

## Assam Rifles Lauded for Successful Interception of Illicit Cigarettes

FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy, (CASCADE), a dedicated platform for generating awareness on the adverse impact of smuggling and illicit trading, congratulated the Director General of Assam Rifles and the officers for their valuable contribution in anti-smuggling work.

In a commendable effort, the officers of Assam Rifles in the last two months seized smuggled cigarettes worth around Rs. 14 crore along with other illicit items such as drugs, betel nuts etc.

Various battalions of the forces intercepted smugglers transporting the illicit consignments using bikes, cars and trucks while hiding them inside rice sacks, jungle tracks, vegetation and others.

Lauding the brave officers of Assam Rifles, Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairman of FICCI CASCADE said, "Illicit cigarette smuggling is a formidable challenge before our nation that has been draining our government exchequer by creating opportunities from tax arbitrage. It also threatens local industries and their capacity to create livelihoods. Assam Rifles' proactive vigilance in intercepting the movement of smuggled goods is a definitive step towards putting fear in the hearts of those who deal in such trading. Their commendable effort sets forth an example to be keenly studied and followed by other enforcement agencies of the country."

FICCI CASCADE has also requested Secretary, Home, Govt. of India for appropriate intervention to sensitize other paramilitary forces on the gravity of the issue and amplify the need for a greater focus on combating smuggling and smuggling-related crimes at the borders.

Experts believe that the recent increase in smuggling in the North East could be due to the economic distress insinuated by COVID-19. Loss of jobs and lack of income due to recurrent lockdowns have left citizens without a means of livelihood.

Reports suggest that smugglers and insurgents are using people from the local tribal areas to transport smuggled goods by taking advantage of their financial vulnerability caused due to COVID-19.

In order to create large-scale awareness of this menace, FICCI CASCADE has been conducting interactions with government and enforcement agencies across several states in India on the ways to mitigate this challenge. It also appeals to the government to declare smuggling as a national threat that should be addressed with stricter vigilance and reforms.

*[FICCI CASCADE issued this Press Statement on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020]*



NORTHEAST NOW

## Assam Rifles seizes foreign cigarettes in Mizoram

by NE NOW NEWS September 7, 2020

Assam Rifles seized 100 cartons of smuggled foreign cigarettes, valued at Rs 1.30 crore, in Mizoram's border Champhai district, officials said on Monday.

Acting on a tip-off, Assam Rifles personnel raided some houses and makeshift structures at Zokhawthar area in Champhai late on Sunday evening and recovered the cigarettes, smuggled from neighbouring Myanmar, an official said.

"A resident of Aizawl was detained in the operation and the contraband and the detainee were handed over to Custom Preventive Force for further investigations and prosecution, the official added.



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## COVID-19 Impact: Economic Distress Causes Rise In Smuggling In NE Nation

By Odishatv Bureau | Sep 7, 2020

**Guwahati/Kohima:** Industry body FICCI on Sunday said the recent rise in smuggling in the northeastern region can be attributed to economic distress insinuated by Covid-19 pandemic.



Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

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Printed from THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Business Standard

### Economic distress due to Covid-19 causes rise in smuggling in NE: FICCI

Industry body FICCI on Sunday said the recent rise in smuggling in the northeastern region can be attributed to economic distress insinuated by Covid-19 pandemic

IANs | Guwahati/Kohima | September 7, 2020

Industry body FICCI on Sunday said the recent rise in smuggling in the northeastern region can be attributed to economic distress insinuated by Covid-19 pandemic. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) said loss of jobs and lack of income due to recurrent lockdowns have left citizens without a means of livelihood.

"Reports suggest that smugglers and insurgents are using people from the local tribal areas to transport smuggled goods by taking advantage of their financial vulnerability caused due to Covid-19," a FICCI report said.



KTNEWSLIVE

### Recent increase in smuggling in the North East can be due to economic distress insinuated by Covid: FICCI Committee

Sept. 06, 2020

**Guwahati:** FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy, (CASCADE) states that experts believe that the recent rise in smuggling in the North East could be due to the economic distress insinuated by Covid-19.

In a statement the body stated, "Loss of jobs and lack of income due to lockdowns have left citizens without a means of livelihood. Reports



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### Economic distress due to COVID-19 causes smuggling spike in Northeast: FICCI

Industry body FICCI on Sunday said the recent rise in smuggling in the north-eastern region can be attributed to economic distress insinuated by COVID-19 pandemic.

By : Sentinel Digital Desk | 9 Sep 2020

**GUWAHATI/ KOHIMA:** Industry body FICCI on Sunday said the recent rise in smuggling in the north-eastern region can be attributed to economic distress insinuated by COVID-19 pandemic.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) said loss of jobs and lack of income due to recurrent lockdowns have left citizens without a means of livelihood.



### Smuggling rises in north east due to economic distress caused by Covid-19: FICCI

PTI, Guwahati, Sep 06 2020.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on Sunday said the recent rise in smuggling in the northeast can be attributed to economic distress caused by COVID-19 pandemic.



### Rise in smuggling in NE due to eco distress caused by Covid-19: FICCI

**GUWAHATI, Sep 6:** The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) on Sunday said the recent rise in smuggling in the northeast can be attributed to economic distress caused by Covid-19 pandemic.

The FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) lauded the efforts of paramilitary force Assam Rifles and congratulated its Director General along with other officers for their anti-smuggling operations.

"Experts believe that the recent increase in smuggling in the North East could be due to the economic distress insinuated by Covid-19. Loss of jobs and lack of income due to recurrent lockdowns have left citizens without a means of livelihood," FICCI CASCADE said in a statement.

### Rise in smuggling in NE due to eco distress caused by Covid- 19: FICCI

PTI | Sep 6, 2020, 12:12 PM IST



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### Rise in smuggling in NE due to eco distress caused by COVID- 19: FICCI

Various battalions of the paramilitary force intercepted smugglers transporting the illicit consignments using bikes, cars and trucks while hiding them inside rice sacks, and other items, it added. Appealing for stricter vigilance along the border, FICCI CASCADE Chairman Anil Rajput said: "Illicit cigarette smuggling is a formidable challenge before our nation that has been draining our government exchequer by creating opportunities from tax arbitrage.

PTI | Guwahati | Updated: 06-09-2020



### Rise in smuggling in Northeast due to economic distress from Covid-19, says FICCI

Guwahati, September 06, 2020

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THE NEWS SCROLL

06 SEPTEMBER 2020 Last Updated at 11:59 AM | SOURCE: PTI

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