

FICCI CASCADE Launches Anti-Smuggling Day

FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has launched "Anti-Smuggling Day" on 11th February 2022 which represents a major step in the fight against the global menace of smuggling. Anti-Smuggling Day was launched with an objective of enhancing coordination and cooperation between law enforcement agencies, facilitating better exchange of information and experiences, and building a strong network to find innovative solutions to combat the menace of smuggling, FICCI said immediately after the launch event.

"With no country immune to the impact of smuggling and no single sector can be said to be an exception, this day will highlight the mounting hazard of smuggling. It will not only call for attention for creating awareness on this issue, but will also evaluate what more needs to be done at a national and international level in mitigating this challenge."

Mr Balesh Kumar, Member-Investigation, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, while congratulating FICCI CASCADE for taking the initiative to launch Anti-Smuggling Day, said, "Smuggling which is a huge threat to national security, requires all stakeholders including industry to come together to tackle it." Speaking at the Anti-Smuggling Day launch event, organized by FICCI CASCADE, Mr Kumar also stated that the government has always been committed to combating the menace of smuggling and have institutionalized coordination between agencies, which has helped in generating volumes of information that are not only timely but also accurate leading to major seizures.

Quoting a recent seizure, Mr Kumar informed, "As recent as 6th Feb 2022, DRI in Imphal, Manipur effected a seizure of 12.5 kgs of gold coming across from Myanmar and over 46 lakh sticks of cigarettes worth Rs 9.5 crores in one single operation."

Highlighting the several initiatives undertaken by the World Customs Organisation to fight the menace of smuggling, Mr PK Das, Director, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate of the Organisation said, "Smugglers and other criminals who are known to be agile and creative have also profited from the fruits of globalization and technological advances. They are misusing the opportunities presented by technology for their nefarious activities. The customs department has a major role to play in mitigating the challenges posed by illicit trade for the country and the economy."

Speaking on the need for an Anti-Smuggling Day, Mr Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE said, "Despite smuggling being a global menace, due focus and thrust has not been given to this mounting threat which is not only damaging our exchequer and leading to job losses but is also impacting the safety and security of nations worldwide. In this context, it is critical to emphasize and generate global awareness

about the fact that the root cause of illicit trade lies in smuggling.”

“With FICCI CASCADE taking the lead in launching the Anti-Smuggling Day today, I am confident that in the years to come, it will not only raise greater awareness on the issue but will also get to the core of the problem which eventually will minimize the all-round dreadful impact of smuggling and related activities,” he added.

“Anti-Smuggling Day apart from spreading awareness on the ill-effects of smuggling will further enhance cooperation between all enforcement agencies who are tasked to thwart the menace of smuggling,” said Mr Najib Shah, Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE.

The webinar saw a host of notable speakers such as Mr Stefano Betti, Deputy Director-General, Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT), Mr Aniket Singh, DIG and Director (Anti-Smuggling and Narcotics Control), Indian Coast Guard, Mr Amerish Kumar Arya, DIG, Border Security Force and Dr DP Dash, Former Pr. Director-General, DRI, Former Chairman, Enforcement Committee, World Customs Organisation (WCO) and Think Tank Member, FICCI CASCADE took part in the deliberations and extended their support to this initiative.

Speakers echoed on a meaningful, regular, and timely discussion as an essential element to protect the domestic interests of every nation and to defeat this worldwide threat.

As per the estimates of the World Economic Forum, illicit trade has resulted in an annual drain of US\$2.2 trillion (approx. 3 percent of world GDP) in 2020. As per a 2019 study by FICCI CASCADE, large scale smuggling in only 5 key industry sectors resulted in a loss of Rs 1,17,253 crore to the Indian economy and job losses to the tune of 16.36 lakhs. With widespread smuggling of various goods, along with large quantities of the same being seized regularly, by our enforcement agencies, this illegal business will only grow in the years to come, FICCI cautioned in a Press Release announcing the launch of Anti-Smuggling Day.

FICCI ने मनाया एंटी स्मगलिंग डे, कहा- कंज्यूमर्स की भागीदारी के बिना नहीं जीती जा सकती स्मगलिंग से जंग

Anti-smuggling Day: FICCI CASCADE ने 11 फरवरी, 2022 को एंटी स्मगलिंग डे मनाया. इस मौके पर सीबीआईसी ने कहा कि स्मगलिंग राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के लिए एक बड़ा खतरा है.

Anti-smuggling Day: फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन चैम्बर्स ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री (FICCI) की CASCADE ने 11 फरवरी, 2022 को एंटी-स्मगलिंग डे

Launch of Anti-Smuggling Day, 2022 by FICCI CASCADE: Better coordination between enforcement agencies leading to major seizures, says CBIC

Anti-Smuggling Day launch event was organized by FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy).

Smuggling a threat to national security, industry: CBIC

It is critical to emphasise and generate global awareness about the fact that the root cause of illicit trade lies in smuggling, he added.

Smuggling is a huge threat to national security and all stakeholders, including the industry, are required to come together to tackle it, said Mr Najib Shah, Former Chairman, Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on Friday.

During the Anti-Smuggling Day launch event on Friday, organised by FICCI Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE), CBIC member, investigation, Balesh Kumar, said that the government has always been committed to fighting smuggling and has institutionalised coordination between agencies, which has helped in generating volumes of information and has been accurate, leading to major seizures.

Smuggling takes a toll on economy, leads to job loss, poverty: FICCI

“Smuggling directly impacts the economy of the country and leads to unemployment and thereby poverty,” he said.

By Express News Service

BENGALURU: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry's (FICCI) Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has taken a lead to mark the launch of Anti-Smuggling Day on February 11 beginning 2022.

“Anti-Smuggling Day” will represent a major step in the fight against the global menace of smuggling. With no country immune to the impact of smuggling and no single sector can be

'Anti-Smuggling Day' To Strike Better Coordination Between Agencies: FICCI CASCADE

FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) has launched 11 February as the 'Anti-Smuggling Day' in order to strike better coordination between enforcement agencies

Smuggling: The creepy enemy of a self-reliant economy

A 2019 study by the FICCI stated that large-scale smuggling in five key industry sectors alone resulted in a loss of Rs 1,17,253 crore to the Indian economy

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