



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

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.
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
5.00 pm – 5.20 pm	<i>Coffee, Connect and Converse</i>
19 September 2025	<i>Day 2</i>
09:30 am- 10:00 am	Registration
10.00 am – 10.30 am	<p><i>OPENING SESSION</i></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. Anil Sinha, Former Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE</p> <p>Fireside Chat with Shri Abhai Kumar Srivastav, Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence</p> <p>Moderator</p>
10.30 am – 11.45 am	<i>PLENARY SESSION 4: Panel Discussion</i>

	<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 • Examining the role of public-private partnerships in strengthening enforcement capacity and preventive strategies <p>Speakers</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><i>PLENARY SESSION 5: Panel Discussion</i></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.
01:00 pm– 02:00 pm	LUNCH
02.00 pm – 03.00 pm	<p><i>PLENARY SESSION 6: Panel Discussion</i></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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
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>Keynote address: Judge, Supreme Court of India</p> <p>Anti-Counterfeiting and Anti-Smuggling Awards & Felicitation Ceremony Enforcement Officers School Children Journalists</p> <p>Concluding Remarks Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE</p>
4.30 pm – 4.45 pm	<i>Coffee, Connect and Converse</i>