

MASCRADE 2023

FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) recently organized the 9th edition of its International Conference: MASCRADE 2023 – Movement Against Smuggled and Counterfeit Trade on 28-29 September 2022 in New Delhi.

Addressing the two-day event, Mr Anurag Thakur, Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, emphasized that the surge in illicit trade is a troubling consequence of globalization which casts a shadow on our progress toward achieving a 5 trillion-dollar economy. "Illicit trade, whether conducted through activities like smuggling, counterfeiting, or tax evasion, exacts a considerable socio-economic toll. It not only hinders our advancement but also drives up expenses, pushing these crucial goals even further from our reach," he added.

Mr Thakur stated that by addressing the nexus between illicit trade, organized crime and terrorism, we not only protect our economy but also contribute to a safer and more peaceful world. "The fight against illicit trade is not just an economic battle; it is a battle for peace, stability, and the future of our world," he highlighted.

Speaking on the various initiatives by the government, Mr Thakur said, "We have been enacting laws that not only align with our international commitments but also exhibit a progressive outlook. However, given the intricate and alarming expansion of illicit trade, it underscores the need for enhanced intergovernmental collaborations and public-private partnerships to formulate a comprehensive strategy," he noted.

Mr Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE, said, "Illicit trade has been seen mostly from the prism of loss to the exchequer. However, it has many more facets that impact our society. This unscrupulous global business has its tentacles reaching far and wide and compromises the safety and security of nations due to their sinister linkages with organized crime networks and terror financing."

"Our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has been underscoring the need to eliminate the root cause for terror funding. A clear mandate from the highest office of the government makes it evident that India is focused in building a global momentum against terror funding by eradicating the streams of finance," he added.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice KV Viswanathan, Judge, Supreme Court of India, during the Valedictory Address said, "One suggestion for policymakers to make counterfeiting less attractive is they should adopt suitable tax measures for genuine products. If you make counterfeiting less attractive in terms of price by having a rational tax structure, it could be a serious disincentive for them to resort to this. We need to ensure that all stakeholders come together to tackle this issue. Judiciary can come in to play a stellar role but it can only be one of the components."

Addressing the inaugural session of the two-day event, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said, "Illicit trade undermines national security, risks legitimate manufacturing, leaks government revenue, jeopardizes public health and safety, and erodes the trust of consumers and investors alike. Tackling this issue is fundamental for safeguarding India's economic

stability, ensuring fair competition and fostering an environment conducive to sustainable growth and ease of doing business. CBIC plays a crucial role in the fight against illicit trade in its entirety,” he added.

Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General, World Customs Organization, said that to combat these threats and smuggling risks, customs administrations need to prioritize risk management and profiling based on timely and accurate information, intelligence exchange and analysis, including advance cargo and passenger information.

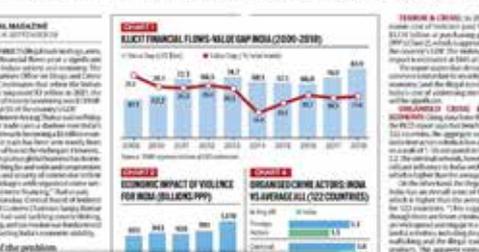
Mr. Anil Sinha, Former Director, CBI and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE said that we need to collectively strategize against the activities of illicit trade. This is the time of action and we must move in this direction,” he added.

'अवैध कारोबार से राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और सरकारी राजस्व को नुकसान'

जयपुर, 27 नवंबर
संविधानसूत्री के संशोधन से देश, भारत अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार में वैश्विक बाजार के रूप में उभर रहा (यूएनडीपी) के मुद्राधिक वर्ष 2021 में अवैध कारोबार और उग्रता संश्लेषित अवैध एवं अवैधकार से रोकथाम होने के जो भारत को 159 अरब डॉलर का नतीजा ला रहा था, जिसे सरकारी प्रकृति से रोकना ज़रूरी है।
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि अवैध व्यापार में शामिल दुकानों के कारण अवैधकारों को भारी नुकसान हो

The threat from illicit trade

A new FICCI report puts the overall score of the illegal economy in India higher than the average of 122 countries. It indicates that various criminal markets have a major impact on India's economic structure



India sees improvement on Global Terrorism Index

A FICCI CASCADE report shows the way ahead to counter the various threats posed by entities engaged in illicit trade



INDIA'S ECONOMIC RISE SHADOWED BY SURGE IN ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS

Illicit trade flows estimated at 20% of total trade in India between 2009 and 2018.

India's rapid progress in strengthening its economic structure and infrastructure has been shadowed by a surge in illicit financial flows. A new report by FICCI CASCADE, titled 'MASGRADE 2023: Tackling Illicit Trade', reveals that the illegal economy in India has grown significantly, posing a major threat to the country's economic growth and stability. The report estimates that illicit trade flows in India reached approximately 19% of GDP in 2018, up from 18% in 2009. This surge is attributed to various factors, including the growth of organized crime, the expansion of the informal economy, and the increasing use of digital technologies for illicit activities. The report also highlights the significant economic impact of violence, which has led to a loss of approximately \$89 billion in GDP between 2009 and 2018. This loss is equivalent to the GDP of a small country like Sri Lanka. The report calls for a multi-pronged approach to tackle the illicit trade problem, including strengthening law enforcement, improving regulatory frameworks, and promoting public-private partnerships. It also emphasizes the need for international cooperation and intelligence sharing to combat the global nature of illicit trade.

वैश्विक आतंकवाद सूचकांक में सुधरी भारत की स्थिति, आतंकी घटनाओं में आई कमी

नई दिल्ली, 27 नवंबर - भारत को वैश्विक आतंकवाद सूचकांक में सुधरी स्थिति में आतंकी घटनाओं में आई कमी। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक भारत में सन् 2019 में 159 अरब डॉलर के अवैध कारोबार से देश को 159 अरब डॉलर का नतीजा ला रहा था, जिसे सरकारी प्रकृति से रोकना ज़रूरी है।
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India sees improvement, scaling of efforts can save \$159 billion to money laundering

NEW DELHI: India has made good progress in strengthening security measures in the past few years but scaling it further would save \$159 billion from laundering through illicit trade, a report said. According to the report, the current level of security measures is insufficient to deter illicit trade, which is estimated to be worth \$159 billion annually. The report calls for a more robust and comprehensive security framework to address the growing threat of illicit trade. It also highlights the need for international cooperation and intelligence sharing to combat the global nature of illicit trade.

'Illicit trade casts shadow on achieving \$5 trn economy': Anurag Thakur, Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports said that the surge in illicit trade is a troubling consequence of globalisation which casts a shadow on our progress toward achieving 5 trillion-dollar economy.

Addressing the 9th edition of FICCI CASCADE's 'MASGRADE 2023', Thakur said that by addressing the nexus between illicit trade and the economy, India can achieve its goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. He emphasized that the surge in illicit trade is a major challenge to the country's economic growth and stability. He called for a multi-pronged approach to tackle the illicit trade problem, including strengthening law enforcement, improving regulatory frameworks, and promoting public-private partnerships. He also emphasized the need for international cooperation and intelligence sharing to combat the global nature of illicit trade.

As illicit trade booms, seizure mount: 3.5 tonnes of gold, 18 crore cigarette sticks and 90 tonnes of heroin caught in FY23

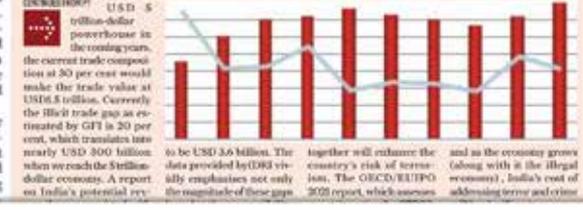
As per a new report from FICCI CASCADE, there are three estimated actors in India, but they are widespread and engage in a variety of activities - such as drug and human trafficking and the illegal trade in wildlife products. Here are the report's key findings.



Illicit trade casts shadow on India's progress towards achieving a \$5 trillion economy, says Anurag Thakur

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India's economic rise shadowed by surge in illicit financial flows



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