



Theme- Growing Illicit Trade: Destabilising Economic Welfare

Programme Outline

18 September 2025	DAY 1
09:30 am-10:30 am	REGISTRATION
10:30 am – 11:30 am	<p>INAUGURAL SESSION</p> <p>Welcome Address by Mr. Harsha Vardhan Agarwal, President, FICCI*</p> <p>Theme 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>Video Address by Mr. Gael Grooby, Director, Policy and Standards, World Customs Organization</p> <p>Inaugural Address by Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Law and Justice, 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 – 11:45 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>
11:45 am- 01:00 pm	<p>PLENARY SESSION 1: Panel Discussion</p> <p><i>Driving Economic Prosperity: Confronting the Global Challenge of Illicit Trade</i></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"> • Ms. Claire CASTEL, Head of the Outreach and Knowledge of IP Service, EUIPO • Ms. Pragya Chaturvedi, Legal Counsellor, Building Respect for IP Division, WIPO • Mr. Prem Mahadevan, Senior Analyst, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, GITOC • Mr. Hardeep Batra, Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai and Former Chairman, Counterfeit and Piracy Committee, WCO* <p>Q&A</p>
01:00 pm – 02:00 pm	Networking Lunch
02:00 pm – 02:30 pm	<p>Fire Side Chat with Dr. Ajay Shah, Professor at National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Najib Shah, Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE</p>
02:30 pm - 03:45 pm	<p>PLENARY SESSION 2: Panel Discussion</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. Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & 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"> • Dr. Gulshan Rai, Former National Cyber Security Coordinator & Former DG, CERT-In • Dr. Faruk Kazi, Director, Research Development Cell (RDC), University of Mumbai* • Mr. Rajeev Dimri, Chairman, FICCI Taxation Committee and Partner, Tax, KPMG* • Mr. Rajiv Hiranandani, Executive Director & Co-founder, Onspot Solutions* <p>Q&A</p>
03:45 pm- 04:15 pm	<p>Fireside Chat with Amazon</p> <p>Moderator: ET Now</p>

04:15 pm – 05:30 pm	<p>PLENARY SESSION 3: Panel Discussion</p> <p><i>Empower, Educate, and Eliminate: A Unified Multilateral Response to Illicit Trade and Tax Evasion</i></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>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"> • Mr. Gagandeep Singh, Regional CBP Attache, U.S. Customs and Border Protection • Mr. Esteban Giudici, Senior Policy Advisor, Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) • Mr. Jonas Heirbrant, First Secretary, Embassy of Belgium* • Representative, ICC <p>Q&A</p>
5.30 pm – 5.45 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. Anil Sinha, Former Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE</p> <p>Fireside Chat with Mr. Abhai Kumar Srivastav, Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence</p> <p>Moderator: 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>Moderated by: ET Now</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sanjeev Tripathi, Former Chief, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) 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 • Mr. Rajiva Ranjan Verma, Former Director General, RPF, NCB, Civil Defence, Home Guard & Fire Services, BPR&D 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>Keynote Address: Mr. Rahul Navin, Director of Enforcement, Directorate of Enforcement</p> <p>Moderator: ET Now</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ajay Sahani, Executive Director, Institute for Conflict Management, Delhi • Mr. Balesh Kumar, Member, Appellate Tribunal-SAFEMA, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance* • Mr. Ferhat CAKMAK, Criminal Intelligence Officer, INTERPOL • Ms. Pragya Chaturvedi, Legal Counsellor, Building Respect for IP Division, WIPO
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> <p>The session will talk about:</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. <p>Session Chair - Mr. Ravi Capoor, Former Secretary, Ministry of Textiles & CEO, Sansad TV and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Sharad Tandan, Director, Tobacco Institute of India</p>
03:00 pm – 04:00 pm	<p>Panel Discussion: Judicial Power & Policy: Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Combat Illicit Trade</p> <p>Session Chair -Hon’ble 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>Speakers: Hon’ble Judge, High Court of India Mr. Mohan Kumar Singh, Member (Compliance Management), CBIC</p>
4:00 pm – 05:00 pm	<p>Valedictory Session</p> <p>Opening Address by Mr. Arun Chawla, Director General, Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA), Former Director General, FICCI and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE</p> <p>Introductory Remarks by Hon’ble Mr. 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>Valedictory Address Hon’ble Justice Manmohan, Judge, Supreme Court of India*</p> <p>Anti-Counterfeiting and Anti-Smuggling Awards Enforcement Officers School Children Journalists</p> <p>Word of Thanks by Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE</p>
5:00 pm onwards	<p>Networking and Cultural Segment Musical Performance</p>