

COVID-19 Triggered Economic Distress Sees Sharp Spike in Smuggling of Goods: FICCI CASCADE

FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has appealed to the policy makers that illicit trade should be treated as a national threat. Illicit trade has emerged as one of the most formidable challenges before our nation, especially during the current pandemic which has led to an economic distress.

This comes in the wake of several cases of smuggling of goods such as gold, cigarettes, liquor, which have been reported amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE while congratulating the officers of the enforcement agencies for successful seizures, said, "The perpetrators of illicit trade are always looking at innovative ways to deceive the system to carry out their activities. This deeply harms the economic interests of the nation and the society ends up paying a huge cost. While the recent efforts of enforcement officers are laudable, we cannot afford to let the guard go down. At a time when the country is already dealing with the coronavirus triggered financial stress, it is even more important that the government maintains a strict vigil to ensure that these offenders are kept at bay."

In less than a week, the customs officials had two major seizures of smuggled cigarettes at the New Delhi Railway station where the smugglers were using COVID-19 special trains for ferrying these products. These seizures come on the back of two other major busts of foreign cigarette smuggling rackets, first in Mumbai and second one in Hyderabad. The combined value of the seizures is over Rs 15 crore.

Earlier this month, large seizure of smuggled gold worth Rs 1.5 crore and 15 crore was also made by the Kerala Airport Authority and customs at Thiruvananthapuram Airport respectively.

Not only does smuggling dent the government exchequer, by creating opportunities from tax arbitrage, but also threatens local industries on which livelihoods of many depend. In a recent study by FICCI CASCADE, it was estimated that due to smuggling over 16 lakh jobs were lost in India in 5 industry sectors alone in 2017-18. Besides unemployment and massive financial losses, it also creates large scale destabilization by fomenting crime and funding insurgency and terrorism.

In order to create large-scale awareness of this menace, FICCI CASCADE has been conducting several interactions with government and enforcement agencies across several states in India on the ways and means to mitigate this challenge.

[Industry body, FICCI issued the above Press Statement on 15th July 2020]

Sharp Spike in Smuggling of Gold, Cigarettes & Liquor Amid Covid-19, Warns FICCI Body

FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCAD) said several cases of smuggling of goods such as gold, cigarettes, liquor have been reported amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

* PTI
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कोरोना संकट के बीच बढ़ी सोना, शराब और सिगरेट की तस्करी, FICCI की रिपोर्ट में खुलासा, स्टेशनों पर अटके हैं सीज्ड माल

Edited by Siddharth Royl July 15, 2020

फिक्की की एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक कोरोना संकट के चलते सोना, शराब और सिगरेट की तस्करी बढ़ गई है। फिक्की CASCAD के चेयरमैन अनिल राजपूत का कहना है कि अवैध व्यापार करने वाले हमेशा अपनी गतिविधियों के लिए सिस्टम को धोखा देने के नए-नए तरीके ढूंढ लेते हैं।



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भारतीय वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग महासंघ (फिक्की) के मुताबिक देश में अवैध व्यापार एक बड़ी चुनौती के रूप में उभर रहा है। खासकर कोरोना काल के दौरान बिजनेस ऑफिक संकट पैदा हो रहा है। फिक्की की एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक कोरोना संकट के चलते सोना, शराब और सिगरेट की तस्करी बढ़ गई है।

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फिक्की के मुताबिक अवैध व्यापार से न सिर्फ आर्थिक संकट पैदा हो रहा है बल्कि स्थानीय उद्योगों को भी खतरा है, जिस पर कई लोगों की अजीबो-गरीब निर्भर करती है। राजपूत ने कहा "ऐसे समय में जब देश पहले से ही कोरोना वायरस के चलते वित्तीय उलास से झुझ रहा है, सरकार को अवैध व्यापार करने वालों पर सख्त निगरानी बनाए रखना चाहिए।

Sharp spike in smuggling of goods amid coronavirus pandemic: FICCI CASCAD

PTI | July 15, 2020

New Delhi: Industry chamber FICCI's arm on Wednesday said illicit trade has emerged as one of the most formidable challenges before the nation, especially during the current coronavirus pandemic which has led to an economic distress. FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCAD) said several cases of smuggling of goods such as gold, cigarettes, liquor have been reported amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



"The perpetrators of illicit trade are always looking at innovative ways to deceive the system to carry out their activities. This deeply harms the economic interests of the nation and the society ends up paying a huge cost," FICCI CASCAD Chairman Anil Rajput said in a statement.

Asking policy makers to treat illicit trade as a "national threat", FICCI CASCAD said, "illicit trade has emerged as one of the most formidable challenges before our nation, especially during the current pandemic which has led to an economic distress."

Citing instances of the recent seizures of smuggled cigarettes at New Delhi Railway station, Mumbai and Hyderabad; and gold in Kerala, FICCI CASCAD said, "not only does smuggling dent the government exchequer, by creating opportunities from tax arbitrage, but also threatens local industries on which livelihoods of many depend."

Rajput said while the recent efforts of enforcement officers are laudable, the government cannot afford to let the guard go down.

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Published: 15th July 2020

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Representational image. (PTI Photo) | PTI

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Friday | 17th July, 2020

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