

# NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2024



**Anil Rajput**  
Chairman, FICCI CASCADE

I am pleased to present the latest edition of the FICCI CASCADE (Committee against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) newsletter, which highlights our recent activities, topical developments and insightful articles on the various aspects of smuggling and other related illicit trade activities. FICCI CASCADE has been actively engaged in raising awareness about the detrimental impact of smuggling and counterfeiting in India for over a decade and has been collaborating with various stakeholders to achieve tangible outcomes. The overwhelming support that we've received over the years, underscores the growing awareness about the harm caused by a multitude of illicit activities, motivating us to redouble our efforts in combatting this socio-economic menace.

In an attempt to deliver more effectively on the above-mentioned goal, FICCI CASCADE had initiated Anti-Smuggling Day on February 11, 2022. I am delighted to share that CASCADE successfully hosted the 3rd edition of Anti-Smuggling Day this year. The event saw the participation and address by Mr. Mohan Kumar Singh, Principal Director General of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, who emphasized on the cross-border implications of smuggling and the imperative for international cooperation to combat such illicit practices.

The conference also featured distinguished speakers from various key organizations that included Appellate Customs and Excise Tribunal (SAFEMA), World Customs Organization (WCO), United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as policymakers from the Indian government and industrial leaders. The convergence of expertise and perspectives reinforced the importance of forging impactful partnerships to combat this global menace.

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The conference also marked the introduction of a new campaign titled 'smuggled samaan ko karo nakaar, viksit bharat ka sapna karo sakaar'. The campaign will educate the growing customer base about the risks involved in buying different kinds of smuggled goods like drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, mobile phone and packaged foods and many other categories.

On the occasion of Anti-Smuggling Day and as a part of its drive to create awareness amongst the youth, FICCI CASCADE also hosted an online Digital Art Competition on the theme, "Stand Against Smuggling", to seed the next generation with a strong culture of ethical consumption and to develop the ethos of responsible citizens. The contest attracted huge participation from around the world.

Realising the insidious nature of smuggling and other related illicit trade activities, FICCI CASCADE has taken proactive steps by organizing a stakeholder's consultation in observance of World Anti-Counterfeiting Day on 6th June 2024. The consultation centred on key themes such as bolstering enforcement measures, harnessing technology for authentication purposes, reinforcing regulations, and amplifying public awareness efforts. The programme was addressed by prominent figures including Mr. B. Shankar Jaiswal, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Delhi Police (tech, cyber, and licensing), Dr. G.R. Raghavender, a senior consultant at CIPAM and former Joint Secretary of DPIIT, and Mr. Amit Goyal, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police - Crime, Delhi Police, underscoring the gravity of the issue and the collective commitment required to combat it effectively.

The consultation drew participation from influential organizations such as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Offices (USPTO), UKIPO, the Embassy of Denmark in India, JETRO, Amazon, APAC, P&G, HUL, and many more. Representatives from various industries contributed towards strategies aimed at combating counterfeiting, emphasizing the requirement for stronger legislations to effectively control this pervasive issue.

In response to the complex global threats posed by smuggling and illicit trade, FICCI CASCADE organized a seminar on June 20, 2024, titled "Global Challenges of Illicit Trade and the Way Forward." The seminar facilitated extensive participation from

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government bodies, industry leaders, law enforcement agencies, and civil society, fostering comprehensive discussions on formulating effective strategies to combat this growing menace. Mr. Mohan Kumar Singh, Principal Director General of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), highlighted the profound threat of illicit trade, emphasizing how smuggling and counterfeiting erode legitimate economic activities, deplete government revenues, and fuel organized crime. The seminar was addressed by Mr. P K Das from the World Customs Organization (WCO), who stressed on the importance of a networked approach to dismantle illicit systems, and Brigadier Girish Upadhyay SM, VSM, DIG- 23rd Sector Assam Rifles, who emphasized the challenges of guarding inaccessible borders and the importance of collaboration with stakeholders to enhance national security.

FICCI CASCADE has embarked on a series of initiatives aimed at addressing the persistent and complex challenges posed by smuggling and other contraband activities. These efforts include organizing numerous discussions on social media platforms featuring prominent figures such as Mr. Najib Shah, Former Chairman, CBIC, Mr. Rajiva Ranjan Verma, Former Director General, RPF, NCB, Bureau of Police Research and Development, Mr. Deep Chand, Former Special

Commissioner, Delhi police, Mr. Suvashis Choudhary, IPS, Chief Security Commissioner, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and Former Joint Commissioner, Delhi police, Mr. Anil Shukla, Director General of Police, Mizoram and Mr. P.K. Malhotra, Former Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice. These dialogues have revolved around addressing the escalating threats posed by illicit trade, with a focus on exploring effective strategies and measures to address these issues. Through collaborative engagements, CASCADE aims to cultivate heightened awareness and cooperation in combatting illicit trade, thereby bolstering overall security measures that safeguard against the detrimental impact of such activities.

I am confident that you will find this edition an interesting read.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement!

Jai Hind

Anil Rajput

Chairman, FICCI CASCADE



## NEWS FLASH

INDIAN EXPRESS

### Global Collaborations and Robust Enforcements Lead to Record-breaking Seizures, says DRI Chief

**NEW DELHI:** FICCI Cascade has been at the forefront when it comes to raising awareness about smuggling activities and initiating pro-active dialogues on how it can be tackled.

Speaking on the occasion of FICCI CASCADE's 'Anti-Smuggling Day', a leading official of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has emphasised on the need for greater international co-operation to tackle the menace of smuggling. Mohan Kumar Singh, Principal Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), said: "Smuggling is a transnational crime. Underlining the critical need for international cooperation in combating such illicit activities, DRI actively engages and participates in various global enforcement operations targeting drugs, arms, wildlife, environment, money laundering, and terror financing. Through the consistent sharing of actionable intelligence with our overseas counterparts, numerous operations have been conducted, resulting in significant seizures of contraband by customs authorities in countries including Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. DRI has also kept a close watch on the smuggling of various other items like red sanders, cigarettes, fake currency, foreign currency, wildlife products and so on. These seizures are the result of fine teamwork of the DRI officers, supported by excellent cooperation and inter-agency coordination of our partner law enforcement agencies in the country."

Appraising FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy), he said: "On behalf of the Directorate of



Revenue Intelligence, my commitments to FICCI CASCADE for organising the Anti-Smuggling Day. This great initiative, now in its third year in a row gives us an occasion as well as a platform to discuss the growing menace of smuggling and counterfeiting. The dynamic nature of the threat from smuggling makes it imperative for all of us to join hands and contribute our bit towards combating of smuggling activities. "FICCI CASCADE has also launched a new campaign to drive awareness among the citizens. Titled 'Smuggled Saaman Ko Karo Nakaar, Viksit Bharat Ka Sapna Karo Sakaar', it seeks to inspire them to help the country realise the goal of being a developed nation by 2047 by winning the battle against smuggling.

Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE, said: "We launched the Anti-Smuggling Day on 11th February, 2022 and pledged to spare no effort in raising awareness and taking concerted action against the multi-faceted challenge of smuggling. Staying true to that commitment, FICCI CASCADE is now introducing a new campaign: 'Smuggled Saaman Ko Karo Nakaar, Viksit Bharat Ka Sapna Karo Sakaar'.

ikaar, Viksit Bharat Ka Sapna Karo Sakaar". The Indian economy is flourishing under a proactive government translating to increased prosperity and subsequently, greater spending power. However, it has been observed that higher disposable income often leads to an upsurge in the consumption of smuggled goods. Today, we launch a new campaign to sensitise the beneficiaries of India's economic growth about the responsibility they bear in utilising their income. We urge them not to purchase smuggled goods which not only jeopardise their health but also harm the country's economy. In the ensuing days and months, we will take this campaign forward through various initiatives."

Reinforcing the need for vigilance by citizens to tackle smuggling, Balesh Kumar, Member, Appellate Tribunal-SAFEMA, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, said: "I would appeal to all Indians to participate in the activities of the Anti-Smuggling Day, which launched by FICCI CASCADE. This occasion serves not only as a reminder for enforcement agencies but also for citizens to remain vigilant against the use of smuggled goods, as it is in their best interest to avoid products of questionable quality. Smuggled counterfeit goods, often available at low prices in the market, pose significant risks to society and health. Therefore, I implore citizens to refrain from using such items."

(with inputs from Agencies)

Hindustan Times

### DRI seizes smuggled Korean-made cigarettes worth ₹10 crore

By Abhishek Sharan | Jan 15, 2024

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in Mumbai seized smuggled Korean cigarettes worth ₹10.08 crore, hidden in a shipping container mis-declared as Chinese carpets. The container, intercepted at Nhava Sheva Port, contained 67.20 lakh cigarettes. Investigations are ongoing.

**Mumbai:** The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)'s Mumbai Zonal Unit recently seized smuggled Korean-made cigarettes worth ₹10.08 crore, which were allegedly imported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in a shipping container mis-declared as Chinese viscose-woven carpets.

The seized container, consisting of 67.20 lakh sticks, was intercepted at the Nhava Sheva Port, Navi Mumbai, on arriving from Dubai's Port of Jebel Ali recently, DRI sources said.

Based on specific intelligence, the DRI team had intercepted two imported cargo containers in consignment that were declared as Chinese viscose-woven carpets, and one of them yielded the smuggled foreign cigarettes on closer inspection, the sources said.

"Detailed examination of the first container revealed that it was fully stuffed with foreign-brand cigarettes, namely Esse Change, made in Korea," a DRI source said. "The second container had 325 rolls of old used carpets, which were used as cover cargo by the smugglers to hoodwink the customs authorities," the source said.

Further investigation is under progress to act against those involved in the smuggling bid, the sources said. "The seizure shows DRI's resolve towards its anti-smuggling mandate and taking exemplary actions against the syndicates involved in such nefarious activities," a DRI source said.

The DRI concealed both consignments under the Customs Act, 1962.

Last December, the DRI's Mumbai unit had also seized smuggled imported cigarettes worth ₹14.67 crore at the Nhava Sheva Port. The seized cigarettes, 86.30 lakh in all, were found allegedly concealed inside a 40-feet container that had arrived at one of the Container Freight Stations (CFS) of the Nhava Sheva port on December 4.

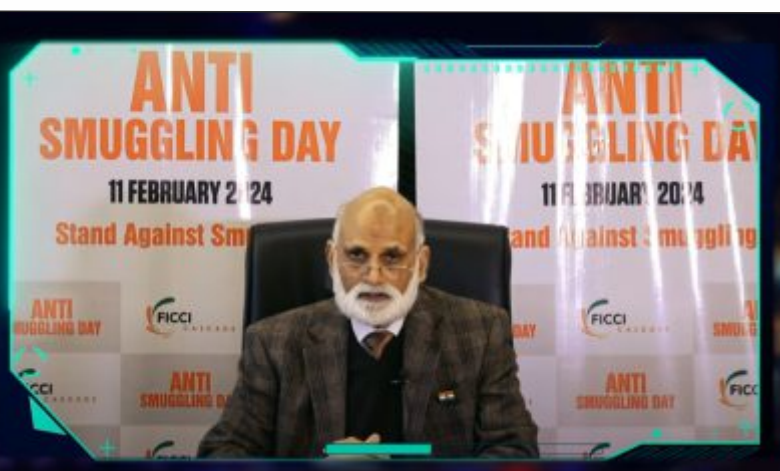
The smuggling bids were allegedly meant to avoid paying the higher rate of duty imposed by the government on the import of tobacco-based products and comply with associated regulations, the sources said. "Since smoking cigarettes has a deleterious effect on the health of the citizens and burdens the health infrastructure of the country, the government imposes a higher rate of duty on such goods," said a DRI source. "To evade the duty and the compliance with regulations related to the import of tobacco-related products, the corrupt often indulge in smuggling of such items," the source said.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/dri-seizes-smuggled-korean-made-cigarettes-worth-10-crore-101705258362191.html>

## RECENT INITIATIVES

# ANTI SMUGGLING DAY

11 February 2024



**W**ith India persistently targeted by smugglers, the nation grapples with the profound repercussions of illicit activities on its economic fabric. Beyond financial losses, smuggling infiltrates diverse facets of societal welfare, amplifying health hazards for consumers and eroding crucial government revenues. Despite global efforts, including fortified border security and intensified trade regulations, smuggling remains a formidable challenge demanding urgent intervention.

With the objective of building a robust international campaign against the menace of smuggling, FICCI CASCADE in 2022 took the lead and launched Anti-Smuggling Day on 11 February. Anti-Smuggling Day is observed to raise awareness and promote multinational cooperation to address the causes and consequences of smuggling.

FICCI CASCADE has successfully organized the **3rd edition of Anti-Smuggling Day on 11th February 2024**. The programme featured impactful video messages from esteemed dignitaries who delivered insightful addresses

highlighting the challenges posed by smuggling and shared their valuable experiences in countering this menace.

**Mr. Mohan Kumar Singh**, Principal Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on the occasion of **FICCI CASCADE's 'Anti-Smuggling Day'** highlighted the transnational nature of smuggling and the urgent necessity for international collaboration in combating such illicit activities. DRI is actively involved in various global enforcement operations targeting drugs, arms, wildlife, environment, money laundering, and terror financing. Mr. Singh opined that by consistently sharing actionable intelligence with overseas counterparts, DRI has facilitated numerous operations resulting in significant contraband seizures by customs authorities in countries such as Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.

Mr. Singh also underlined DRI's vigilance against the smuggling of various items like red sanders, cigarettes, fake currency, foreign currency, and wildlife products. He attributed these seizures to the effective teamwork of DRI



officers and the excellent cooperation among partner law enforcement agencies.

**Mr. P K Das**, Director, Compliance and Facilitation, World Customs Organization delivered a powerful message emphasizing that illicit trade remains a major threat to global security, economic stability, and the well-being of societies worldwide. From the smuggling of illicit goods and drugs to the trafficking of wildlife and cultural artifacts, these criminal activities undermine legitimate economies, empower organized crime syndicates, and jeopardize the health and safety of individuals across the globe, emphasized Mr. Das.

Highlighting the importance of citizen vigilance in combating smuggling, **Mr. Balesh Kumar**, Member of the Appellate Tribunal-SAFEMA, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, urged all Indians to actively engage in the Anti-Smuggling Day activities initiated by FICCI CASCADE. This programme serves not only as a reminder for enforcement agencies but also for citizens to stay vigilant against the use of smuggled goods. Mr. Kumar mentioned that it is in their best interest to avoid products of questionable quality. Smuggled counterfeit goods,

often available at low prices in the market, pose significant risks to society and health. Therefore, Mr. Kumar implores citizens to refrain from using such items.

As we observe Anti-Smuggling Day, **Mr. Marco Teixeira**, Regional Representative, South Asia, UNODC accentuated the multifaceted consequences of smuggling, spanning economic impacts to public security concerns. By illuminating these issues, determination to combat smuggling and maintain fairness and integrity in business practices is fortified. Mr. Marco expressed gratitude to FICCI CASCADE for providing a platform for dialogue and unified action to confront this threat on this momentous day.

Speaking on the importance of Anti-Smuggling Day, **Mr. Anil Rajput**, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE stated that on 11th February 2022, CASCADE launched Anti-Smuggling Day and pledged to spare no effort in raising awareness and taking concerted action against the multi-faceted challenge of smuggling. Staying true to that commitment, FICCI CASCADE is now introducing a new campaign - '**Smuggled Saaman Ko Karo Nakaar, Viksit Bharat Ka Sapna Karo Sakaar**'.

**Mr. Rajput** emphasized that FICCI CASCADE's latest





campaign, '**Smuggled Saaman Ko Karo Nakaar, Viksit Bharat Ka Sapna Karo Sakaar**' is created to enlighten this expanding customer base about the perils associated with engaging in smuggled goods, spanning categories like drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, mobile phones and packaged foods. The realization of the Viksit Bharat vision greatly depends on our collective efforts (Sabka Prayas), and the battle against smuggling stands as a pivotal element and a formidable challenge in this transformative journey.

As a run-up to this year's Anti-Smuggling Day, and to sensitize the youth on the menace of smuggled goods, FICCI CASCADE also organized a Digital Art Competition on the theme, '**Stand Against Smuggling**'. The theme aims to cultivate a culture of ethical consumption and instil a sense of responsible citizenship among the younger generation. The competition has consistently drawn participants from across the globe.

In emphasizing the insidious criminal activities associated with smuggling, **Mr. Najib Shah**, Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE articulated that the economic ramifications of smuggling, extensively highlighted by FICCI CASCADE in its various studies are profound. Loss of employment, revenue, and the generation of funds outside the tax net underscore the gravity of the issue. These unaccounted funds can be exploited for nefarious criminal activities.

Embarking on the discussion, **Mr. P K Malhotra**, Former Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice, Govt. of India and

Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE stated that this programme serves as a powerful reminder of our collective responsibility to combat illegal activities that threaten the safety and prosperity of our community.

In addressing the global ramifications of weapon smuggling, **Mr. Deep Chand** IPS, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Delhi Police underscored its impact beyond India, affecting numerous countries worldwide. He stressed upon the fact that how extremists exploit this illicit trade, posing a threat to international peace and security. Mr. Chand urged every citizen to unite against this malevolent menace for the sake of a safer world.

In elucidating the detrimental effects of smuggling across multiple domains in our nation, **Mr. P C Jha**, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs shed light on the adverse effects of smuggling on multiple fronts in our country, including substantial loss of employment opportunities. He talked on the imperative to confront this menace directly to safeguard livelihoods and promote economic growth.

Smuggling is a significant challenge to our nation's burgeoning economy, and its prevalence is expected to escalate further. Vigilance is imperative in addressing this issue. Over the years, FICCI CASCADE has been consistently working towards creating awareness on tackling the serious problem of smuggling. It is important that we work together, across borders and sectors, to disrupt the networks and supply chains that support smuggling.

## DIGITAL ART/POSTER MAKING COMPETITION-STAND AGAINST SMUGGLING

January 2024

India for many years has been a lucrative destination for the smugglers and is one of the biggest victims of their illicit activities. In order to address the critical issue of smuggling and reinforce our commitment to raise awareness, FICCI CASCADE identified 11th February as Anti-Smuggling Day. This day aims to unite all stakeholders to collectively comprehend the extent of the problem and explore avenues for enhanced cooperation and coordination.

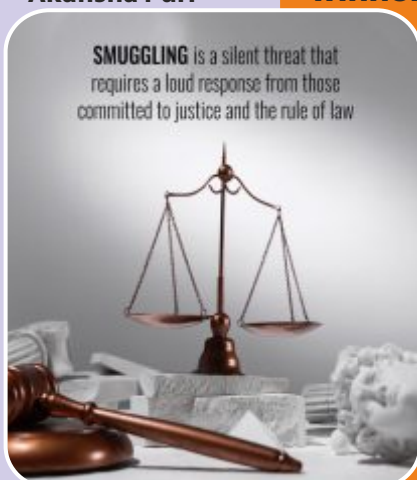
As a run-up to Anti-Smuggling Day, and to sensitize the youth on the menace of smuggled goods, FICCI CASCADE

organized a Digital Art/Poster making competition on the theme, 'Stand Against Smuggling' on January 2024. The competition was organised to generate awareness on the issue of smuggling and inspire the youth to shun illicit products. It not only seeks to showcase the skills and creative abilities of young minds but also aims to instil a passion for making a positive societal change by saying no to smuggled goods.

A certificate of recognition from FICCI CASCADE was given to all the participants and the winners, .... were awarded certificate of recognition, along with exciting prizes for their artwork.

Akansha Puri

**1st  
winner**



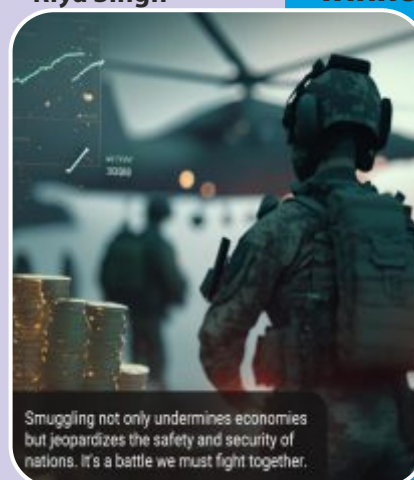
Harsh Sahani

**2nd  
winner**



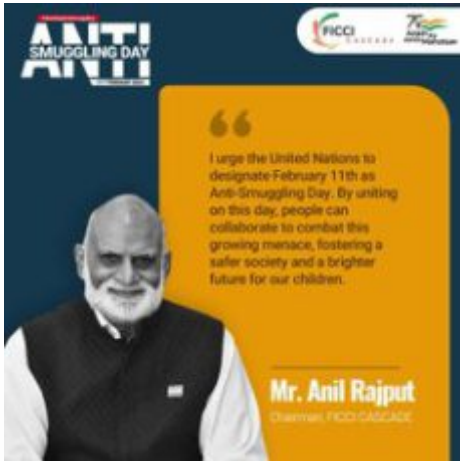
Riya Singh

**3rd  
winner**



**AWARENESS  
THROUGH  
ART**





**ANTI SMUGGLING DAY**

**Mr. Anil Rajput**  
Chairman, FICCI CASCADE

I urge the United Nations to designate February 11th as Anti-Smuggling Day. By uniting on this day, people can collaborate to combat this growing menace, fostering a safer society and a brighter future for our children.



**ANTI SMUGGLING DAY**

**Mr. Mohan Kumar Singh**  
Principal DG, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

It gives me immense pleasure to associate the DRI with Anti-Smuggling Day. Smuggling poses a significant risk not only within our nation but also on a global scale. Its detrimental effects are widely recognized, from economic repercussions to undermining government revenues and its links to organized crime.



**ANTI SMUGGLING DAY**

**Mr. PK Das**  
Director, Compliance and Facilitation, World Customs Organization

The WCO has recently unveiled the cutting edge CEN data visualization solutions in English, French and Spanish. These advanced tools have been implemented to provide countries with an instant and comprehensive overview of illicit trafficking trends. With enhanced cooperation and advanced technology, we can stay ahead of criminals.



**ANTI SMUGGLING DAY**

**Mr. Marco Teixeira**  
Regional Representative for South Asia, UNODC

On this Anti-smuggling Day, I am honored to address the crucial role of collaboration in combating smuggling. Thanks to partners like FICCI CASCADE, we have a platform for dialogue and collective action to tackle this menace.



**ANTI SMUGGLING DAY**

**Mr. P.K. Malhotra**  
Former Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice, Govt. of India and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE

As we commemorate Anti-smuggling Day on February 11th, let's stand united in our mission to combat illicit activities that threaten our safety and prosperity. Together, we stand united in the global fight against illicit trade, safeguarding our communities.



**ANTI SMUGGLING DAY**

**Mr. Najib Shah**  
Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE


Consumers must understand that purchasing smuggled goods is detrimental not only to themselves but also to the economy at large. By buying such goods, consumers risk acquiring products that lack guarantees and may have been subsidized illegally. Moreover, supporting illicit trade undermines legitimate businesses and hampers economic growth.



**ANTI SMUGGLING DAY**

**Mr. PC Jha**  
Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

The impact of smuggling on employment and national economy is undeniable. Any effort to combat it must involve concerted efforts at a global scale. Our campaign extends beyond borders, advocating for a worldwide observance of Anti-Smuggling Day.



**ANTI SMUGGLING DAY**

**Mr. Deep Chand**  
Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi

Smuggling of weapons isn't just an issue for India; it's a global concern. Extremist groups worldwide exploit these illicit arms to disrupt global trade, particularly in oil. The recent attacks by Houthi groups on ships carrying vital resources highlight the urgency for united action.



**ANTI SMUGGLING DAY**

**Mr. Balesh Kumar IRS**  
Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Government of India

Each of us must remain vigilant and consistently engaged throughout the year in combating illicit trade, which extends beyond the borders of our nation to have a global impact.



**ANTI SMUGGLING DAY**

**IN THE NEWS**

**जमातिक सहकार्यामुळे वैकायदेशीर वस्तु जात करण्याचे प्रमाण वाढले!**

**तस्करी रोकने को फिकर के केन्द्र का नया अभियान**

**वैकायदेशीर वस्तु जात रोकने के लिए नया अभियान**

**वैकायदेशीर वस्तु जात रोकने के लिए नया अभियान**



**ANTI SMUGGLING DAY**

**Digital Art Competition 2024**

**Meet our Jury Members**

**Mr. Neeraj Kumar Pandey**  
Former Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt. of India

**Mr. PC Jha**  
Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

**Mr. Deep Chand**  
Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi

## Global Collaborations and Robust Enforcements Lead to Record-breaking Seizures, says DRI Chief

NEW DELHI: FICCI Cascade has been at the forefront when it comes to raising awareness about smuggling activities and creating a proactive dialogue on how it can be tackled.

Speaking on the occasion of FICCI CASCADE's Anti-Smuggling Day, a leading official of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has emphasised on the need for greater international cooperation to tackle the menace of smuggling. Mohan Kumar Singh, Principal Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), said, "Smuggling is a transnational crime. Underlining the critical need for international cooperation in combating such illicit activities, DRI actively engages and participates in various global enforcement operations targeting drugs, arms, wildlife, environment, money laundering, and terror financing. Through the consistent sharing of actionable intelligence with our overseas counterparts, numerous operations have been conducted, resulting in significant seizures of contraband by customs authorities in countries including Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. DRI has also kept a close watch on the smuggling of various items like sand, cigarettes, fake currency, foreign currency, wildlife products, among others. These seizures are the result of close teamwork of the DRI officers, supported by excellent cooperation and inter-agency coordination of our partner law enforcement agencies in the country."



Applying FICCI CASCADE's Anti-Smuggling Day, he said, "On behalf of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, any complaints to FICCI CASCADE for organising the Anti-Smuggling Day. This great initiative, now in its third year in a row, gives us an occasion as well as a platform to discuss the growing menace of smuggling and countermeasures. The dynamic nature of the threat from smuggling makes it imperative for all of us to join hands and contribute our bit towards combating of smuggling activities. FICCI CASCADE has also launched a new campaign to drive awareness among the citizens. 'Smuggled Saaman Ko Karo Nakaar', Viksit Bharat Ka Sapna Karo Sakaar," it seeks to inspire them to help the country by the goal of being a developed nation by 2047 by winning the battle against smuggling."

And Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE, said, "We launched the Anti-Smuggling Day on 10th February, 2022 and pledged to spare no effort in raising awareness and taking concerted action against the multi-faceted challenge of smuggling. Staying true to that commitment, FICCI CASCADE is now introducing a new campaign, 'Smuggled Saaman Ko Karo Nakaar', Viksit Bharat Ka Sapna Karo Sakaar."

The Indian economy is flourishing under a proactive government, translating to increased prosperity and subsequently, greater spending power, he said.

These seizures are the result of fine teamwork of the DRI officers, supported by excellent cooperation and inter-agency coordination of our partner law enforcement agencies in the country, he said.

This great initiative by FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy), now in its third year in a row, gives us an occasion as well as a platform to discuss the growing menace of smuggling and counterfeiting of actionable intelligence with our overseas counterparts, numerous operations have been conducted, resulting in significant seizures of contraband by customs authorities in countries including Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal," DRI Principal Director General Singh said.

Speaking at FICCI CASCADE's Anti-Smuggling Day, he said, DRI has also kept a close watch on the smuggling of various other items like red sanders, cigarettes, fake currency, foreign currency, and wildlife products, among others.

Through the consistent sharing of actionable intelligence with our overseas counterparts, numerous operations have been conducted, resulting in significant seizures of contraband by customs authorities in countries including Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal," DRI Principal Director General Singh said.

## Focus on global collaborations, enforcement resulting in large number of seizures, says DRI chief M K Singh

"These seizures are result of fine teamwork of DRI officers, supported by excellent cooperation"

NEW DELHI: Focus on international collaborations and enforcement is resulting in a large number of seizures of contraband goods and checking smuggling of illicit items, DRI chief M K Singh said on Monday.

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) actively engages and participates in various global enforcement operations targeting drugs, arms, wildlife, environment, money laundering, and terror financing.

Through the consistent sharing of actionable intelligence with our overseas counterparts, numerous operations have been conducted, resulting in significant seizures of contraband by customs authorities in countries including Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal," DRI Principal Director General Singh said.

Speaking at FICCI CASCADE's Anti-Smuggling Day, he said, DRI has also kept a close watch on the smuggling of various other items like red sanders, cigarettes, fake currency, foreign currency, and wildlife products, among others.

These seizures are the result of fine teamwork of the DRI officers, supported by excellent cooperation and inter-agency coordination of our partner law enforcement agencies in the country, he said.

## Global Unity Against Smuggling: FICCI Cascade's Call to Action on Anti-Smuggling Day

On Anti-Smuggling Day, FICCI Cascade calls for international cooperation to combat smuggling and counterfeiting. The organisation launched an awareness campaign and emphasised the importance of global unity in tackling the shared adversary. By working together, nations can protect their economies and citizens, bringing a safer and more prosperous future.



In the 10th of February, in a global bid to combat the devastating impacts of smuggling and counterfeiting, FICCI Cascade, an influential committee dedicated to battling these destructive activities, orchestrated an event for 'Anti-Smuggling Day'. The gathering, which took place in New Delhi, India, was a call to nations worldwide, emphasising the urgency for international cooperation in tackling this menacing issue.

## "Global collaborations, robust enforcement lead to record seizures"

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI 12 FEBRUARY

Focus on international collaborations and enforcement is resulting in a large number of seizures of contraband goods and checking smuggling of illicit items, DRI chief M K Singh said on Monday. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) actively engages and participates in various global enforcement operations targeting drugs, arms, wildlife, environment, money laundering, and terror financing. Through the consistent sharing of actionable intelligence with our overseas counterparts, numerous operations have been conducted, resulting in significant seizures of contraband by customs authorities in countries including Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal," DRI Principal Director General Singh said.

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## Focus On Global Collaborations, Enforcement Resulting In Large Number Of Seizures: DRI Chief

Focus on international collaborations and enforcement is resulting in a large number of seizures of contraband goods and checking smuggling of illicit items, DRI chief M K Singh said on Monday.

12 Feb 2024, 04:18 PM IST



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Directorate of Revenue Intelligence actively engages and participates in various global enforcement operations targeting drugs, arms, wildlife, environment, money laundering, and terror financing.

Through the consistent sharing of actionable intelligence with our overseas counterparts, numerous operations have been conducted, resulting in significant seizures of contraband by customs authorities in countries including Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal," DRI Principal Director General Singh said.

Speaking at FICCI CASCADE's Anti-Smuggling Day, he said, DRI has also kept a close watch on the smuggling of various other items like red sanders, cigarettes, fake currency, foreign currency, and wildlife products, among others.

These seizures are the result of fine teamwork of the DRI officers, supported by excellent cooperation and inter-agency coordination of our partner law enforcement agencies in the country, he said.

## अगर विकसित भारत बनना है तो बढ़ती तस्करी पर भी लगाम लगानी होगी: FICCI CASCADE चेयरमैन

जानकारी के तहत चेयरमैन ने कहा है कि तस्करी पर भी लगाम लगानी होगी: FICCI CASCADE चेयरमैन

By Lakshmi Roy



समय 2047 तक भारत को विकसित देश बनाना चाहते हैं। इसके लिए तस्करी पर भी लगाम लगानी होगी: FICCI CASCADE चेयरमैन





# WORLD ANTI-COUNTERFEITING DAY 2024

6 June 2024 | New Delhi

Counterfeiting and contraband pose significant global challenges, impacting both developing and developed nations, including India. Despite India's rapid economic growth creating opportunities across sectors, it has also inadvertently fostered an environment conducive to counterfeiters and smugglers. On June 6, 2024, FICCI CASCADE organized a stakeholder consultation in commemoration of World Anti-Counterfeiting Day, themed "Securing the Digital Frontier: Cooperation, Collaboration, and Best Practices." The consultation garnered extensive participation from government bodies, industry leaders, law enforcement agencies, and civil society. Distinguished figures from various sectors shared insights on combating counterfeiting, focusing on themes such as enhancing enforcement measures, leveraging technology for authentication, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and increasing public awareness. Participants underscored the importance of forging partnerships among government entities, industry stakeholders, and civil society to effectively address these pervasive challenges.

**Mr. B. Shankar Jaiswal**, IPS, the Joint Commissioner of Police (Tech, Cyber, and Licensing) from the Delhi Police, brought attention to the multifaceted nature of counterfeiting and its wide-ranging impacts during the discussion. He highlighted the significant loss of government revenue and trademark rights violations resulting from counterfeiting, particularly emphasizing the challenge posed by counterfeit currency notes. Mr. Jaiswal

also addressed the global issue of counterfeit drugs, outlining strategies such as stricter regulations and public awareness campaigns to combat this problem. He proposed adjustments in the risk-reward scheme for counterfeiters and suggested leveraging blockchain technology for supply chain security while cautioning against overreliance on it. Additionally, Mr. Jaiswal emphasized the importance of countering deepfake technology in social media platforms through the adoption of anti-deepfake tools. Overall, his insights underscored the pressing necessity for a comprehensive approach integrating technological innovation, regulatory interventions, and public awareness initiatives to effectively combat counterfeiting and safeguard economies, industries, and public trust.

**Mr. Amit Goyal**, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police - Crime, Delhi Police, emphasized the pervasive threat posed by counterfeiting, labeling it as one of humanity's oldest crimes. He pointed out the dangers it poses to financial systems, national security, and public trust, citing the exploitation of vulnerabilities in security measures such as fake identities on social media and manipulation of e-commerce platforms. Mr. Goyal stressed the imperative of addressing these challenges to protect consumers and maintain the integrity of online transactions. Additionally, he discussed the rising trend of impersonation for fraudulent purposes, highlighting the necessity for improved training and awareness among stakeholders to effectively combat these deceptive practices.



**Mr. Anil Rajput**, Chairman of FICCI CASCADe, stressed the need for a comprehensive strategy to tackle counterfeiting. He highlighted the importance of legal measures, enforcement actions, consumer awareness, and industry cooperation. According to him, the Government, law enforcement agencies, businesses, and global organizations must enhance collaboration and innovate methods and technologies to combat counterfeiting effectively. The aim is to protect consumers, support genuine businesses, and maintain the integrity of global supply chains.

**Dr. G R Raghavender**, a senior consultant at CIPAM and former Joint Secretary of DPIIT, highlighted the profound economic and health repercussions of counterfeiting. He urged stakeholders to adopt robust strategies to combat this issue effectively. He shared the risks associated with counterfeit medicines and stressed the need for stringent measures to protect patient safety. Dr. Raghavender also discussed India's proactive efforts in combating counterfeiting and protecting intellectual property rights through participation in WIPO treaties. Additionally, he underscored India's commitment to biodiversity conservation as a signatory of the Convention on Biological Diversity, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts and public awareness initiatives in addressing counterfeiting.

During the consultation, **Dr. Debi Prasad Dash**, former Principal Director General of DRI and Chairman of the Enforcement Committee at WCO, who also serves as a distinguished member of the think tank at FICCI CASCADe, led an insightful panel discussion. Dr. Dash highlighted a nuanced perspective: smuggling activities are not solely

confined to counterfeit goods; even genuine products can be subject to illicit smuggling practices. He highlighted FICCI CASCADe's role in combating both smuggling and counterfeiting by bringing together various stakeholders. The discussion also touched upon the importance of TRIPS in tackling counterfeiting.

Various industries members put forward strategies to combat counterfeiting, emphasizing the importance of stronger legislation and robust laws. Collaboration is seen as highly effective, with stakeholders across the supply chain, consumers, and authorities working together to identify counterfeit products, share information, and prosecute offenders. Additionally, raising consumer awareness is deemed essential. Educating consumers about the risks of counterfeit goods empowers them to make informed choices and support genuine brands. There's a call for increased consumer education on recognizing counterfeit goods, with consumer organizations playing a pivotal role.

The session attracted cyber-law experts and representatives from various organizations, including USPTO, JETRO, British High Commission India, Embassy of Denmark in India, Proctor & Gamble, Amazon, HUL, Diageo India, Marico, Pernod Richard, Asian Paints, and Western Digital.

**Mr. Deep Chand**, IPS, former special commissioner of police and advisor to FICCI CASCADe, wrapped up the event by summarizing the fruitful discussions that took place. During the session, participants delved into various strategies to combat counterfeiting, focusing on leveraging advanced technologies like authentication systems, track-and-trace solutions, and blockchain. The gathering highlighted global best practices in tackling counterfeiting, underscoring the proactive measures adopted across different parts of the world.



CALL FOR UNIFIED EFFORT AGAINST COUNTERFEITING

## Delhi Police urges tech solutions to tackle counterfeiting and unlicensed hotels

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Police called for a concerted effort by all stakeholders to tackle the issue of counterfeiting and unlicensed hotels in the digital era, with the use of emerging technologies like blockchain and biometrics.

Addressing a stakeholders' consultation organised by FICCI on the occasion of World Anti-Counterfeiting Day, B Shantier Jaiswal, Joint Commissioner of Police (Tech, Cyber and Licensing) said, "AI has made things very complex. Earlier in the software industry, pirated versions of MS Office and Windows were a concern. Now, the counterfeiting problems are of a different nature."

FICCI-CASCADE Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy Chairman Anil Rajput said the consultation with stakeholders aims to strengthen anti-counterfeiting efforts and protect consumers from the risks associated with counterfeit goods in the digital era.

Jaiswal further emphasised the need to develop consumer-friendly blockchain technology to support the fast-growing consumer and address



counterfeiting issues in the digital world. Jaiswal also highlighted the rapid advancement of disruptive technology, stating that anti-disruptive technology is lagging, and all stakeholders should collaborate to address this challenge.

Turning to the hospitality sector, Jaiswal said the Delhi Police deals with the licensing of restaurants and hotels, putting increasingly to rest that must be the norm. However, increased con-

sumer blockchain, cryptography, and biometric security to address counterfeiting problems in the digital world effectively.

Jaiswal said counterfeiting is not a new problem but has become more complex due to the use of AI and disruptive technologies. The way forward is to train the police and use emerging technologies to track counterfeit goods.

With the rise in digital technology, counterfeiting has become more organised and difficult to track the goods behind it, he said.

Jaiswal added that e-commerce is also being used as a platform for selling counterfeit products, and cyber threats are tapping into the use of AI and disruptive technologies. The way forward is to train the police and use emerging technologies to track counterfeit goods.

C.B. Singh, senior consultant of the Call for EPR Promotion and Management (CEPRM), said people are getting very busy paying attention to their own needs and ignoring the needs of others.

He called for collaboration and cooperation to address this issue, adding that CEPRM will continue to hold regular meetings to make the demand for law more effective.

## Police calls for concerted efforts by all to tackle counterfeiting, unlicensed hotels

**STAFF REPORTER | NEW DELHI**

"The Delhi Police called for a concerted effort by all stakeholders to tackle the issue of counterfeiting and unlicensed hotels in the digital era, by utilising emerging technologies like blockchain and biometrics."

Addressing a stakeholders' consultation organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) on the occasion of World Anti-Counterfeiting Day, Joint Commissioner of Police (Tech, Cyber and Licensing) B Shantier Jaiswal said, "AI has made things very complex. Earlier in the software industry, pirated versions of MS Office and Windows were a concern. Now, the counterfeiting problems are of a different nature."

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holders should collaborate to address this challenge. Diving into unlicensed hotels, Jaiswal said, "The Delhi Police deals with the licensing of restaurants and hotels, putting increasingly to rest that must be the norm. However, increased con-

sumer blockchain, cryptography, and biometric security to address counterfeiting problems in the digital world effectively. Jaiswal said counterfeiting is not a new problem but has become more complex due to the use of AI and disruptive technologies. The way forward is to train the police and use emerging technologies to track counterfeit goods."

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## World Anti-Counterfeiting Day: Cops, FICCI join hands to crack down on fake products

**NEW DELHI**



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## Police calls for concerted efforts by all to tackle counterfeiting, unlicensed hotels

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## 'More volume, less taxes best way to counter counterfeiting'

*'By doing this we can deter counterfeiters & safeguard both consumers, legitimate businesses & economy'*

**NEW DELHI:** B Shantier Jaiswal, Joint Commissioner of Police (Tech, Cyber & Licensing), Delhi Police on Thursday said that counterfeiting must not be permitted to become an activity of low risk and high gain for counterfeiters.

The most effective way to curb this menace is to invert this dynamic, making counterfeiting a high-risk, low-reward venture. Achieving this entails increasing the volume of goods in the market and imposing reduced taxes on such products. By doing this we can deter counterfeiters and safeguard both consumers and legitimate businesses and the overall economy, he added.



Addressing the FICCI-CASCADE Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy on the occasion of World Anti-Counterfeiting Day, Jaiswal said, "Counterfeiting in the physical and the digital space has become pervasive and affects consumers, government revenue, companies and even researchers alike who spend time and effort in creating new products. The digital space has become complicated and com-

plex with counterfeit activities proliferating from local markets to transnational domain names. To effectively combat these trends, advancements in technology, such as blockchain, are crucial. By enhancing and making technologies like blockchain more accessible, affordable and computer friendly, we can streamline processes like contract management and strengthen our defences against digital counterfeiting."

During the event, an Open House Discussion on Technological Innovations & Best Practices in Combating Counterfeiting was held to foster cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders in strengthening anti-counterfeiting efforts and protect consumers from the risks associated with counterfeit goods in the digital era. The session was attended by different stakeholders such as cyber law experts and representatives from USPTO, IITRO, British High Commission India, Embassy of Denmark in India, Procter & Gamble, Amazon, HCL, Shree India, Maruti Suzuki India, Asian Paints and Visteon Digital.

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Ficci कास्केड ने किया एंटी-काउंटरफिटिंग कॉन्फ्रेंस का आयोजन

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## नकली सामान की समस्या से निपटने के लिए टैक्स में कमी और सप्लाय बढाना कारगर उपाय: विशेषज्ञ

**बिजनेस संवाददाता | नई दिल्ली**

बाजार में विक्रय वाले जाली यानी नकली सामान की समस्या से निपटने के लिए कम टैक्स की वकालत की गई है।

फिक्की कैस्केड (कमेटी ऑफ़ स्मॉलिंग एण्ड काउंटरफिटिंग डेस्ट्रॉयर्स द इकोनॉमी) की ओर से आयोजित 'सेक्यूरिटी डिजिटल प्रॉटेक्शन: कोऑपरेशन, कोलेबोरेशन एण्ड बेस्ट प्रैक्टिसेज' विषयक परिचर्चा में दिल्ली पुलिस के संयुक्त पुलिस आयुक्त (टेक, साइबर और लाइसेंसिंग) बी. शंकर जायसवाल ने कहा कि जालसाजी को कम जोखिम और अधिक लाभ वाली गतिविधि नहीं बनने देना चाहिए। इससे निपटने के लिए सबसे प्रभावी रणनीति इस गतिविधिलता को उलटना है। इससे जालसाजी को उच्च जोखिम, कम लाभ वाला उपक्रम बनाया जा सके। उन्होंने कहा ऐसा करने के लिए

बाजार में भारी मात्रा में सामान की सप्लाय बढ़ानी होगी। ऐसे उत्पादों पर कम कर लगाना होगा। ऐसा कर हम जालसाजों को रोक सकते हैं। वैध वैध व्यवसायों और अर्थव्यवस्था को सुरक्षित कर सकते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि डिजिटल जालसाजी व्यापक हो गई है। नकली प्रोफाइल से लेकर फर्जी डोमेन नेम तक नकली गतिविधियां बढ़ रही हैं। इससे निपटने के लिए ब्लॉकचेन जैसी टेक्नोलॉजी में प्रगति महत्वपूर्ण है। ब्लॉकचेन जैसी तकनीक को सुलभ व सस्ती बनाकर हम कॉन्टैक्ट मनेजमेंट जैसी प्रक्रियाओं को सुव्यवस्थित कर सकते हैं। डिजिटल जालसाजी को खिलफ अपनी सुरक्षा को मजबूत कर सकते हैं।

फिक्की कैस्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत ने कहा कि जालसाजी उपभोक्ताओं के साथ दुनियाभर के देशों के स्वास्थ्य, प्रगति

और विकास के लिए बड़ा खतरा है। जालसाजी से निपटने के लिए कानूनी कार्रवाई, मजबूत प्रवर्तन उपाय, उपभोक्ता जागरूकता और उद्योग सहयोग सहित बहुआयामी दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता है।

सीआईपीएएम के वरिष्ठ सलाहकार डॉ. जी आर राघवेंद्र ने कहा कि डिजिटल जालसाजी के खिलाफ मेक इन इंडिया पहल को रक्षा के लिए प्रवर्तन उपायों को मजबूत करना और आपराधिक उपायों को लागू करना भी जालसाजों को रोकने के लिए आवश्यक कदम है। स्टार्टअप इकोविशेष एंड क्रिएशन को नकली इन्वेंशन से बचाने के लिए एक आधुनिक और व्यापक डिजिटल कानून ढांचे की स्थापना शामिल है।

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और विकास के लिए बड़ा खतरा है। जालसाजी से निपटने के लिए कानूनी कार्रवाई, मजबूत प्रवर्तन उपाय, उपभोक्ता जागरूकता और उद्योग सहयोग सहित बहुआयामी दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता है।

सीआईपीएएम के वरिष्ठ सलाहकार डॉ. जी आर राघवेंद्र ने कहा कि डिजिटल जालसाजी के खिलाफ मेक इन इंडिया पहल को रक्षा के लिए प्रवर्तन उपायों को मजबूत करना और आपराधिक उपायों को लागू करना भी जालसाजों को रोकने के लिए आवश्यक कदम है। स्टार्टअप इकोविशेष एंड क्रिएशन को नकली इन्वेंशन से बचाने के लिए एक आधुनिक और व्यापक डिजिटल कानून ढांचे की स्थापना शामिल है।

बाजार में भारी मात्रा में सामान की सप्लाय बढ़ानी होगी। ऐसे उत्पादों पर कम कर लगाना होगा। ऐसा कर हम जालसाजों को रोक सकते हैं। वैध वैध व्यवसायों और अर्थव्यवस्था को सुरक्षित कर सकते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि डिजिटल जालसाजी व्यापक हो गई है। नकली प्रोफाइल से लेकर फर्जी डोमेन नेम तक नकली गतिविधियां बढ़ रही हैं। इससे निपटने के लिए ब्लॉकचेन जैसी टेक्नोलॉजी में प्रगति महत्वपूर्ण है। ब्लॉकचेन जैसी तकनीक को सुलभ व सस्ती बनाकर हम कॉन्टैक्ट मनेजमेंट जैसी प्रक्रियाओं को सुव्यवस्थित कर सकते हैं। डिजिटल जालसाजी को खिलफ अपनी सुरक्षा को मजबूत कर सकते हैं।

फिक्की कैस्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत ने कहा कि जालसाजी उपभोक्ताओं के साथ दुनियाभर के देशों के स्वास्थ्य, प्रगति

और विकास के लिए बड़ा खतरा है। जालसाजी से निपटने के लिए कानूनी कार्रवाई, मजबूत प्रवर्तन उपाय, उपभोक्ता जागरूकता और उद्योग सहयोग सहित बहुआयामी दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता है।

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# SEMINAR ON Global Challenges of Illicit Trade and the Way Forward

20 June 2024 | FICCI, New Delhi



Smuggling and illicit trade are complex global threats undermining society, harming legitimate economies, and reducing government revenues. Apart from this, these operations now use advanced technologies and global supply chains to evade detection, funding criminal enterprises and terrorist organizations, and compromising national security. In response, FICCI CASCAD organized a seminar on June 20, 2024, titled "Global Challenges of Illicit Trade and the Way Forward," to address these issues and foster collaboration against this universal threat. With extensive participation from government bodies, industry leaders, law enforcement agencies, and civil society, the seminar facilitated a comprehensive discussion. While various perspectives were shared, the primary focus remained on formulating effective strategies to combat this growing menace.

"Combating such expansive networks demands a coalition of government bodies and non-state actors," remarked **Mr. Mohan Kumar Singh**, Principal Director General of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). He vividly illustrated the profound threat of illicit trade and highlighted how smuggling and counterfeiting erode legitimate economic activities, deplete government revenues, and fuel organized crime. With striking statistics, Mr. Singh revealed that in the 2023-24 financial year alone, the DRI uncovered 623 cases, averaging nearly two per day, resulting in the seizure of contraband worth Rs. 3500 crores. These included narcotics, gold, fake currency and a variety of other illicit goods like cigarettes and wildlife

products. Mr. Singh advocated for global cooperation to tackle this menace, highlighting the success of international cooperation efforts giving the example of WCO-led Operation TIN CAN in seizing contraband within legitimate cargo. He praised FICCI CASCAD's relentless campaign against illicit trade and the seminar for fostering essential dialogue and collaboration. He emphasized the urgent need to involve relevant stakeholders, noting that many DRI investigations reveal troubling infiltration of supply chains and insider involvement.

"It takes a network to defeat a network," **Mr. P K Das**, Director of the Compliance and Facilitation Directorate at the World Customs Organisation (WCO), highlighted the WCO's efforts against illicit trade, including the Illicit Trade Report. He praised Indian Customs' support, especially through Operation Shesha, a collaboration with Hong Kong Customs and the WCO. Mr. Das highlighted the importance of a networked approach to dismantle illicit networks, calling for coordinated efforts in analysis, interdiction, investigation, prosecution, and penalties. He concluded by promoting trade integrity and commending FICCI for its support to Indian Customs in this fight.

**Mr. Anil Rajput**, Chairman of FICCI CASCAD, delivering the welcome address at the seminar, said, "In India, DRI and other enforcement agencies have been playing a significant role in combating illicit trade through increased seizures of illicit products like gold, cigarettes, currency, and cosmetics at airports, seaports, and border points. Today, illicit trade operatives exploit AI to automate

smuggling processes and analyze border control data, law enforcement activities, and surveillance patterns. This misuse of technology requires our unabated focus." "I must emphasize that despite the increase in seizures, these represent only the tip of the iceberg. The problem's magnitude is significantly higher and continues to grow exponentially. Hence, it is imperative to enhance global cooperation in combating illicit trade. One proposed solution is establishing a 'Global Forum' of enforcement agencies worldwide, supported by a dedicated secretariat. FICCI CASCADE stands ready to collaborate with the government and enforcement agencies to develop a comprehensive strategy," Mr. Rajput added.

"Illicit trade lurks in the underbelly of the economy" **Mr. P C Jha**, Advisor to FICCI CASCADE and former CBIC Chairman, stressed the need for technology, and international cooperation to combat illicit trade. He noted significant economic impacts and highlighted FICCI CASCADE's role in promoting responsible behaviour among consumers and youth.

"There are no immediate shortcuts that we can apply but we have to think of the long run and within that structure the short run," said, **Prof. Arun Kumar**, Author & Retd. Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University. He highlighted the extensive reach of illicit trade, linking it to the black economy and black income generation. He stressed the critical role of the international financial system in addressing this issue and identified a corrupt nexus-comprising businessmen, politicians, and executives-as key to perpetuating illicit trade. Prof. Kumar mentioned that combating this, requires political will and accountability at all governance levels. He referenced India's 1950s development, which focused on resource management to alleviate poverty and illiteracy. Prof. Kumar advocated dismantling the corrupt nexus and

called for honesty in implementing technological measures like digitization and cryptocurrency. He also highlighted the importance of social and cultural factors in international collaboration and urged independent regulatory agencies to drive positive privatization.

"Recognizing that a border is more than just a line is crucial in addressing these complex issues of illicit trade and smuggling effectively." **Brigadier Girish Upadhya** SM, VSM, DIG- 23rd Sector Assam Rifles briefed on the role of Assam Rifles in ensuring national security and preventing smuggling and illicit trade. He highlighted the challenging terrain of the northeast, noting the difficulties of guarding inaccessible borders with limited resources. Brigadier Girish explained the existence of both legal and numerous illegal crossing points and emphasized the collaboration with stakeholders like Customs and DRI at various checkpoints. Brigadier Girish also discussed the implementation of measures such as biometric checks and regular monitoring to mitigate risks, enhance compliance, and support national security efforts.

**Mr. Najib Shah**, Former Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and a FICCI CASCADE Think Tank Member, highlighted the increased quantum of seizures, stressing that the visible figures of seizures by Customs are only a fraction of the actual illicit inflow. Mr. Shah raised a crucial point about right holders' reluctance to engage in the process, possibly due to concerns over credibility or lengthy destruction procedures. He urged the CASCADE committee to address this issue, stressing the necessity for right holders to be actively involved in safeguarding their counterfeited products from being smuggled.

Indian Customs is implementing evolving strategies to combat illicit trade, mentioned **Mr. Sanjay Bansal**,





Commissioner (Import & Exports). He emphasized the use of data analytics to enhance intelligence, enabling the targeted capture of high-risk consignments. Praising platforms like the Economic Intelligence Council, he noted their role in fostering inter-agency collaboration to strengthen investigations. Mr. Bansal spoke about the importance of a multi-agency approach and international partnerships to disrupt illicit financial flows. He detailed the repetitive nature of strategies used by customs, driven by continuous feedback and intelligence sharing, ensuring adaptive responses to evolving threats. His insights depicted proactive measures at India's borders, safeguarding national security and economic stability amid a complex global trade landscape.

**Mr. B. Shanker Jaiswal**, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police (Tech, Cyber & Licensing), Delhi Police highlighted the need of urgency and innovation in combating illicit trade through advanced technology and the need for skilled personnel capable at navigating the dark web and digital transactions. Mr. Jaiswal encouraged for using government databases and employing AI for proactive data mining, enabling law enforcement to anticipate and disrupt illicit activities effectively. His vision of data-driven monitoring reflects future-oriented approach, where AI simplifies precise irregularity detection and targeted investigations. His insights portrayed a forward-thinking strategy, leveraging technology to bridge the gap between current capabilities and the goal of eliminating illicit trade, ensuring robust enforcement in an increasingly digital landscape.

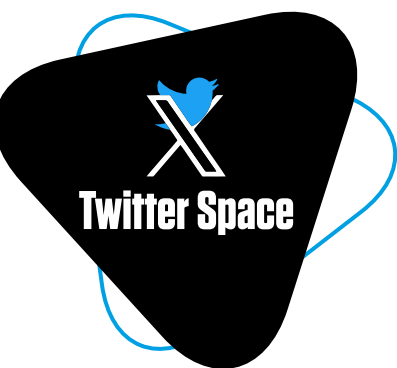
"Educating the public about the dangers associated with smuggling and its consequences is crucial." **Mr. Robin Gupta**, Joint Director of the Enforcement Directorate,

emphasized the importance of public education in combating smuggling. He noted that increased awareness deters smuggling, especially when combined with severe punishments. Mr. Gupta stressed the need for community engagement and stakeholder involvement, promoting the reporting of suspicious activities and cooperation with law enforcement. He also highlighted the crucial role of artificial intelligence and analytics in predicting and identifying smuggling activities, underscoring their importance in the strategy against illicit trade.

**Ms. Sungita Sharma**, Former Special Secretary of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, while concluding the seminar, emphasized the urgent need for unified action against illicit trade, highlighting the importance of a networked strategy to disrupt these networks and promote ethical conduct. The discussions stressed the necessity for decisive political leadership, transparent accountability, innovative technological solutions, and collaborative frameworks to enhance border security. These insights offer a roadmap for future efforts, reinforcing our commitment to upholding global commerce integrity and collective prosperity.

The seminar on global illicit trade and the way forward was attended by over 200 industry stakeholders. Insights gleaned from the discussions, underscores the vital role of a networked approach, transparent accountability mechanisms, Global Forum, Resource Management, Consumer Awareness and innovative technological solutions in combating illicit trade. As we navigate the complexities of this challenge, the shared commitment of diverse stakeholders will be pivotal in safeguarding the integrity of global commerce and fostering sustainable prosperity.





## Twitter Space with **Mr. Najib Shah**

Former Chairman, CBIC, and FICCI CASCADE  
Think Tank Member on

### **Economic Consequences of Illicit Trade on Legitimate Businesses, Government and Society at Large**

21 December 2023



On December 31, 2023, FICCI CASCADE hosted a Twitter Space session featuring Mr. Najib Shah, Former Chairman, CBIC and member of the FICCI CASCADE Think Tank. The session delved deeply into the pressing issue of "Economic Consequences of Illicit Trade on Legitimate Businesses, Government, and Society at Large."

Mr. Najib Shah, leveraging his profound expertise and experience, provided a nuanced and insightful analysis of the pervasive global issue of illicit trade.

He elucidated on its current prevalence and impact across diverse sectors and industries, highlighting those most profoundly affected. Moreover, Mr. Shah explored the intricate evolution of illicit trade dynamics in light of advancing technologies, offering valuable perspectives on how these advancements have reshaped the landscape of global trade practices.

The session not only underscored the gravity of illicit trade's ramifications but also served as a platform for informed discourse aimed at fostering awareness and strategizing effective measures to mitigate its adverse effects on economies and societies worldwide.

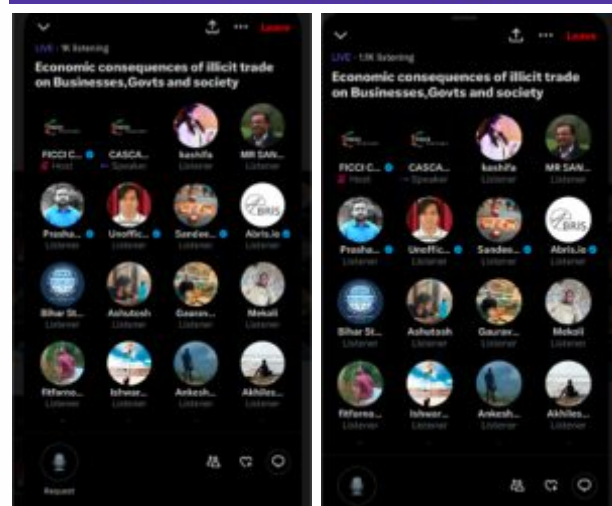
He stressed on the profound impact of illicit trade on national economies, tax revenues, and legitimate businesses. Illicit trade diverts resources away from legal economic activities, bolstering the shadow economy and undermining overall productivity. This market distortion introduces inefficiencies and undermines investor confidence, thereby stalling economic advancement. Additionally, it tarnishes countries' international reputations, potentially deterring foreign investment. Governments suffer revenue losses, limiting their capacity to deliver vital services and potentially necessitating increased taxes on lawful entities.

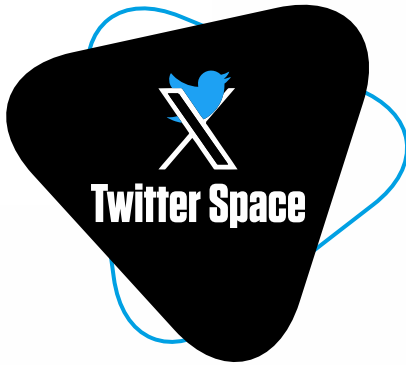
Legitimate businesses face unfair competition as counterfeit products flood markets, eroding consumer trust and creating financial strains, he added. Rising compliance costs exacerbate competitiveness challenges, while supply chain disruptions threaten business sustainability across diverse sectors. These factors collectively underscore the urgent need for coordinated efforts to combat illicit trade and its detrimental effects on global economies and businesses.

In conclusion, Mr. Shah emphasized that addressing illicit trade globally requires a holistic strategy emphasizing cooperation among governments, international bodies, law enforcement, and businesses. This approach includes bolstering international collaboration through intelligence sharing, adopting advanced border control technologies, and implementing stringent

legislative measures against illicit trade. Moreover, efforts should prioritize capacity building for enforcement agencies and promote public-private partnerships to enhance supply chain security and raise public awareness.

Furthermore, the session facilitated a productive discussion where participants exchanged insights and tactics aimed at reducing illicit trade and safeguarding global socio-economic welfare. The online gathering drew enthusiastic participation from a global audience, with attendance exceeding 11,000 attendees.





## Twitter Space with **Mr. Deep Chand**

Former Special Commissioner, Delhi Police  
and Advisor, FICCI CASCADE on  
**Cracking Down on Smuggling**

28 February 2024 | New Delhi



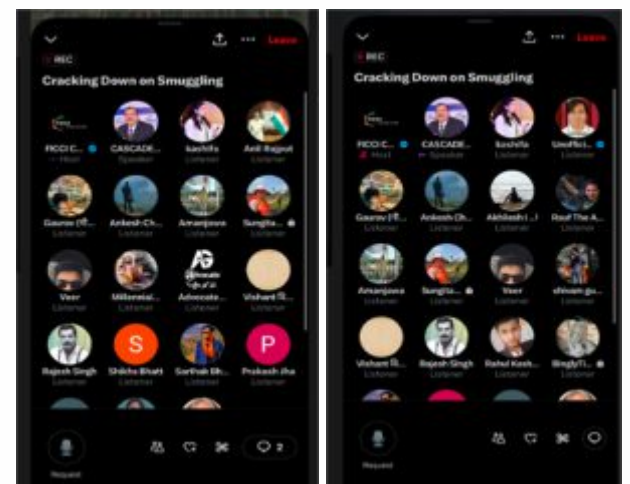
**F**ICCI CASCADE organized a Twitter Space program featuring Mr. Deep Chand, Former Special Commissioner, Delhi Police and Advisor, FICCI CASCADE on "Cracking Down on Smuggling" on Wednesday, 28th February 2024. The discussion, led by Mr. Chand, provided valuable insights into the prevailing global landscape of smuggling and its significant ramifications on national economies, tax revenues, and legitimate businesses.

During the discussion, Mr. Chand expertly navigated through various dimensions of smuggling, elucidating its intricate operational dynamics, emerging trends, and the formidable challenges it poses to law enforcement agencies worldwide. Notably, the conversation shed light on the frequency of smuggling incidents and discerned notable trends or patterns observed over specific periods. The discourse delved into the proactive strategies and measures governments typically deploy to combat smuggling while concurrently upholding effective taxation policies. An exploration of this delicate balance revealed inherent challenges that policymakers grapple within their efforts to curb illicit trade while maintaining economic integrity. Furthermore, the dialogue extended its purview to encompass international collaborations and partnerships aimed at staunching the flow of cross-border smuggling activities. This collective endeavor underscores the imperative of global cooperation in addressing multifaceted challenges posed by smuggling.

Central to the discourse was the recognition of smuggling's broader implications, intertwining with organized crime, terrorism financing, and other illicit activities. Such insights underscored the urgent need for concerted efforts to combat smuggling, safeguarding societal well-being and economic stability on a global scale.

Moreover, participants had the opportunity to engage in a constructive dialogue, exchanging ideas and strategies aimed at curbing illicit trade and safeguarding socio-economic interests on a global scale.

The virtual program garnered enthusiastic participation from 11,000 attendees worldwide.





IPS, Former Director General, Railway Protection Force, BPR&D, National Crime Record Bureau and Civil Defense, Home guards & Fire Services on

**Addressing Challenges: Combating Illicit Trade and Terror Funding**

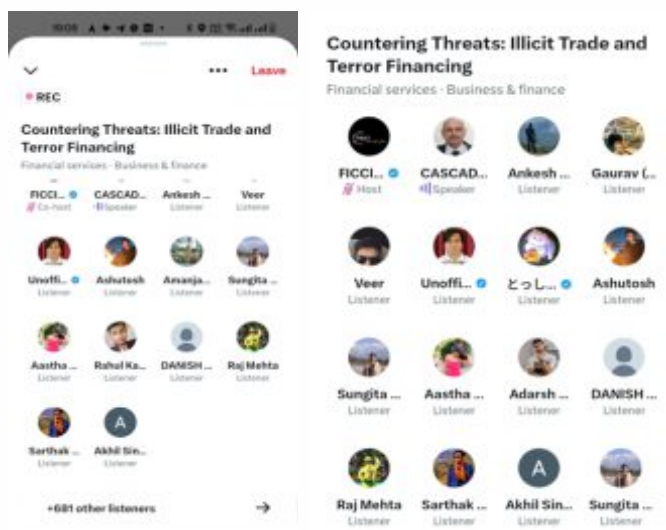
**F**ICCI CASCADE hosted a Twitter Space session on March 29, 2024, featuring Mr. Rajiv Ranjan Verma, IPS, ex-Director General of Railway Protection Force, BPR&D, National Crime Record Bureau, and Civil Defense, Home Guards, and Fire Services. The session focused on 'Addressing Challenges: Combating Illicit Trade and Terror Funding.'

Additionally, he explored several strategies for strengthening enforcement effectiveness, including leveraging technology for surveillance and intelligence gathering, promoting international collaboration, and enhancing law enforcement agencies' capabilities through training and resource allocation. International cooperation and information sharing are crucial in addressing the global dimensions of illicit trade and its ties to terror financing. Through cross-border collaboration, law enforcement agencies can exchange vital intelligence and coordinate efforts to disrupt illicit trade networks and trace funds to terrorist organizations. He highlighted that such collaborations foster a deeper understanding of global illicit trade routes and financial networks, facilitating more efficient enforcement actions and joint investigations, and ultimately enhancing the ability to combat the transnational challenges posed by illicit trade and terrorism. Mr. Verma also highlighted specific instances where successful strategies were utilized to dismantle illicit trade networks and cut their connections to terror financing. Through precise intelligence operations and coordinated military efforts, security forces dismantled pivotal networks engaged in smuggling arms, narcotics, and other illicit commodities, effectively severing their links to financing terrorism.

implications of illicit trade. By developing policy suggestions and practical solutions, they contribute to mitigating this widespread problem.

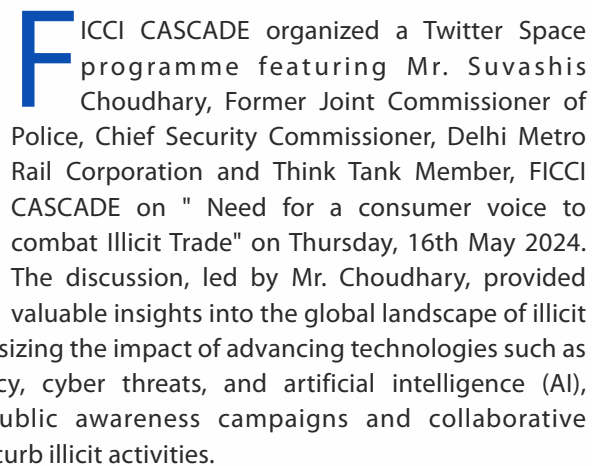
Additionally, attendees engaged in a constructive dialogue, exchanging innovative ideas and strategies to curtail illicit trade and protect global socio-economic interests.

The online event attracted enthusiastic participation, drawing a worldwide audience of over 27,000 attendees.





**16 May 2024**

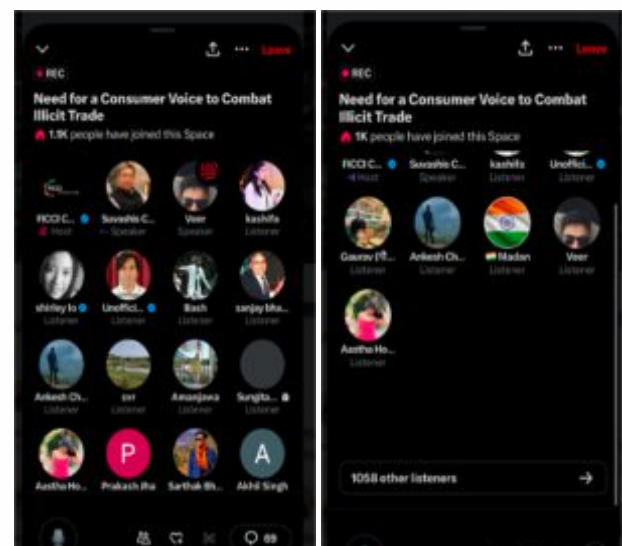
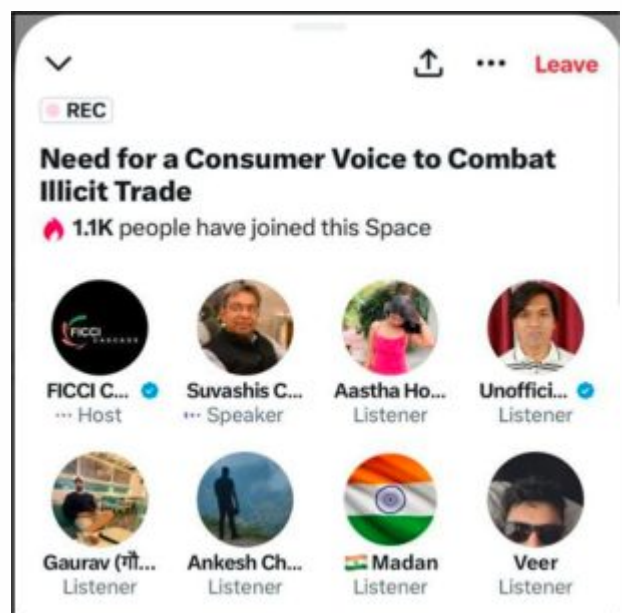


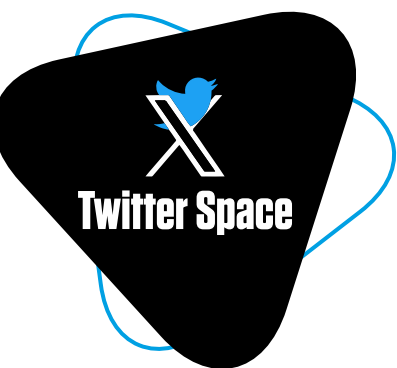
Mr. Choudhary expertly highlighted the adverse effects of consuming counterfeit goods, which can cause accidents, injuries, or death, and outlined the jurisdictional challenges faced by enforcement agencies as these globally operated criminal networks use encrypted communication and dark web marketplaces to evade detection. He detailed the pros and cons of IT and AI, noting their dual role in both detecting and facilitating illicit trade, while also stressing the complications cryptocurrency adds in tracing illegal activities. The discussion underscored the need for effective international cooperation and inter-agency collaboration, the role of social media influencers in raising public awareness, and initiatives like FICCI CASCADE in protecting public safety and the economy. The importance of consumer vigilance was emphasized, advising consumers to purchase goods from reputable websites and verify product authenticity with manufacturers when in doubt.

Moreover, participants had the opportunity to engage in a constructive dialogue, exchanging ideas and strategies aimed at curbing illicit trade and safeguarding socio-economic interests on a global scale.

Moving forward, the insights gleaned from the Twitter Space program will inform ongoing efforts to develop comprehensive strategies that address the complexities of illicit trade. By fostering continued dialogue, collaboration, and innovation, stakeholders aim to strengthen defences against illicit activities, protect consumers, and preserve the integrity of global markets in an increasingly interconnected world.

The program's impact extended far beyond its virtual setting, attracting a global audience of 19,000 participants. This widespread engagement underscored the urgency and relevance of the topic, reaffirming the collective commitment to safeguarding socio-economic interests on a global scale.





## Twitter Space with **Mr. P K Malhotra**

Former Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice  
and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE on  
**Legal Insights & Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting  
and Smuggling**  
31 May 2024



**F**ICCI CASCADE organized a X (Twitter) Space program featuring Mr. P K Malhotra, Former Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE on "Legal Insights & Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling" on 31st May 2024. Mr. Malhotra shed light on the current global scenario of smuggling and counterfeiting, elucidating their substantial impacts on national economies, and lawful enterprises.

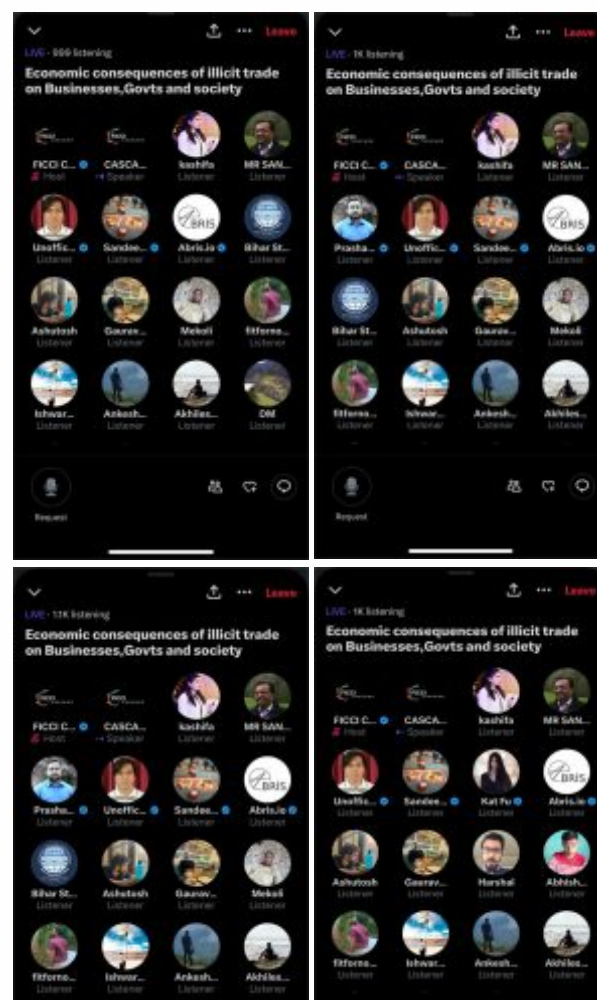
During the discussion, Mr. Malhotra highlighted the widespread prevalence of smuggling globally, emphasizing its detrimental impact on both national and international economies. He underscored the complex interconnection between counterfeiting, smuggling, and organized crime, which presents significant challenges for law enforcement and regulatory agencies. Furthermore, Mr. Malhotra emphasized how illicit trade practices contribute to the erosion of tax revenues, impeding government initiatives aimed at fostering economic growth. He also elucidated the adverse consequences of counterfeiting and smuggling on legitimate businesses, including the loss of market share, harm to reputation, and risks to consumer safety. Stressing the urgency of collaborative efforts, Mr. Malhotra emphasized the necessity for governments, industry stakeholders, and civil society to work together in developing robust legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to effectively combat illicit trade. He elaborated on the adverse effects of using counterfeit products, which include health risks, loss of trust in brands and sellers, and financial losses. Furthermore, the purchase of counterfeit goods can diminish consumer confidence in brands and sellers, particularly when they unknowingly acquire substandard items, resulting in disillusionment and doubt. He delved into specific laws outlined in the Indian Penal Code and consumer protection legislation aimed at preventing smuggling and counterfeiting. Additionally, he explored how smuggling intertwines with terrorism, highlighting its role as a funding source, facilitator, and tool for exploitation in terrorist activities. This connection amplifies security risks and hampers counterterrorism efforts.

To conclude, Mr. Malhotra proposed essential steps, such as enhancing international collaboration and sharing information to dismantle cross-border smuggling networks. He also stressed the significance of raising public awareness and conducting consumer education programs to reduce the desire for

counterfeit goods. Furthermore, he highlighted the importance of cultivating partnerships within industries and adopting technological advancements to improve transparency and traceability in supply chains. These collaborative endeavors are pivotal in combating illicit trade and protecting the interests of economies, businesses, and consumers from its detrimental impacts.

Furthermore, participants were able to participate in a productive discussion, exchanging thoughts and methods to reduce illicit trade and protecting socio-economic interests worldwide.

The online session attracted eager engagement from a global audience of over 15,000 participants.





## In conversation with **Mr. Anil Shukla** Director General of Police Mizoram

26 April 2024

FICCI CASCADE organized an enlightening "In Conversation" session featuring Mr. Anil Shukla, Director General of Police, Mizoram, held on April 26, 2024. The session aimed to delve into the pressing issues surrounding counterfeiting and smuggling, shedding light on their profound societal and economic repercussions. The law enforcement expert explored effective strategies in tackling these challenges head-on.

Mr. Anil Shukla underscored the formidable challenge posed by the porous Indo-Myanmar border, compounded by its rugged terrain and lack of proper fencing. He highlighted Mizoram's vulnerability, situated in the notorious Golden Triangle, where drug trafficking and contraband smuggling thrive. Moreover, the region grapples with the smuggling of areca nuts, foreign cigarettes and the illicit trade in exotic animals, he added.

He said that the particular concern was the escalating drug trade, evident in the rising seizures of high-quality heroin, ganja, and methamphetamine. In 2023 alone, drug seizures reached a staggering value of Rs 190 crore, Mr. Shukla informed. He further emphasized the issue of contraband smuggling, including wildlife, citing inadequate customs presence and storage facilities as contributing factors. Mizoram Police have proactively engaged in combating these issues through collaborative efforts with agencies such as the Assam Police, BSF, Narcotics Departments, and Customs Department. Key strategies encompass capacity enhancement, intelligence gathering, and inter-agency coordination to bolster the fight against smuggling.

Mr. Shukla expressed eagerness to collaborate with FICCI CASCADE, to enhance anti-smuggling endeavors and underscored the significance of platforms enabling Mizoram police to share insights and forge partnerships with a wider audience. Through sustained cooperation, he

expressed confidence in mitigating security threats and upholding the region's integrity.

Regarding solutions, Mr. Shukla emphasized the indispensable role of intelligence gathering and cultivating local sources. He advocated for a collective approach involving the entire community to address the multifaceted challenges posed by smuggling comprehensively.

Mr. Deep Chand, Former Special Commissioner of Delhi Police and Advisor to FICCI CASCADE, underscored the gravity of illicit trade's impact on the economy and public welfare. He emphasized the persistent challenge posed by illicit trade in India, highlighting the grave threats counterfeit goods and smuggling activities pose to both the economy and public welfare. Mr. Chand underscored the paramount importance of law enforcement, particularly the police, in safeguarding market integrity and protecting consumers.

Furthermore, he shed light on the evolving tactics of criminal syndicates, which are increasingly sophisticated in exploiting systemic loopholes and leveraging technology to evade detection. In response, FICCI CASCADE has been actively engaged in conducting capacity-building training sessions for various stakeholders, including judicial officers, customs officers, and state police officers. These efforts are aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of law enforcement personnel, empowering them to effectively combat illicit trade activities.

Mr. Chand expressed FICCI CASCADE's willingness to extend its training programs to the Mizoram Police, underscoring the organization's commitment to equipping officers with the necessary tools and expertise to tackle smuggling and counterfeiting within their jurisdictions.

The session joined by approximately 3000 participants, served as a pivotal platform for engaging discussions and strategic insights into the multifaceted challenges of smuggling and counterfeiting. It underscored the urgency of collaborative efforts among law enforcement agencies, government bodies, industry stakeholders, and civil society to effectively combat these illicit activities. As the dialogue

continues and partnerships strengthen, there remains optimism for concerted action and tangible progress in safeguarding society and the economy against the threats posed by smuggling



In Conversation with Mr Anil Shukla, Director General of Police, Mizoram



In Conversation with Mr Anil Shukla,  
Director General of Police, Mizoram

762 watching Started 13 min ago ...more

# TAX TALKS | WHY THE WORLD NEEDS A NETWORK TO FIGHT A NETWORK



**NAJIB SHAH**

Former Chairman,  
Central Board of Indirect Taxes  
and Customs and Think Tank  
Member, FICCI CASCADE

*"Hong Kong, Indian  
Customs arrest 8 in joint  
crackdown on syndicate  
that laundered HK\$500  
million in bogus diamond  
trading scheme".*

In this case of Trade Based Money Laundering reported in Hong Kong, a global network of enforcement officials successfully outwitted the nefarious network of criminals. More such networking is required to make the world a safer place, writes Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs' former Chairman Najib Shah.

Hong Kong's leading English Newspaper, South China Morning Post, in its edition dated December 28, had a headline which caught my attention for two curious reasons. First, such an event rarely happens, and the second - it appears to have escaped the attention of Indian media. The paper's headline mentioned, "Hong Kong, Indian Customs arrest 8 in joint crackdown on syndicate that laundered HK\$500 million in bogus diamond trading scheme".

It was curious because - rarely does an enforcement administration so publicly acknowledge the intelligence and inputs received from another agency; and such acknowledgement, if any, is restricted to only internal correspondence.

The details of the case as garnered from the press release of Hong Kong Customs shows that an operation codenamed 'Gem Crusher' had been launched in December against a money laundering syndicate based on intelligence exchange with Indian Customs. The press release said; "...the investigation revealed that the syndicate members established diamond trading companies in both Hong Kong and India."

The syndicate was suspected to have exported synthetic diamonds of low value from Hong Kong to India but lodged a false declaration as natural diamonds of high value in 2021 in a bid to reasonably transfer significant amounts of suspicious funds from India to Hong Kong. The total amount of the suspicious transaction reached HK\$ 500 million in the captioned period.'

Raids conducted in Hong Kong of the suspected premises led to the seizure of synthetic diamonds, currency equivalent to HK\$ 1 million, several mobile phones, trading, and bank documents. Four persons believed to be ring leaders and masterminds were also arrested.

This case raises the larger issue of Trade Based Money Laundering (TBML). The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) inter-governmental organization that designs and promotes policies and standards to combat financial crime, defines TBML as 'the process of disguising the proceeds of crime and moving value using trade transactions to legitimize their illegal origin or finance illicit activities'.

As FATF notes; "...the aim of TBML-unlike trade related offences-is not the movement of goods, but rather the movement of money, which trade transactions facilitate." Thus, for instance nobody pays good money for lab grown, synthetic diamonds which are fake and poor replicas of natural diamonds. Lab grown diamonds are less in value by at least 80% than a natural diamond. To the untrained eye they look the same and hence are a favorite commodity among criminals for TBML purposes.

As the Global Financial Integrity (GFI) points out TBML is a highly effective way of integrating large volumes of criminal proceeds with legitimate income and is attractive to organized crime groups because it is hard to detect, track, investigate, due to its transnational nature and the complexity of the international trade system.

TBML, if unchecked, has severe adverse effects on the economy. It perpetuates criminal activities, subjects' legitimate business to unfair competition and increases corruption. A FICCI CASCADE study suggests that the impact of such illicit financial flows works up to a humongous 5 percent of the country's GDP.

The World Customs Organization (WCO) emphasizes that the movement of illicit money traversing international borders is a matter which falls in the domain of Customs. The WCO states that Customs authorities have an essential role to play in preventing money laundering activities as they are effectively the 'tip of the spear' due to their unique positioning at border areas. In fact, the WCO recommendation which reaffirms the role of Customs in the fight against money laundering was adopted by the WCO council as early as in 2005.

While there are several TBML typologies, over-invoicing of imports remains a perennial favorite amongst criminals. Despite the WCO recommendation, over invoicing does not attract the same scrutiny of customs administrations as other offences. Customs Duty is in most of the commodities is linked to value; trained as the customs officer is to detect loss of revenue which under-invoicing potentially would result in, over invoicing consequently does not attract attention.

Over-invoicing would in effect mean additional tax revenue. Thus, there is a dangerous degree of complacency while dealing with these situations. The consequence of over-invoicing is rarely appreciated. What over-invoicing means is that there is some criminal activity within the country which has generated proceeds which now need to be laundered.

Trade actively colludes and provides cover for laundering.

Over-valuation is ultimately a misdeclaration of value. While money laundering in the Indian context would fall more in the ambit of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the trigger for action by them would be the detection by the Indian customs of such misdeclaration of values. The case detected by Hong Kong customs with its close Indian linkages should activate the Indian customs and ED.

The detection made in Hong Kong is sensational to put it mildly. The operation reveals what cooperation between agencies across borders can achieve. Credit must be given to the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) who had organized the recent Global Conference on Cooperation in Enforcement Matters (GCCEM) with the precise aim of enhancing cooperation and collaboration among international enforcement agencies.

The theme of the GCCEM conference was 'It Takes a Network to fight a Network' - and this is what has happened in the present case. A network of enforcement officials successfully outwitted the nefarious network of criminals. More such networking is required to make the world a safer place.

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/economy/trade-based-money-laundering-why-the-world-needs-a-network-to-fight-a-network-india-hong-kong-customs-18673591.htm>

## Tax Talks | Why the world needs a Network to fight a Network

In this case of Trade Based Money Laundering reported in Hong Kong, a global network of enforcement officials successfully outwitted the nefarious network of criminals. More such networking is required to make the world a safer place, writes Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs' former Chairman Najib Shah.



By Najib Shah

December 29, 2023, 2:05:36 PM IST (Updated)

5 Min Read



Hong Kong's leading English Newspaper, *South China Morning Post*, in its edition dated December 28, had a headline which caught my attention for two curious reasons. First, such an event rarely happens, and the second — it appears to have escaped the attention of Indian media. The paper's headline mentioned, "Hong Kong, Indian Customs arrest 8 in joint crackdown on syndicate that laundered HK\$500 million in bogus diamond trading scheme".

# WORLD ANTI-COUNTERFEITING DAY | HOW TO TACKLE THE SCOURGE OF COUNTERFEITING



## NAJIB SHAH

Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE

**C**ounterfeiting has become increasingly sophisticated, and the market now offers even 'genuine fakes' indicating a fake product very close to the original. But all, counterfeited products (whether 'genuine fake' or a 'fake fake') are necessarily of poorer, substandard quality, observes Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs' former Chairman Najib Shah.

Counterfeiting is a crime which does not get the attention it should from society at large. It is not a victimless crime, for it is nothing but theft of the creation of the mind, of designs and symbols, and creating serious damage to the individual or company whose product is being counterfeited.

The Global Anti-Counterfeiting Group (GACG) defines counterfeiting as a crime involving the theft of someone's trademark. In other words, it is the 'making of an imitation, copy or forgery of a genuine document, card, product, label or package with the intention to deceive or defraud.

Globalisation has resulted in a sharp increase in trade by reducing trade barriers, increasing market access to all parts of the globe and contributed, as per the International Monetary Fund, to a growth in world trade of as much as 6 percent annually. Unfortunately, a corollary of this has also been a sharp increase in movement of counterfeit goods.

As per the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) this could be more than \$ 2.3 trillion. As per the estimates of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO) it could be in the range of 500 billion Euro per year.

Authentication Solution Providers Association (ASPA), and CRISIL, had in their early 2023 survey on the state of counterfeiting in India estimated that the extent of counterfeiting was as high as 25% to 30% of the market. Given the size of the Indian market, this is humongous. Counterfeiting as per the survey is most prevalent in fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), apparel, agrochemical, pharmaceutical, automotive and consumer durable sectors.

Counterfeiting has become increasingly sophisticated. The market now offers even 'genuine fakes' indicating a fake product very close to the original. But all counterfeited products (whether 'genuine fake' or a 'fake fake') are necessarily of poorer, substandard quality. That is how they are cheaper and exploit the consumer's desire for low prices.

What this means is that they come with no guarantees and are safety (as in the case of automobile spare parts) and health (as in the case of pharma products) risks. Counterfeiting has extended far beyond only luxury products. Counterfeit pharmaceuticals like cough syrups as was the case in Nigeria and Haiti can cause death. Counterfeit cancer medicines like in the case recently detected by the Delhi police can result in

unsuspecting patients suffering from cancer getting no relief from the fatal disease.

Counterfeiting impacts the genuine manufacturer of their legitimate revenue. Further a genuine manufacturer becomes liable on account of the damage which counterfeited goods can potentially cause. It robs the government exchequer of its legitimate taxes and results in creation of a parallel economy-the sale proceeds of such counterfeit products, and in fact of all crime, invariably are used for other nefarious activities. They fund other criminal activities.

Counterfeiting hurts investment and innovation. New investors are wary of an economy where counterfeiting flourish. Existing enterprises have no incentive to invest in design improvement and innovation. All this also results in loss of jobs in a formal economy. Counterfeiting particularly hurts the small and medium sectors who lack the wherewithal to counter this attack on their legitimate production and sales.

The Committee against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) a think tank working under the aegis of FICCI, has in multiple reports brought out the details of loss of revenue, jobs and overall impact on the Indian economy. Counterfeiting is thus bad. As the ASPA-CRISIL study reveals while a few customers willingly purchased a counterfeit product especially in the FMCG and Ready-Made Garment Apparel space where the level of harmlessness is perceived to be high, most customers ended up buying a counterfeit product unsuspectingly.

How then should a customer avoid purchasing a counterfeit product? As the International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition (IACC) points out, a smart customer would look for the 3 P's- Price, Packaging and Place. A counterfeit product is invariably cheaper than the genuine item. The low price should caution the customer about the genuineness of the product. The packaging is another giveaway -either it is poor or there is no packaging. The packaging gives details of date, place or lot of manufacture.

The place where the customer buys the product is another indicator. Counterfeit products are invariably sold in the back alleys of a city; in markets which are notoriously well known as specialising in nothing but fakes. As per a 2023 report of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), globally there has been an increase in online markets facilitating trade in counterfeit goods. Counterfeit manufacturers prefer the online market simply because it is both less risky and less expensive; sale of a counterfeit in physical markets can attract attention of enforcement apart from the increase in costs of renting a place and other attendant expenditure.

The FICCI-CASCADE and ASPA-CRISIL studies indicate that counterfeiting is a problem in India. India is a signatory to WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) which aims to give adequate protection to intellectual property rights in international trade. The Government is thus alive to the issue and there are several enactments in place-civil, criminal and administrative, to protect both international trade and domestic industry.

The Trademarks Act, The Copyright Act, The Patents Act, The

Designs Act, The Geographical Indications Act, The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, The Food and Safety and Standards Act, The Consumer Protection Act, The Indian Penal Code, The Information Technology Act, The Customs Act, all in one way or other address the issue of counterfeiting.

What the sheer number of statutory enactments also means is the large number of administrative bodies involved in its implementation- and the consequential challenge of coordination. Counterfeit cases (other than under The Customs Act) are investigated by the SHO of a police station, most of whom are hard pressed combating other serious crimes in their jurisdictions and view counterfeiting cases with mild amusement -the larger damage caused by counterfeiting escapes them.

The Department of Consumer Affairs is the nodal department concerned with consumer protection. Empowerment of consumers through awareness and education is part of their mandate- because ultimately while enforcement will play its role it is for the informed consumer to say no to counterfeits. The private sector too has a critical role to play. They need to use technology to put in place to make counterfeiting difficult. They need to work closely with the Government to raise consumer awareness and strengthen the hands of enforcement agencies.

In this background the World Anti-Counterfeiting Day which is observed on June 8 provides an excellent opportunity for raising awareness among the consumers about counterfeiting, bringing all enforcement agencies and industry players on the table to share best practices and to discuss ways and means of working closely to address the problem. Then and only then can the scourge of counterfeiting be tackled.

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/economy/world-anti-counterfeiting-day-the-scurge-of-counterfeiting-consumer-awareness-collective-action-19425566.htm>

## World Anti-Counterfeiting Day | How to tackle the scourge of counterfeiting

Counterfeiting has become increasingly sophisticated, and the market now offers even 'genuine fakes' indicating a fake product very close to the original. But all, counterfeited products (whether 'genuine fake' or a 'fake fake') are necessarily of poorer, substandard quality, observes Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs' former Chairman Najib Shah.



By Najib Shah

June 8, 2024, 3:11:54 PM IST (Published)

6 Min Read



Counterfeiting is a crime which does not get the attention it should from society at large. It is not a victimless crime, for it is nothing but theft of the creation of the mind, of designs and symbols, and creating serious damage to the individual or company whose product is being counterfeited.

## MEDIA COVERAGE



**Rs. 3500 Crores Worth Of Illicit Goods Seized By DRI In FY23-24: Principal Director General, Directorate Of Revenue Intelligence**

**NEW DELHI:** Mr. Mohan Kumar Singh, Principal Director General of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence said, "With trade through smuggling and counterfeiting posing a threat to India's and impacts legitimate economic activities resulting in government revenue losses and fuelling of organised crime, DRI, we are actively aware of the challenges of illicit trade and are dedicated to addressing them on a daily basis. In the financial year 2023-24, DRI detected 623 cases, averaging nearly 2 cases daily, resulting in contraband seizures valued at Rs. 3500 crores. A significant portion of these seizures involved narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as smuggled gold. Also, other items that DRI has kept a close watch on are cigarettes, red sanders, fake currency, wildlife products as well as e-waste etc."

"Given the nature of illicit trade, one major way forward to tackle the menace is the need for emphasis on global cooperation among relevant international organizations. We have actively pursued this cooperation through various bilateral and multilateral agreements. Our experience shows that information of global supply chains has emerged as a significant threat. Coordinated international operations and enhanced liaison efforts, exemplified by initiatives like the DRI-led operation 'TIG-CAS', have proven effective in detecting contraband goods in legitimate cargo and thereby curtailing the infiltration of illicit trade into global supply chains," Mr. Singh further added.

### Focus On Global Collaborations, Enforcement Resulting In Large Number Of Seizures: DRI Chief

DRI Chief M K Singh highlights the success of global partnerships and enforcement in curbing smuggling, resulting in significant seizures of contraband goods.



Press Trust of India  
Published on: 11 Feb 2024, 6:57 pm

Focus on international collaborations and enforcement is resulting in a large number of seizures of contraband goods and checking smuggling of illicit items, DRI chief M K Singh said on Monday.

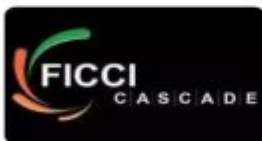
Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) actively engages and participates in various global enforcement operations targeting drugs, arms, wildlife, environment, money laundering, and terror financing.

### FICCI Cascade puts thrust on int'l co-operation; launches new campaign to fight smuggling

FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) has been at the forefront when it comes to raising awareness about smuggling activities and initiating pro-active dialogues on how it can be tackled. Speaking on the occasion of FICCI CASCADE's Anti-Smuggling Day, a leading official of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has emphasised on the need for greater international co-operation to tackle the menace of smuggling.

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11/11/2024  
Published On Feb 12, 2024 at 06:45 PM IST



New Delhi: **FICCI Cascade** has been at the forefront when it comes to raising awareness about smuggling activities and initiating pro-active dialogues on how it can be tackled.

Speaking on the occasion of

FICCI CASCADE's 'Anti-Smuggling Day', a leading official of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has emphasised on the need for greater international co-operation to tackle the menace of smuggling.

**Mohan Kumar Singh**, Principal Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), said, "Smuggling is a transnational crime. Underscoring the critical need for international cooperation in

### Focus on global collaborations, enforcement resulting in large number of seizures: DRI chief

PTI / Feb 12, 2024, 15:23 IST

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DRI chief M K Singh

**NEW DELHI:** Focus on international collaborations and enforcement is resulting in a large number of seizures of contraband goods and checking smuggling of illicit items, DRI chief M K Singh said on Monday.

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) actively engages and participates in various global enforcement operations targeting drugs, arms, wildlife, environment, money laundering, and terror financing.

## वैश्विक सहयोग, प्रवर्तन पर ध्यान देने से अवैध वस्तुओं की जब्ती बढ़ी

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग और प्रवर्तन पर ध्यान देने के चलते बड़ी संख्या में अवैध वस्तुओं की जब्ती हो रही है और तस्करी पर रोक लगी है। राजस्व आसूचना निदेशालय (डीआरआई) के प्रमुख एम के सिंह ने सोमवार को यह बात कही। डीआरआई ड्रग्स, हथियार, वन्यजीव, पर्यावरण, धन शोधन और आतंकी वित्तपोषण से जुड़े विभिन्न वैश्विक प्रवर्तन अभियानों में सक्रिय रूप से शामिल है। डीआरआई के प्रधान महानिदेशक सिंह ने कहा, हमारे विदेशी समकक्षों के साथ खुफिया जानकारी के लगातार आदान-प्रदान के जरिए कई अभियान चलाए गए हैं। म्यांमा, बांग्लादेश, मालदीव, श्रीलंका और नेपाल सहित कई देशों में सीमा शुल्क अधिकारियों ने महत्वपूर्ण मात्रा में अवैध सामग्री जब्त की है। उन्होंने फिक्की कैस्केड के तस्करी विरोधी दिवस पर एक

कार्यक्रम में कहा कि डीआरआई लाल चंदन, सिगरेट, नकली मुद्रा, विदेशी मुद्रा और वन्यजीव उत्पादों सहित कई अन्य वस्तुओं की तस्करी पर भी कड़ी नजर रख रहा है। सिंह ने कहा कि ए बयामदगी डीआरआई अधिकारियों के बीच बेहतरीन टीम वर्क का नतीजा है। इन देशों में हमारे सहयोगी कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों का सहयोग हासिल है। उन्होंने कहा कि फिक्की कैस्केड की पहल से हमें तस्करी और जालसाजी के बढ़ते खतरे पर चर्चा करने का मौका मिलता है। फिक्की कैस्केड अर्थव्यवस्था को नष्ट करने वाली तस्करी और जालसाजी गतिविधियों के खिलाफ काम करने वाली एक समिति है। फिक्की कैस्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत ने कहा, हमने 11 फरवरी, 2022 को तस्करी विरोधी दिवस की शुरुआत की थी और इसकी बहुआयामी चुनौती के खिलाफ जागरूकता बढ़ाने और ठोस कार्रवाई करने का संकल्प लिया था।

जानें, क्यों मनाया जाता है एंटी स्मगलिंग डे

By KTV Bharat Hindi Desk  
Published : Feb 10, 2024, 7:28 PM IST

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**Anti Smuggling Day 2024 :** लकड़ी फिक्की भी लूट के कार्गो सेहत के लिए खतराक है, इससे जहां देश को कार्गो हित प्रभावित होता है, साथ ही उद्योग के अवसरों को कई बार सीमित कर देता है, चढ़े पूरे खबर...

**इसका मतलब :** लकड़ी एक वैश्विक समस्या है, जो दुनिया भर के देशों और क्षेत्रों को प्रभावित कर रही है, दुनिया भर की सरकारों ने लकड़ी के निर्यात के लिए कई निर्बंधन लगा दिए हैं, इन निर्बंधनों के बावजूद लकड़ी का निर्यात बढ़ रहा है और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर लकड़ी के निर्यात को रोकने के लिए कई देशों ने लकड़ी के निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिए हैं, इससे जहां देश को कार्गो हित प्रभावित होता है, साथ ही उद्योग के अवसरों को कई बार सीमित कर देता है, चढ़े पूरे खबर...



## MEDIA COVERAGE



## अगर विकसित भारत बनना है तो बढ़ती तस्करी पर भी लगाम लगानी होगी: FICCI CASCADE चेयरमैन

आज यानी 11 फरवरी 'एंटी स्मगलिंग डे' है. जानिए इस मौके पर FICCI CASCADE के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत ने CNBC हिंदी के साथ बातचीत में क्या बड़ी बातें कहीं?

By Lavishman Roy X  
Feb 11, 2024 1:17:21 PM IST (Mumbai)



सरकार 2047 तक भारत को विकसित देना इच्छा चाहती है. इसके लिए सिर्फ सरकार के भरोसे नहीं रहना चाहिए बल्कि समाज के हर वर्ग को खासकर कंजुमर को भी सहयोग करना होगा. इंडस्ट्री को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कंजुमर को तस्करी का सामान खरीदने से परहेज करना चाहिए. क्योंकि तस्करी से घरेलू इंडस्ट्री को भारी नुकसान होता

## जालसाजी से निपटने का तरीका, अधिक मात्रा और कम टैक्स: फिक्की कैस्केड

नई दिल्ली@पत्रिका फिक्की कैस्केड (कमेटी अगेंस्ट स्मगलिंग एंड काउंटरफेइटिंग डेस्टॉयड द इकोनॉमी) हितधारक परामर्श की ओर से आयोजित 'सेक्यूरिंग डिजिटल प्रॉटेक्शन- कोऑपरेशन, कोलेबोरेशन एण्ड बेस्ट प्रैक्टिसेज' विषय पर चर्चा में दिल्ली पुलिस के संयुक्त पुलिस आयुक्त वी शंकर जायसवाल ने कहा कि जालसाजी को जालसाजों के लिए कम जोखिम और अधिक लाभ वाली गतिविधि नहीं बनने देना चाहिए. भौतिक और डिजिटल स्थान में जालसाजी व्यापक हो गई है और उपभोक्ताओं, सरकारी राजस्व, कंपनियों और यहां तक कि शोधकर्ताओं को भी प्रभावित करती है। उन्होंने कहा कि ब्लॉकचेन जैसी तकनीकों को बढ़ाने और अधिक सुलभ और डिजिटल जालसाजी के खिलाफ अपनी सुरक्षा को मजबूत कर सकते हैं। फिक्की कैस्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत ने कहा, फिक्की कैस्केड को विश्व जालसाजी विरोधी दिवस 2024 के अवसर पर इस महत्वपूर्ण चर्चा की मेजबानी करने का सम्मान मिला है। जालसाजी न केवल उपभोक्ताओं के लिए बल्कि दुनिया भर के देशों के स्वास्थ्य, प्रगति और विकास के लिए भी एक बड़े खतरा है। जालसाजी से निपटने के लिए कानूनी कार्रवाई, मजबूत प्रवर्तन उपाय सहित बहुआयामी दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता है।

Delhi police calls for action against counterfeiting, unlicensed hotels in digital era

by newsdesk@patrika



New Delhi, June 4 (PTI) The Delhi police called for a concerted effort by all stakeholders to tackle the issue of counterfeit goods and unlicensed hotels in the digital era, with the use of emerging technologies like blockchain and biometrics.

Addressing a stakeholders' consultation organised by FICCI on the occasion of World Anti-Counterfeiting Day, Minister Jaishankar, Joint Commissioner of Police (Tech, Cyber and Licensing) said, "As the digital era progresses, the use of emerging technologies like blockchain and biometrics is becoming increasingly important. We need to ensure that these technologies are used to protect consumers and businesses from the risks associated with counterfeit goods in the digital era."

## DRI seizes contrabands worth Rs 3,500 cr in FY24; narcotic drugs, gold major contributors

PTI / Jun 20, 2024, 20:29 IST

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NEW DELHI: Revenue Intelligence officers have seized contrabands worth Rs 3,500 crore in 2023-24 fiscal, with narcotic drugs and gold seizures constituting a major chunk, a top official said on Thursday.

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence Principal DG Mohan Kumar Singh said infiltration of supply chains has emerged as a significant challenge in curbing smuggling.

Also, growing use of air passenger, courier and postal cargo for smuggling of drugs and other contrabands remains a concern.

"In FY 2023-24, DRI detected 623 smuggling cases, almost an average of 2 cases per day, with seizure of contrabands of Rs 3,500 crore. The seizure of narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances constitute a major part of it, followed by seizure of gold," Singh said at a Ficci seminar on global challenges of illicit trade and way forward.

## तस्करी रोकने को फिक्की कैस्केड का नया अभियान

नई दिल्ली | देश में तस्करी की रोकथाम के लिए फिक्की कैस्केड की ओर से नया अभियान 'तस्करी के खाम को करो नाश, विकसित भारत का सपना करो सकार' शुरू किया गया है। इसके अलावा वर्ष 2022 से संघटन 11 फरवरी को तस्करी विरोधी दिवस मना रहा है। इसके तहत आयोजित कार्यक्रम में राज्य कुलपति निदेशालय (डोआरआई) के प्रधान महानिदेशक मोहन कुमार सिंह ने कहा कि तस्करी एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय अपराध है। ऐसे अवैध गतिविधियों से निपटने में अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग की जरूरत है। डोआरआई इस, हॉलिवुड, बॉलीवुड, पर्यावरण, मनो-लॉ-इंडिया और आतंकी विरोधों को लक्षित करने वाले विभिन्न वैश्विक प्रवर्तन अभियानों में शामिल होगा। विदेशी संस्कृति के साथ कई ऑपरेशन किए हैं। इसके अलावा, बॉलीवुड, श्रीलंका और नेपाल सहित कई देशों में भी गैर कानूनी वस्तुओं का बड़े मात्रा में प्रेषित किया गया है। इस नए रोकथाम कैम्पेन के अलावा अनिल राजपूत ने कहा कि हमने जागरूकता बढ़ाने और इसके खिलाफ ठोस कार्रवाई में काम नहीं छोड़ने का संकल्प लिया है। हम लोगों से आग्रह कर रहे हैं कि वे तस्करी का सामना नहीं छोड़ें। यह स्वास्थ्य को खतरे में डालता है। अर्थव्यवस्था को भी नुकसान पहुंचाता है। आगने दिनों हम विभिन्न खेल के माध्यम से इस अभियान को आगे बढ़ाएंगे।

DRI seizes contraband worth Rs 35 crore

by newsdesk@patrika

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New Delhi, Jun 20: Revenue Intelligence officers have seized contrabands worth Rs 3,500 crore in 2023-24 fiscal, with narcotic drugs and gold seizures constituting a major chunk, a top official said on Thursday. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence Principal DG Mohan Kumar Singh said infiltration of supply chains has emerged as a significant challenge in curbing smuggling.

## नकली सामान की समस्या से निपटने के लिए टैक्स में कमी और सप्लाय बढाना कारगर उपाय: विशेषज्ञ

विज्ञान से संवाददाता | नई दिल्ली

बाजार में बिकने वाले जाली यानी नकली सामान की समस्या से निपटने के लिए कम टैक्स की कवालत की गई है। फिक्की कैस्केड (कमेटी अगेंस्ट स्मगलिंग एंड काउंटरफेइटिंग डेस्टॉयड द इकोनॉमी) की ओर से आयोजित 'सेक्यूरिंग डिजिटल प्रॉटेक्शन- कोऑपरेशन, कोलेबोरेशन एण्ड बेस्ट प्रैक्टिसेज' विषयक पर चर्चा में दिल्ली पुलिस के संयुक्त पुलिस आयुक्त (टेक, साइबर और लाइसेंसिंग) वी. शंकर जायसवाल ने कहा कि जालसाजी को कम जोखिम और अधिक लाभ वाली गतिविधि नहीं बनने देना चाहिए। इससे निपटने के लिए सबसे प्रभावी रणनीति इस गतिशीलता को उलटना है। इससे जालसाजी को उच्च जोखिम, कम लाभ वाला उपाय बनाया जा सके। उन्होंने कहा ऐसा करने के लिए

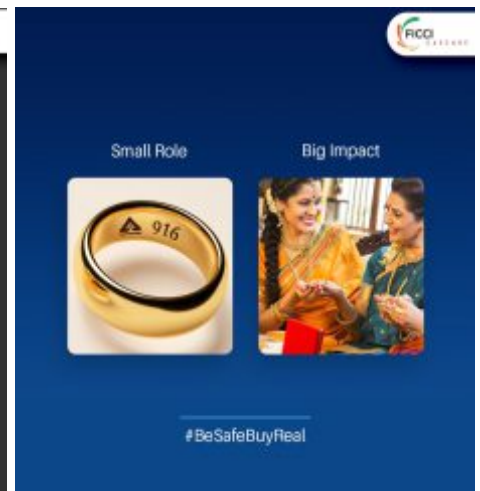
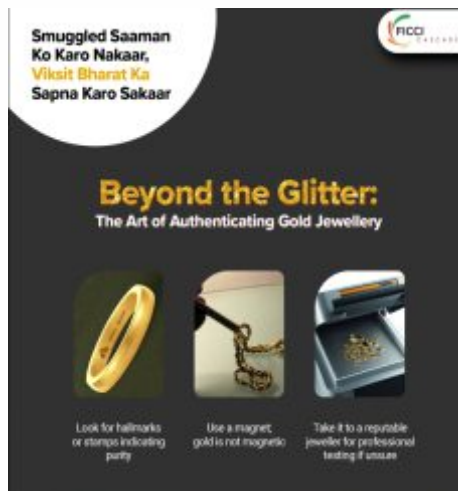
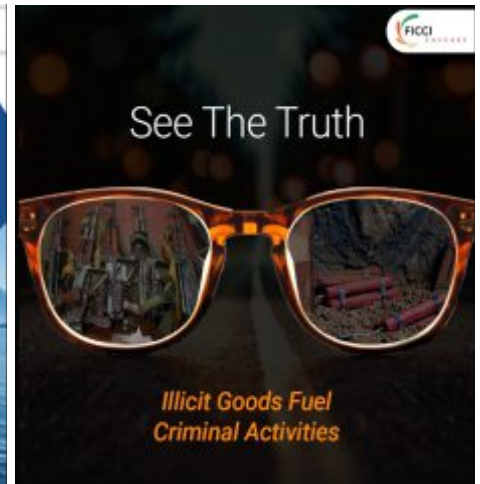
बाजार में भारी मात्रा में सामान की सप्लाय बढ़ानी होगी। ऐसे उत्पादों पर कम कर लगाना होगा। ऐसा कर हम जालसाजी को रोक सकते हैं। वैध वैध व्यवसायों और अर्थव्यवस्था को सुरक्षित कर सकते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि डिजिटल जालसाजी व्यापक हो गई है। नकली प्रोफाइल से लेकर फर्जी डोमेन नेम तक नकली गतिविधियां बढ़ रही हैं। इससे निपटने के लिए ब्लॉकचेन जैसी टेक्नोलॉजी में प्रगति महत्वपूर्ण है। ब्लॉकचेन जैसी तकनीक को सुलभ व सस्ती बनाकर हम कॉन्टैक्ट मैनेजमेंट जैसी प्रक्रियाओं को सुव्यवस्थित कर सकते हैं। डिजिटल जालसाजी के खिलाफ अपनी सुरक्षा को मजबूत कर सकते हैं।

फिक्की कैस्केड के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत ने कहा कि जालसाजी उपभोक्ताओं के साथ दुनियाभर के देशों के स्वास्थ्य, प्रगति

और विकास के लिए बड़ा खतरा है। जालसाजी से निपटने के लिए कानूनी कार्रवाई, मजबूत प्रवर्तन उपाय, उपभोक्ता जागरूकता और उद्योग सहयोग सहित बहुआयामी दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता है।

सीआईपीएएम के वरिष्ठ सलाहकार डॉ. जी आर राववेन्द्र ने कहा कि डिजिटल जालसाजी के खिलाफ मेक इन इंडिया पहल की रक्षा के लिए प्रवर्तन उपायों को मजबूत करना और आपराधिक उपायों को लागू करना भी जालसाजी को रोकने के लिए आवश्यक कदम है। स्टार्टअप इकोसिस्टम को सुरक्षित रखने के लिए इसी तरह की पहल को आगे बढ़ाना चाहिए। इसमें स्टार्टअप के इन्वेस्टमेंट एंड क्रिएशन को नकली उल्लंघन से बचाने के लिए एक आधुनिक और व्यापक डिजिटल कानून ढांचे की स्थापना शामिल है।

# SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 1. More than €2m worth of cigarettes seized by Revenue officers in Wexford

20 March 2024 | Irish Examiner

Approximately 2.4 million cigarettes with an estimated retail value of over €2m were seized by Revenue officers in Co Wexford on Monday. The cigarettes were discovered by Wexford gardai following searches of a yard in Gorey.

The Richmond-branded cigarettes have a retail value of approximately €2,010,000, representing a potential loss to the exchequer of more than €1,582,000, Revenue said. They have now been taken for further examination.

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/courtandcrime/arid-41357014.html>

### 2. 120,000 cigarettes seized in crackdown on illegal trade across Dartford and Gravesend

23 March 2024 | ITV

A multi-agency operation has resulted in officers seizing approximately 120,000 illicit cigarettes across Dartford and Gravesend. Officers from the Community Safety Units in Dartford and Gravesend joined forces with Home Office Immigration Enforcement. They visited 22 shops to check that businesses were adhering to licensing and immigration laws. While in the towns officers seized 6,448 packs of untaxed cigarettes and 327 pouches of tobacco and a quantity of cash. Four people were also spoken to for immigration offences.

<https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2024-03-23/120000-cigarettes-seized-in-crackdown-on-illegal-trade-across-dartford>

### 3. KARACHI: Sensitive agencies, along with the Directorate of Customs Intelligence and Investigation, have recovered a huge quantity of smuggled goods during a joint operation in North Karachi.

3 April 2024 | The Express Tribune

As per officials, the operation was conducted based on intelligence report. The recovered haul included 135 sacks of smuggled betel nut valued at Rs4.5 million, along with 350 packets of various brands of foreign cigarettes and 27 bags containing foreign clothing. The contraband was ingeniously concealed within the secret compartments of a passenger bus traveling from Quetta.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2461429/huge-quantity-of-smuggled-goods-seized>

### 4. Luxury cars, watches seized over alleged USD 650 million Covid-19 fraud

5 April 2024 | The Economic Times

After getting hold of some 600 million Euros in funds from the Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), the group then transferred the funds to their bank accounts in Austria, Romania and Slovakia, the EPPO said, CNN reported. The prosecutor's office claimed the group used cryptocurrencies, artificial intelligence and offshore cloud servers to carry out and conceal the fraud. The assets that were seized during dozens of raids on homes and offices included Lamborghinis, Porsches, Rolexes, Cartier jewellery, cryptocurrencies, luxury villas and other items.

<https://bsi.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/luxury-cars-watches-seized-over-alleged-usd-650-million-covid-19-fraud/109062379>

### 5. Counterfeit goods imitating 'well-known brands' seized in Joburg

11 April 2024 | The South African

In a concerted effort to combat the proliferation of counterfeit goods, the South African Police Service's (SAPS) National Counterfeit Unit executed a series of targeted takedown operations in Johannesburg. Resulting in the seizure of counterfeit goods worth over R17 million within a week. The latest operation, conducted in the Johannesburg CBD's Bree Street, saw SAPS members, along with officials from the South African Revenue Services (SARS), Gauteng Traffic's Saturation unit, various Brand Protectors, Crime Prevention Wardens, and private security, collaborate to execute search and seizure warrants.

<https://www.thesouthafrican.com/news/counterfeit-goods-imitating-well-known-brands-seized-in-joburg/>

### 6. CBP officers seize \$85K in unreported currency at Pharr International Bridge

14 April 2024 | CBP Gov

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at Hidalgo/Pharr/Anzalduas Port of Entry this weekend seized \$85,000 in unreported currency hidden within a vehicle during an outbound examination. "Our officer continue to maintain strict vigilance and that dedication to duty, inspection skill and experience contributed to this significant outbound currency seizure," said Port Director Carlos Rodriguez, Hidalgo/Pharr/Anzalduas Port of Entry.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-seize-85k-unreported-currency-pharr-international-bridge>

### 7. 1,280 packets of cigarettes being illegally transported to India seized from Jamunaha

17 April 2024 | My Republica

KATHMANDU, April 17: The police have seized cigarettes being illegally transported to India from Banke's Jamunaha border crossing. The police seized 1,280 packets of Khukuri cigarettes worth about Rs 158,720 from Nepalgunj Sub-metropolitan City-15, Jamunaha.

The police team deployed from the Area Police Office, Jamunaha, seized the cigarettes while they were being illegally transported to India. The District Police Office, Banke, has said that three individuals involved in transporting cigarettes were also arrested.

<https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/1-280-packets-of-cigarettes-being-illegally-transported-to-india-seized-from-jamunaha/>

### 8. Fake cosmetics, drugs, other products seized in NAFDAC Abuja operation

21 April 2024 | The Tribune

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) conducted raids on several popular supermarkets in Abuja, including Sahad Stores and H-Medix in Wuse 2 and Gwarinpa.

The enforcement team, this week, also targeted markets in Garki, Wuse, Utako, Kugbo, Nyanya, and Mararaba, leading to the seizure of counterfeit products.

During the operation, counterfeit cosmetics and drugs were uncovered and confiscated.

<https://tribuneonline.ng.com/photos-fake-cosmetics-drugs-other-products-seized-in-nafdac-abuja-operation/>

### 9. Customs seize alcohol, cigarettes worth RM885,000

23 April 2024 | The Sun

KUALA LUMPUR: The Royal Malaysian Customs Department has managed to foil attempts of smuggling alcohol and cigarettes through two recent inspections at Port Klang, Selangor.

Customs Central Zone assistant director-general Norlela Ismail said a container carrying 4,030 litres of alcohol worth an estimated RM21,000 with tax and duties of RM51,610 was seized on March 21, while another container being inspected on April 2 led to the discovery of 846,000 cigarettes worth RM864,000 and tax and duties of RM656,640.

[https://thesun.my/local\\_news/customs-seize-alcohol-cigarettes-worth-rm885000-ig12367492](https://thesun.my/local_news/customs-seize-alcohol-cigarettes-worth-rm885000-ig12367492)

### 10. CBP seizes \$400k worth of counterfeit items at Port of Rochester

23 April 2024 | Rochesterfirst.com

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (WROC) — More counterfeit items have been seized at the Rochester Port of Entry, according to US Customs and Border Patrol.

CBP said that their officers investigated shipments that had designer clothing, shoes, NBA rookie cards, and other items. They said none of the items were authentic and were seized for counterfeit trademarks.

Versace slides, Louis Vuitton shirts, and even a Porche steering wheel were among the many items seized by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol over at the Port of Rochester.

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/cbp-seizes-400k-worth-of-counterfeit-items-at-port-of-rochester/>

## NATIONAL NEWS

### 1. Delhi Customs Preventive Seizure

20th January 2024/ New Delhi

On January 20th and 21st, 2024, the Delhi Customs Preventive seized 12.22 lakh sticks of various foreign-origin cigarette brands. The seized cigarettes included brands like ESSE, Mond, Dunhill, Davidoff, Gudang Garam, and Platinum Seven.

The value of these seized goods is estimated to be around Rs. 2 crores. The cigarettes lacked specified statutory health warnings on the packets, which makes them taxable under the Customs Act, 1962.

<https://>

### 2. Massive Seizure of Smuggled Cigarettes at India Post Hub Near Guwahati Airport

29 April 2024 / Hub news

Guwahati, April 29: In a significant crackdown on smuggling activities, the Customs Department intercepted a consignment of foreign-origin cigarettes valued at approximately Rs. 2.86 crore at the India Post Hub near Guwahati Airport. The operation was conducted on Sunday following a tip-off received by the Department, which led them to the India Post Hub located at Mirza in the Kamrup district of Assam. Upon inspection, officers discovered 113 packages filled with various brands of smuggled foreign-origin cigarettes.

<https://hubnetwork.in/massive-seizure-of-smuggled-cigarettes-at-india-post-hub-near-guwahati-airport/>

### 3. Foreign currency hidden in mixer-grinder found in train, 2 Bangladeshis arrested

26 April 2024 / India Today

The Border Security Force (BSF) seized foreign currency valued at over Rs 81 lakh from two Bangladeshi passengers on board the Kolkata-Dhaka Maitri Express, the border guards said on Friday. Following a tip-off, BSF personnel searched the train in Gede railway station, around 115 km from Kolkata, and picked up the two men who were allegedly trying to smuggle currency of several countries, hiding the cash inside a mixer-grinder from India to Bangladesh.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/foreign-currency-mixer-grinder-maitri-express-bangladeshis-arrested-kolkata-smuggling-2532282-2024-04-27>

### 4. Assam: Fake currency notes worth Rs 2 crore seized during raid in Dhubri's Chapar

12 May 2024/ India Today

In a significant crackdown on circulation of fake currency in state, Assam Police conducted a raid against a counterfeit currency operation, unearthing a staggering amount of fake currency valued at approximately Rs 2 crore in Dhubri's Chapar.

The operation, spearheaded by the Circle Police Officer of Pamkhedi Chapar and the officer-in-charge of Sapor police station, unfolded during a late-night operation in Barghola, located within Dhirghat of Sapor.

<https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/video/assam-fake-currency-notes-worth-rs-2-crore-seized-during-raid-in-dhubris-chapar-1004667-2024-05-12>

### 5. Cops bust smuggling racket, seize liquor worth over Rs 3 crore in Andhra Pradesh

18th January 2024/ Andhra Pradesh

VIJAYAWADA: In a major catch, NTR district police busted a liquor racket and seized liquor worth Rs 3.72 crore, which is being smuggled illegally from other States on Wednesday. Speaking to media persons at a press conference held at Operation Command and Control room, Commissioner of Police (CP) Kanthi Rana Tata said that the seized liquor bottles, including imported brands were caught during the enforcement drives conducted by various police station officers across the district during Sankranti festival. As many as 10 people were arrested and cases were registered against them under relevant sections of IPC.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/vijayawada/2024/Jan/18/cops-bust-smuggling-racket-seize-liquor-worth-over-rs-3-crore-in-andhra-pradesh>

### 6. Excise Department seizes over 1 lakh liters of illicit liquor in Himachal

24 April 2024/ The Print

Shimla, Apr 24 (PTI) Acting on a tip-off and intelligence reports, the Himachal Pradesh Excise and Taxation Department seized more than one lakh liters of illicit liquor (lahan) in Nurpur, officials said on Wednesday. A team of the Excise Department led by Excise Commissioner Yunus seized the illicit liquor in Gagwal, Ullehrian and Tyora of Mand area under the Indora tehsil in Nurpur, a statement issued here said. Yunus informed that the seized liquor, valued at approximately Rs 1 crore, was spilled thereafter. The operation resulted in the confiscation of 50,000 thousand liters (about 13208600 gal) of country liquor from the Gagwal area, 41,000 liters (about half the volume of a one car garage) from Ullehrian, and 10,000 liters (about 2641.72 gal) from Tyora.

<https://theprint.in/india/excise-department-seizes-over-1-lakh-litres-of-illicit-liquor-in-himachal/2055440/>

### 7. Customs catches Afghan diplomat with 25 kg gold at Mumbai airport concealed in legging, jacket, belt, and kneecap

25 April 2024/ Economic Times

DRI officials intercepted Zakia Wardak, the consul general of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, at the Mumbai airport recently. They recovered 25 kg of gold worth Rs 18.6 crore that she was allegedly attempting to smuggle into India from Dubai. The incident took place on April 25, and a case of gold smuggling under the Customs Act, 1962, has been filed. The gold has been confiscated; a TOI report stated.

<https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/customs-catches-afghan-diplomat-with-25-kg-gold-at-mumbai-airport-concealed-in-legging-jacket-belt-kneecap/articleshow/109834994.cms>

### 8. iPhone, Currency, gold Worth ₹ 7.5 Crore Seized at Mumbai Airport

10 May 2024/ NDTV

Mumbai: Customs has seized 11.62 kg of gold and i-Phones valued at 7.44 crore and 12 lakh in cash in separate cases at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport here, an official said on Friday. The action was taken in 18 cases of contraband seizure between Tuesday and Thursday, and seven people were arrested, he said. Further investigation was underway, the official added.

<https://www.ndtv.com/mumbai-news/gold-iphones-currency-worth-rs-7-5-crore-seized-at-mumbai-airport-5634748>

### 9. Customs seize ₹6.46 crore in smuggled valuables; 8 arrested

23 April 2024/ Livemint

The Customs department at Mumbai airport found diamonds in noodle packets and gold hidden in passengers and their bags. The total value of these items is 6.46 crore, PTI reported while citing an Official. Customs officials arrested eight passengers who had over 6.815 kg of gold worth 4.44 crore and diamonds valued at 2.02 crore last weekend, according to a statement released late April 22 night. An Indian Traveller going from Mumbai to Bangkok was caught with diamonds hidden in noodle packets inside his suitcase. He was arrested, an official reported. A foreign Traveller flying from Colombo to Mumbai was caught with gold bars and a small piece, weighing 321 grams in total, hidden in her underwear.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/diamonds-in-noodles-gold-in-underwear-mumbai-customs-seize-rs-6-46-crore-in-smuggled-valuables-4-arrested-11713856115471.html>

### 10. Surat: Six arrested for selling adulterated shampoo, face cream, tobacco products with fake labels

10 April 2024/ Indian Express

Six people have been arrested in Surat for selling adulterated shampoos, face creams, and tobacco products with fake labels of big brands, police said on Wednesday. In a raid at a godown in Olpad town, raw and finished products and packaging machinery worth Rs 50.16 lakh were seized, officials Added. The accused have been identified as Abdul Hafiz Hiragal, Intekhab Ahmed, Manoj Kumar Yadav, Sandeep Yadav, Rahul Sonkar, and Sunil Nishad. Inspector C R Jadav said, "We have arrested six people involved in running the entire racket. They had kept the godown on rent for the last couple of months and were involved in manufacturing adulterated shampoo, gutkha, and face creams.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/surat-six-arrested-for-selling-adulterated-shampoo-face-cream-tobacco-products-with-fake-labels-9263242/>

**IN CONVERSATION WITH  
CHAIRMAN, CBIC**

JULY 2024

**TWITTER SESSION  
WITH EXPERTS**

JULY &amp; AUGUST

**AUTO RALLY  
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JULY 2024

**ZERO EVASION****Fight Against Counterfeiting &  
Smuggling, New Delhi**

AUGUST 2024

  
**MASCRADE 2024**  
MOVEMENT AGAINST SMUGGLED & COUNTERFEIT TRADEBuilding Resilient Economies and Implementing Robust Measures  
from a Global Initiative against Smuggling and Counterfeiting

25-26 September 2024 | The Lalit, New Delhi



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

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