



FICCI - CASCADE

Seminar on Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling
Tuesday, November 8, 2022 | 1030 – 1300 hrs | Hotel Ramada Plaza, Guindy, Chennai

FICCI-CASCADE organized a seminar on Preventive Strategies to Combat Counterfeiting and Smuggling held on 8 November 2022 at Hotel Ramada Plaza, Guindy, Chennai which was inaugurated by **Thiru. R. SAKKARAPANI, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Tamil Nadu** wherein more than 150 participants including Key Policy and Decision Makers, Consumers Welfare Organisation, NGOs/ Other interest Groups, MDs/CEOs from Industry, Brand Owners and Media participated. The objective of the seminar was to focus on spreading awareness and enabling a dialogue between the stakeholders on the alarming magnitude of illicit trade to exterminate this demon from the society. The event was covered by press/media and TV channels.

Thiru. R. Sakkarapani, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Tamil Nadu was the Chief Guest at the programme. In his inaugural address he suggested that FICCI CASCADE should organize awareness programs in educational institutions and extensively involve the youth in this fight against illicit trade. He further urged FICCI CASCADE to propagate the problem of counterfeiting and smuggling on social media channels, newspapers and other promotional sources in order to make the general public aware of this alarming issue. He informed that the stringent actions by the government and enforcement agencies in the state of Tamil Nadu has reduced smuggling of watches, gold, alcohol and Indian currency, to a considerable extent, but there's a lot that still needs to be done.

Mr. P C Jha, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) while outlining the landscape of illicit trade practices, highlighted that FICCI CASCADE's recent report titled "Illicit Markets: A Threat to Our National Interests" examines the impact of illicit trade in five key industries in India namely Mobile Phones, FMCG-Household and Personal Goods, FMCG-Packaged Foods, Tobacco Products, and Alcoholic Beverages.

Dr. GSK Velu, Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council & CMD, Trivitron / Neuberg Group of Companies in his welcome address said the existence and operation of counterfeiting and smuggling are broad in scope and large in value impacting not only the global economy causing losses to both industry and government, but also adversely affecting consumer health and safety and hugely funding terror activities across the globe.

Mr. Bhupesh Nagarajan, Co-Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council & CMD, Indira Projects in his concluding remarks said that counterfeiting and smuggling is damaging national progress by impacting its financial, social and physical health across the globe. There is vital need for the policy makers, enforcement agencies and industry to be on the front foot, to tackle it.

Mr. Deep Chand, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi, **Mr. G. Ravindranath**, Principal Commissioner, Chennai Customs, **Mr. Mahesh Kumar Agarwal**, Additional Director General of Police, Chennai, **Ms. S. Saroja**, Executive Director - Consumer Advisory and Outreach Vertical, Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG) and **CA. Amrith Lal**, Convenor, FICCI Tamil Nadu Finance & Taxation Panel and Senior Partner, KRT & Co. also spoke on the occasion.

Photo caption (from L to R): **Mr. Bhupesh Nagarajan**, Co-Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council & CMD, Indira Projects, **Dr. GSK Velu**, Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council & CMD, Trivitron / Neuberg Group of Companies, **Thiru. R. Sakkarapani**, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Tamil Nadu, **Mr. P C Jha**, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), **Mr. Deep Chand**, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi.