembly constituencies.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/cash-goods-worth-47cr-seized-in-less-than-a-week/articleshow/99227678.cms?from=mdr>

7. Hyderabad: Police bust gang involved in selling fake products of popular brands; 4 held

5 April 2023 | News Meter

Hyderabad: West Zone Task Force police have busted a gang involved in manufacturing and selling fake food and other general store items of popular brands in Hyderabad. The seized items included fake Parachute hair oil, Red label tea powder, Colgate Paste, Good Night Liquid, Head & Shoulders Shampoo, labels, boxes, stickers, empty bottles, packing boxes, and other items used in the preparation and adulteration of the items.

<https://newsmeter.in/hyderabad/hyderabad-police-bust-gang-involved-selling-food-items-popular-brands-4-held-710476>

8. Nagpur police busts counterfeit branded clothing racket

10 April 2023 | Lokmat Times

After obtaining clearance from senior police officials two days ago, four shops in Itwari were subjected to a raid, during which a substantial quantity of fake jeans and T-shirts were seized. These clothing items were labelled with prominent brand names and were being sold at a similar price point. During the police raids, several shops in the area including Deepa Readymade (with 178 seized jeans), Bhandar, and Maa Mahalaxmi Garments (111 seized items), Monish Garments (106 seized items), and Sharda Garments (125 seized items) were found to be selling counterfeit clothing under the guise of Levi's brand clothing.

<https://www.lokmatimes.com/maharashtra/nagpur-police-busts-counterfeit-branded-clothing-racket/>

9. BSF Jawans Seize Huge Quantity Of Phensedyl On Indo-Bangladesh Border

12 April 2023 | NE India Broadcast

BSF troops under South Bengal Frontier foiled the plans of smugglers and seized a total of 521 bottles of Phensedyl from their area of responsibility in the Indo-Bangladesh International Border areas. The estimated value of the seized Phensedyl bottles is Rs. 1,06,966/-. The incident took place on 12 April, 2023 at around 0410 hrs, in the area of BSF's Border Out Post Bajidpur, 107 Battalion.

<https://neindiabroadcast.com/2023/04/12/bsf-jawans-seize-huge-quantity-of-phensedyl-on-indo-bangladesh-border-3/>

10. Chhattisgarh: Liquor Worth over Rs 42 Lakh Seized in Narayanpur Amid Uproar over Liquor Scam

11 May 2023 | Latest LY

"Acting on a precise tip-off, a police team from Narayanpur intercepted a truck parked suspiciously in the Bakhrupara Bazaar area. During checking, police recovered a huge quantity of liquor kept under onion stock. Around 4200 litres of alcohol of separate brands were seized during the raid," said the ASP. Amid the ongoing uproar over an alleged scam, Chhattisgarh police on Thursday seized liquor worth over Rs 42 lakh in the Narayanpur district.

<https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/india-news-chhattisgarh-liquor-worth-over-rs-42-lakh-seized-in-narayanpur-amid-uproar-over-liquor-scam-5120197.html>

WHAT'S NEXT

Awareness Programme and Seminar on Proactive Approaches to Combat Counterfeiting & Smuggling
Hyderabad, Rajasthan, Kerala and Guwahati

Roundtables with Customs - Collaborative Strategies to Counter Illicit Trade
East Region

9th edition MASCRAPADE 2023
Movement Against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade
Tackling Illicit Trade: Socio-Economic Perspectives and Way Forward
28-29 SEPTEMBER 2023 | ITC Maurya, New Delhi

Capacity Building Programme for Police Officers on Prevention of Counterfeiting and Smuggling
Focus Cities: Meerut, NEPA- Shillong and Hyderabad



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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