



Theme - Growing Illicit Trade: Destabilising Economic Welfare

18th -19th September 2025 | Hotel Lalit, New Delhi

Programme Outline

18 September 2025	DAY 1
09:30 am-10:30 am	REGISTRATION
10:30 am – 11:30 am	<p><i>INAUGURAL SESSION</i></p> <p>Welcome Address by Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE</p> <p>Special Address by Mr. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs*</p> <p>Keynote Address by Secretary General, World Customs Organization</p> <p>Inaugural Address by Minister, Government of India</p> <p>Release of TARI Study: <i>Towards a Tax Equitable Society</i></p> <p>Concluding Remarks by Ms. Jyoti Vij, Director General, FICCI*</p>
11:30 am – 11:50 am	<p>Highlights of the Study: Towards a Tax Equitable Society</p> <p>Presentation by Mr. Kaushik Dutta, Director, Thought Arbitrage Research Institute (TARI)</p>
11:50 am- 01:15 pm	<p><i>PLENARY SESSION 1: Panel Discussion</i></p> <p>Driving Economic Prosperity: Confronting the Global Challenge of Illicit Trade</p> <p>The session will talk about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-economic impact of illicit trade on both global and Indian economies and the way forward • Exploring how illicit trade undermines tax equity, shifting the burden to compliant taxpayers and eroding public trust in the taxation system • Establishing and enforcing international norms to effectively prevent, detect, and combat illicit trade practices. • Evaluating the economic consequences of illicit trade including losses in government revenue, job loss, threat to public health and safety and broader economic distortions • Identifying regulatory gaps and proposing actionable policy reforms to enhance enforcement, governance, and economic resilience

	<p>Session Chair: Mr. Najib Shah, Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE*</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, WCO • Representative, UNODC • Representative, OECD • Representative, WIPO • Representative, EUIPO • Representative, GITOC • Representative, WTO <p>Q&A</p>
01:15 pm – 02:15 pm	Networking Lunch
02:15 pm - 03:30 pm	<p><i>PLENARY SESSION 2: Panel Discussion</i></p> <p>Innovation at the Forefront: Using Emerging Technology to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling</p> <p>The session will talk about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of advanced technologies such as AI, machine learning, and blockchain to counteract emerging patterns of illicit trade. • Leveraging digital tools to support revenue protection, reduce tax evasion linked to illicit trade, and encourage fair, widespread tax compliance. • Strengthen cybersecurity measures to safeguard institutions from the growing risk of cyber threats and digital exploitation in illicit trade. • Foster collaborative research, monitoring and development to create innovative tools and technologies for tracking products on e-commerce platforms. • Adopt transparency solutions across supply chains to track the flow of goods, ensuring traceability and identifying vulnerable points prone to illicit activities. <p>Keynote Address: Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, ILS, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India*</p> <p>Session Chair – Mr. P K Malhotra, Former Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice, Govt. of India and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE*</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate, Supreme Court of India • Cyber Security Expert • AI Expert • TRACIT • Onspot • Secury • Shriram Veritech Solutions Pvt Limited <p>Q&A</p>
03:30 pm- 03:45 pm	Fireside Chat with Amazon, Seattle
03:45 pm – 05:00 pm	<p><i>PLENARY SESSION 3: Panel Discussion</i></p> <p>Empower, Educate, and Eliminate: A Unified Multilateral Response to Illicit Trade and Tax Evasion</p> <p>The session will talk about:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting strategic alliances across nations to drive unified investigations and coordinated crackdowns on illicit trade Integrating proven international best practices that champion transparency, integrity, and effective policy frameworks to curb illegal trade networks Advancing cross-border cooperation via international treaties, shared protocols, and mutual legal support systems to dismantle illicit operations Fostering a shared global commitment by encouraging tax-compliant societies through transparent and collaborative governance Navigating the complexities of international collaboration by addressing barriers and harnessing opportunities for seamless data and intelligence sharing <p>Keynote Address: Educationist</p> <p>Session Chair: Dr. D P Dash, Former Pr. Director-General, DRI, Former Chairman, Enforcement Committee, World Customs Organisation (WCO) and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE*</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative, DKPTO Representative, Australian High Commission Mr. Gagandeep Singh, CBP, US Embassy* Representative, Embassy of France Representative, Embassy of Belgium/ Italy Representative, UKIPO <p>Q&A</p>
5.00 pm – 5.20 pm	<i>Coffee, Connect and Converse</i>
19 September 2025	Day 2
09:30 am- 10:00 am	Registration
10.00 am – 10.30 am	<p>OPENING SESSION</p> <p><i>Illicit Trade 360°: Shaping New Frontiers in the Fight Against the Global Cost of Crime</i></p> <p>Opening Remarks by Mr. Hem Kumar Pande, Former Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE</p> <p>Fireside Chat with DG, DRI*</p> <p>Moderator: CNBC/ET Now</p>
10.30 am – 11.45 am	<p>PLENARY SESSION 4: Panel Discussion</p> <p><i>Expert Speak: Policy, Strategy & Enforcement — Connecting the Dots on Illicit Trade and Tax Compliance</i></p> <p>The session will talk about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridging policy, enforcement, and strategic gaps to build a unified national approach against illicit trade Discussing how a larger tax base is more effective vis-a-vis high rates of taxes in achieving sustainable revenue Exploring the relationship between tax rates and levels of evasion and compliance Leveraging think tank insights and empirical evidence to inform targeted anti-illicit trade interventions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examining the role of public-private partnerships in strengthening enforcement capacity and preventive strategies <p>Moderated by: CNBC/ ET Now</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Arun Chawla, Director General, Indian Council of Arbitration and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE* Mr. Sanjeev Tripathi, Former Chief, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE* Mr. Rajiva Ranjan Verma, Former Director General, RPF, NCB, Civil Defence, Home Guard & Fire Services, BPR&D and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE* Mr. Suvashis Choudhary, Former Joint Commissioner of Police, Chief Security Commissioner, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE* Smt. Sungita Sharma, Former Special Secretary & Member (Admin), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE* Mr. Hem Kumar Pande, Former Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE*
11.45 am – 1.00 pm	<p>PLENARY SESSION 5: Panel Discussion</p> <p>Disrupting Organized Crime: Enforcement Strategies for a Borderless Threat</p> <p>The session will talk about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examining the scale, complexity, and economic impact of organized crime driven by illicit trade activities. Enhancing the use of data and insights to drive coordinated investigations, enforcement, and disruption strategies. Role of enforcement agencies in detecting and investigating illicit trade activities. Need for cross-border coordination to combat smuggling and mitigating vulnerabilities in supply chains that are susceptible to exploitation by illicit trade networks. Discussing how improved tax compliance can foster nation-building by driving a positive shift in core value system. <p>Moderator: CNBC/ET Now</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative, US Homeland Security Representative, INTERPOL Mr. Balesh Kumar, Member, Appellate Tribunal-SAFEMA, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance* Representative, Directorate of Enforcement* Representative, Delhi Police* Representative, ICG/FIU Representative, BSF Representative, FATF
01:00 pm– 02:00 pm	LUNCH
02.00 pm – 03.00 pm	<p>PLENARY SESSION 6: Panel Discussion</p> <p>Resilience in Action: Industry-Led Solutions to Counter Smuggling and Counterfeiting</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting synergistic collaboration between government bodies and private enterprises to tackle counterfeiting and smuggling more effectively. • Highlighting real-world examples and key takeaways from initiatives that have successfully curbed illicit trade. • Emphasizing the role of tax equity in fostering a level playing field for businesses and supporting economic growth. • Exploring cutting-edge technologies and strategic frameworks for identifying and neutralizing threats in illegal markets. • Evaluating the challenges and opportunities of uniting diverse industries and sectors in the collective fight against illicit trade. <p>Session Chair - Mr. Ravi Capoor, Former Secretary, Ministry of Textiles & CEO, Sansad TV and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE*</p> <p>Speakers: Representative, ITC Ltd.* Representative, Amazon* Representative, HUL*</p>
03:00 pm – 04:30 pm	<p><i>Valedictory Session</i></p> <p>Judicial Power & Policy: Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Combat Illicit Trade</p> <p>Opening Remarks by Justice Manmohan Sarin, Former Lokayukta, NCT of Delhi, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, Judge, High Court of Delhi and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE*</p> <p><i>Keynote address: Judge, Supreme Court of India</i></p> <p><i>Anti-Counterfeiting and Anti-Smuggling Awards & Felicitation Ceremony</i> Enforcement Officers School Children Journalists</p> <p>Concluding Remarks Mr. Anil Sinha, Former Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE*</p>
4.30 pm – 4.45 pm	<i>Coffee, Connect and Converse</i>