

The AUTHENTICATION

The Official magazine of Authentication Solution Providers' Association (ASPA) **Times**



Spurious
cotton seeds
menace continues
to haunt India





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- Digital Authentication • Track & Trace



Editor's Corner



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 43rd edition of The Authentication Times.

The growing number of counterfeits in the Agro products sector not only compromises sustainable agriculture but also poses an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment.

With another cotton season round the corner, the sale of spurious BT seeds is noticed in various States in India. Large quantities of spurious seeds have been reported in many states, including Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, etc. Our latest cover story highlights the menace of spurious cotton seeds, which continues to haunt Indian farmers & all stakeholders.

You will also be able to read the short story on food safety on World Food Safety Day (June 7, 2022).

Reading through the pages, you'll find various news of interest. In our counterfeiting alert section, you can read how fake chips become a danger to national security, anti-counterfeiting initiatives by Bahrain Govt, Samsung anti-counterfeiting awareness program.

You'll also be able to read about the latest news from ASPA & other industry bodies, including GS1.

While you enjoy our regular sections and updates, make sure you do not miss the interview of Mr Luv D Shriram, Director, Shriram Veritech and news from ASPA and other member companies.

I hope you will find this issue informative and exciting, and, as always, I look forward to receiving your feedback.

Sincerely,

Chander

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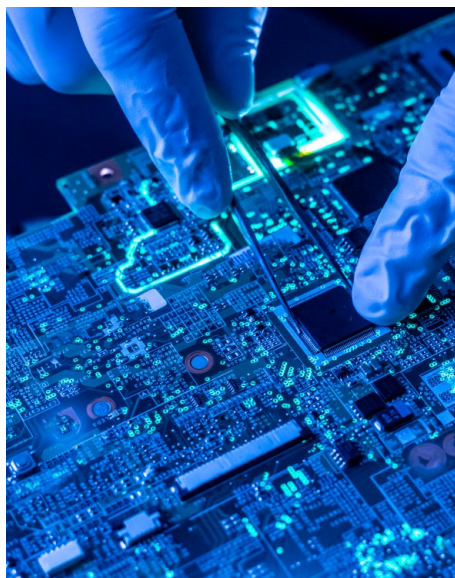
About The Authentication Times

The Authentication Times is the official magazine published by Authentication Solution Providers' Association (ASPA). The publication offers in-depth analysis, news, research, article, and expert opinion on the latest developments on Anti-Counterfeiting, Brand Protection, Serialization and Traceability in and out of India. The editorial team welcomes news, contributions, and comments.

For further information, subscriptions, contributions, and advertisement, please email your submission at vikram@aspaglobal.com or call at +91 7838208944

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Europe, US warn of fake-chip danger to national security, critical systems



Counterfeiters are making the most of the ongoing electronics supply crunch by peddling sham semiconductors to desperate buyers – and it's caught the attention of governments. In a report titled Intellectual Property Crime Threat Assessment 2022, the Europol highlighted the dangers of knockoff semiconductors to critical infrastructure and people's private devices. The fear is that within the planet's complex supply chains, someone under pressure from customers to fulfil orders by any means necessary accepts components that turn out to be fake, and these will end up in equipment. These parts can be readily picked up from online marketplaces, and they look convincing enough.

In a January report about the semiconductor supply chain, the US Department of Homeland Security tied counterfeit components to national security.

Homeland Security said that many counterfeits or used components originating from China, which are branded as new and original products, could be used in aircraft or medical products.

Homeland Security is also awarding contracts to small businesses to develop tools to help check that parts are genuine. The semiconductor industry is considering blockchain technology to track parts and materials to the source.

Source: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/>

Nearly 40 tonnes of counterfeit cigarettes were seized in France

French Customs (Direction générale des douanes et droits indirects), supported by Europol, arrested two suspected members of a criminal gang smuggling cigarettes from Asia to Europe. The suspects were indicted and currently remain in custody.

The investigation, involving several customs services and the assistance of the French network of customs attachés (especially in Dubai), led to the seizure of 40 tonnes of counterfeit cigarettes in the Marseille and Paris regions in March 2022.

The criminal activities were conducted by an international criminal organisation operating from Asia. The organisation shipped counterfeit cigarettes by container from the Caribbean, the Middle East and Africa by impersonating the names of importers.

The commercialisation of these cigarettes in France would have

represented a tax loss of around EUR 15 million. The volume of cigarettes confiscated during this operation represents approximately 10% of the total seizures made by French Customs in 2021.

Source: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/>

Counterfeit products worth over ₹40 crores seized during July 2020 - Sept. 2021 in India: HP

HP India has seized ₹40 crores worth 4,98,000 counterfeit products between July 2020 and September 2021 under its Anti-Counterfeiting and Fraud (ACF) Programme.

Bad actors have already made a marked shift to online trading of counterfeit supplies. According to the company officials, this trend has been further exacerbated by COVID-19, with HP increasing its online de-listings by 19% year-over-year.

In the past year, HP's ACF team has confiscated over 3.5 million fraudulent print products, parts and components, including large numbers of ink and toner cartridges, across Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Americas. In APAC alone, it seized 2.5 million units of counterfeit products.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/>

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- نظام رقابي يهدف إلى تتبع السلع الانتقائية من مرحلة التصنيع وصولاً إلى نقطة الاستهلاك
- يتم وضع طابع رقمي مخصص يحتوي على مميزات ورموز أمنية تهدف إلى منع تداول السلع الانتقائية غير الأصلية

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الهيئة العامة للإيرادات
National Bureau for Revenue

Bahrain launches tax stamps on cigarettes

The National Bureau for Revenue (NBR) in Bahrain has launched its digital tax stamp and traceability system on cigarettes. The system is being introduced in three phases. Phase 1 started in March when the system began receiving electronic requests for tax stamps from manufacturers and importers registered with NBR. In Phase 2, which started in May, all imported cigarettes must carry tax stamps upon arrival at Bahrain customs for clearance. In Phase 3, which will begin in August, all cigarette products available for sale in local markets will be required to carry tax stamps. As advised by NBR on its website, no specific software is needed to access the digital stamp system, as it is an

electronic system that can be used via a web browser, ideally Google Chrome. Manufacturers of cigarette products are required to install the necessary equipment for automatically applying physical tax stamps and printing digital codes and production line camera systems and software for recording and uploading collection and shipping data. In a subsequent phase, NBR will expand the system to include shisha and other tobacco products, such as electronic cigarette consumables.

Source: <https://taxstamptraceabilitynews.com/>

Delhi HC asks Amazon, Meesho and Snapdeal to take down counterfeit products

To curb the sale of counterfeit and imitated products on e-commerce platforms, the Delhi High Court (HC), in its recent order, directed e-commerce players Snapdeal, Meesho and Amazon to take down such products. As per media sources, in a plea, a manufacturer and seller of female hygiene products highlighted the sale of its 'lookalike' and counterfeit products on e-commerce sites affecting her business.

The court stated,

"The sale of such counterfeit or imitated products has become prolific on the internet and needs to be arrested for protecting the owners of the trademarks and the customers who purchase these products."

Besides this, the court instructed the defendant seller to stop manufacturing, selling, advertising, and distributing any products under the complainant's mark or identically similar mark and restrain from using containers and packaging that are a substantial imitation of the complainant's products.

The court warned that stringent actions would be taken against the above-cited e-commerce platforms in case of non-compliance with the orders.

Source: <https://inc42.com/>

Choose right, choose samsung

There is an easy way to be sure about your product.
Our product authenticator facility can help you know more.

SAMSUNG

Samsung launches Anti-Counterfeit Program

Samsung Gulf Electronics has announced the launch of its Anti-Counterfeit Program (ACP) in the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman as part of the organisation's broader ESG initiatives. Customers can now upload photos of the suspected counterfeit unit and receive a swift authenticity confirmation from a Samsung brand protection team. ACP reaffirms the brand's commitment to social and environmental responsibility against the risk of low-quality counterfeit products. These increase the possible cause of severe injuries to the consumer and add pressure on the environment with the significant growth of e-waste.

According to Kiran Tewari, Director of Customer Service, Samsung Gulf Electronics, "he is delighted to be part of such an ambitious program and service offering at Samsung, and now announce ACP next to the Product Verification Service for all consumers wishing to take part in meaningful and impactful acts at the benefit of social and environmental concerns".

Samsung is working hard to combat the brand's counterfeit

products as part of its social responsibility to protect the consumers from their hazardous risks and the environment, incentivising recycling processes for the counterfeit items.

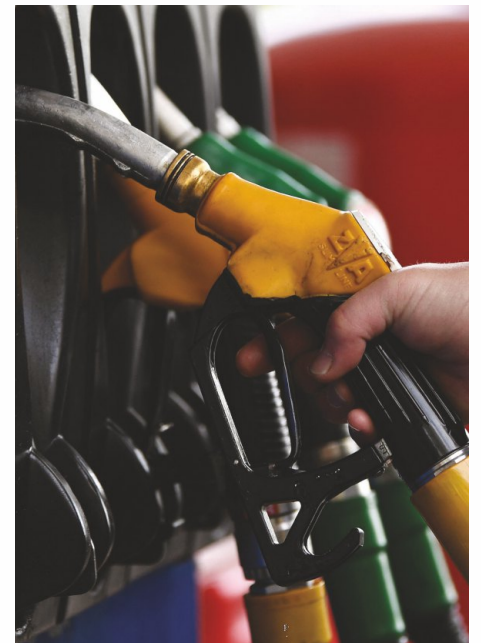
Source: <http://www.tradearabia.com>

European Commission selects Dow's ACCUTRACE™ Plus Fuel Marker as the new EU common fiscal marker to support fuel fraud prevention

The European Commission selected Dow (NYSE: DOW) ACCUTRACE™ Plus Fuel Marker as the new common fiscal marker for tax rebated fuels in the European Union (EU). The decision to adopt a new fiscal marker, also known as Euromarker, aims to provide Member States a safer, more resilient marker to support governments' fuel fraud prevention programs.

"The European Commission's decision to adopt ACCUTRACE™ Plus Fuel Marker as the new Euromarker is a testimony to the value of our technology," said Katja Wodjereck, EMEA

commercial director, Dow Industrial Solutions, and president and general manager for Germany, Austria and Switzerland (D/A/CH). "Fuel fraud is a major global challenge, estimated to cause tax losses of 7 to 10 billion EUR each year in the EU. Dow has been helping to shape fuel marking programs across the globe with our award-winning technology. Our technology is well suited to support the EU government's fuel fraud and theft prevention programs."



The adoption of ACCUTRACE™ Plus Fuel Marker as the new Euromarker follows extensive independent technical and safety assessments of the latest fuel marking technologies conducted by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER). Assessment results demonstrated that ACCUTRACE™ Plus Fuel Marker provides unique resilience to the most common illegal removal techniques, outperforming alternative technologies including the incumbent Euromarker.

Source: dow.com/en-us/brand/accutrace.html.

Spurious cotton seeds menace continues to haunt India

The menace of smuggling banned spurious cotton seeds continues to haunt Indian farmers, even as the police and authorities of the Agriculture Department jointly try to clamp it down. With another cotton season round the corner, the sale of spurious BT seeds is a threat to cotton growers as it causes widespread damage to the crop. Large quantities of spurious seeds have been reported in many States including Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, and others.

In a recent case in Punjab, officials from the Agriculture Department arrested two persons and seized 66 packets of spurious cotton seeds. While the spurious cotton seeds are more prone to pest infestations, the arrested claim that the seeds in question were resistant to pests like pink bollworm and whitefly. The accused have been selling the spurious seeds of BT cotton bollgard II at 1.5 times the official price. The Punjab Agriculture University has approved 111 varieties of cotton seeds which are sold by 31 companies.

The spurious seeds were also blamed for whitefly attack on the cotton crop in 2015. **In 2015 and 2021, nearly 60% crop had been damaged each time, causing immense loss to farmers.**¹

In another incident, the Agriculture Department officials from Telangana busted a spurious racket and arrested two persons. The department seized 15 quintals of spurious cotton BT3 seeds worth Rs 30 lakh (3 million) from the accused.²

It is the lack of coordinated efforts among various States that leads to the increase of spurious and unapproved seeds. Most of these seeds come from Gujarat, Karnataka, AP and Maharashtra.³

One can understand the gravity of this menace, as the State Chief Ministers of Telangana and Karnataka have declared war against spurious seeds sellers and directed the Agriculture Department officials to ensure stringent action against traders of spurious seeds and pesticides.⁴



Recent instances in Telangana⁵

Year	Cases reported	No. of persons involved	Seeds recovered (In Kgs)	Value (In Million)
2019	24	52	4,928	7.13
2020	30	88	53,958	12.67
2021	65	157	5,082	9.65
2022	5	11	1,193	2.32

Last year, there were multiple cases of cotton and chilli producers losing crops due to spurious seeds, in some cases bought at reduced rates from unlicensed sellers. In fiscal 2018-2019, the Directorate ordered the private firms to remove 1,355 tonnes of unregistered seeds from sale in an attempt to prevent the sale of spurious seeds in the marketplace.

The government's latest move comes against a backdrop of seismic change in the Indian agricultural market, with two separate studies in 2014 and 2015 pointing to some 300,000 farmer suicides in the previous two decades that have been blamed by some commentators on the monopolisation of the cotton seed sector by producers of genetically modified BT strains.

While the Ministry of Agriculture announced the introduction of the traceability system in 2019, it could not take off yet at the national level due to various reasons. Only Telangana announced to go live with the seed traceability system with this season⁶, and Jharkhand became the first State to distribute seeds to farmers through the blockchain system.

The Jharkhand system is to measure the progress and implementation of government schemes. As per media sources,

the tracking system will provide transparent information about the seed purchase, seed type, warehouse, details of suppliers, seed supply, stock, selection of godowns, vehicle carrying seeds and weight, among other information. Along with this, an empaneled seed supplier under this system will be able to track the movement of seeds including details of the supply order received, receipt issued by the warehouse, status of supply by various unique identifiers including QR codes.⁷

The intention is to develop a framework along with the national and state governments as well as the industry to develop a traceability system. In this scenario, there is a need to enhance the system with Phygital (physical authentication + digital traceability) approach where digital technologies go hand in hand with physical authentication measures. For industries at high risk of spurious trade, any track and trace system used to control supply chains and identify illicit trade needs to be secured against fraud else it opens itself up to acts of cloning. For instance, track and trace codes can be easily copied passed off as originals. Until and unless we take a strict action, this issue of falsification will continue to exist in some form.

Reference and sources:

1. Cotton season here so are spurious seeds, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/amritsar/cotton-season-here-so-are-spurious-seeds/articleshow/91040628.cms>

2. Spurious seeds racket busted, two arrested, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/spurious-seeds-racket-busted-two-held/article65375937.ece>

3. Spurious seeds add to Telangana farmers cup of woes, <https://www.thehansindia.com/telangana/spurious-seeds-add-to-telangana-farmers-cup-of-woes-692098>

4. CM declare war against spurious seed sellers, <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telangana/2021/may/30/cm-declares-war-against-spurious-seed-sellers-2309394.html>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/cm-asks-agri-universities-to-focus-on-ground-based-research/article65394654.ece>

5. <https://telanganatoday.com>

6. Seeds traceability to be operational from Kharif in Telangana, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/seed-traceability-to-be-operational-from-kharif-in-telangana/article34254101.ece>

7. Jharkhand become the first state in country to distribute seeds to farmers through blockchain system, <https://avenueemail.in/jharkhand-first-state-in-country-to-distribute-seeds-to-farmers-through-blockchain-system/>

Interview



Mr. Luv D Shriram
Director Shriram Veritech
Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Shriram Veritech Solutions Pvt. Ltd., has recently added the Picomaster 100 lithographic laser writer. Manufactured by 4PICO, Netherlands, this writer has the capability to produce amazingly detailed OVDs (Optically Variable Devices), with stunning visual effects such as true 3D images and virtual depth perception. The Authentication Times team got a chance to interact with Mr. Luv D Shriram, Director, Shriram Veritech Solutions about the same, vision and their future expansion plan.

1. What are Shriram Veritech's current activities, competitive strengths, and its driving growth?

Shriram Veritech has been in the business of anti-counterfeiting technologies and solutions since 1992. We produce the products we offer to our customers at a state-of-the-art plant at Greater Noida, which is fully integrated.

We have a wide base of customers both in India and globally catering to most industry segments. We are 1st preference vendors to many of the blue chip Companies all over the world. Veritech has a dynamic team with strong values and we have world class systems and infrastructure to cater to our customers' needs.

We believe in setting industry standards and offering difficult to copy anti-counterfeiting solutions, including the physical and digital aspects of a solution thus providing brand owners with turnkey solutions.

Shriram Veritech is a part of the US\$ 3.0 billion Shriram group. With this legacy and history, our customers place immense trust in us which is required in an industry such as this.

We are continuously adding customers both in India and overseas. We are also expanding the products and solutions basket with our existing customers and both these activities are driving growth at Veritech.

2. What is the objective behind this Investment & what are your expectations? Is this the first machine in India

We have always believed in staying ahead of the curve and hence, we are always on the look out for new technologies. The PicoMaster 100-H is one the latest technologies in the field of OVD origination systems as it is a direct writing system with nano-optics. The idea is to offer unique and even higher security solutions to brand owners with interactive, layered designs which set apart the brand in the marketplace.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first Picomaster system in India sold by 4Pico Netherlands.

3. What is the R&D budget of Shriram Veritech?

While we cannot disclose our R&D budget, it is at the forefront of our endeavours so that we can continuously innovate and offer the latest solutions to our customers.

4. What are your plans for expansion? Where do you think Veritech will be in ten years?

Veritech has been constantly upgrading its manufacturing facility in all aspects, be it production capabilities, security systems, customer service initiatives, or even creating a comfortable and stress-free working environment for its employees. Over the past year, Veritech has added quite a few machines to its infrastructure for manufacturing, automation & quality inspection processes. These systems are always sourced from the top OEMs in the world such as ABG, Valco Melton and 4Pico. Furthermore, we have another couple of machines for embossing / coating that are expected to arrive soon – these will be again the first of their kind in India.

Looking forward, **we aim to continue on this philosophy of constant upgradation and make Veritech the first name one recalls when it comes to brand protection solution providers.** That's what will make Veritech a leader in its true sense.





Avery Dennison fortifies its presence in India by commencing operations of its state - of - the - art manufacturing facility in Greater Noida

Avery Dennison is all set to commence operations in its new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Greater Noida. Through this new facility, the company will consolidate its manufacturing operations in order to better serve customer demands while optimising the

new technology and leveraging the improved efficiencies. A phased transition will take place for the facility and employees based out of Gurgaon plant over a period of time, as per business requirements. However, the corporate office of the company continues to be in Gurgaon. Spread over an area of 12 acres, the new state-of-the-art plant will produce technologically-advanced, pressure-sensitive materials for the labeling and packaging industry and would incorporate best practices available across Avery Dennison globally.

The new facility will be equipped with the latest high speed coating technology and will have state-of-the-art coating and lamination lines, along with high speed slitters and sheeters.

With this key business milestone, Avery Dennison celebrates 25 years of business operations in India. Having a presence in India for over two decades, the company has consistently led the way in transforming the Indian label industry. The company started its first plant operation in Gurgaon in 1997 with a hot melt coating line. Since then, it has expanded its operations across India in major cities like Pune, Bangalore, and Kolkata.

De La Rue report 16.4% growth in Authentication revenue

De La Rue Authentication division reported revenue increase by 16.4% to £90.3m for the FY 22 (FY21: £77.6m) announcing its full years results for the year ended 26 March 2022 (the "period", "FY22" or "full-year"). The Authentication revenue driving the growth from Government Revenue Solutions (GRS) and Brand Protection. The GRS received five additional contracts for the supply of tax stamps and solutions, most recently from Oman Tax Authority. On the Brand Protection side, it reported strong growth with pharmaceutical, information technology and vaping sectors.

According to company annual report, its authentication solutions will continue to grow, particularly as they combine their longstanding expertise in security printing techniques with digital track and trace systems (Certify™ and Traceology® systems). Given the continuing growth in demand for our authentication labels, in September 2021 it announced the expansion of their site in Malta, to create a 29,000m² manufacturing site. The new facility, when completed in 2024, will double their production of these labels.

Source: <https://www.delarue.com/>



SICPA names new campus for Economy of Trust

SICPA has unveiled the name for its new campus in Lausanne – unlimitrust.

Formerly known as Square One, the aim of the new campus, the first of its kind, is to bring together diverse partners promoting the 'Economy of Trust', linking the security of the physical world with its digital counterpart in order to protect goods and people from the vulnerabilities created by today's global digitalised economy and governance.

As such, the new campus will serve as a centre of excellence that will bring together SICPA employees with start-ups, companies, investors, entrepreneurs, academics, and other stakeholders in the field of trust technologies.

According to SICPA, the Economy of Trust worldwide is one in which transactions, interactions and products across the physical and digital worlds are based on protected, unforgeable, and verifiable data. The campus will promote trust at large, encouraging new ideas, new collaborations, and the development of new trust

technologies. The unlimitrust campus will open its doors to the first tenants in the second half of 2022.

Source: www.sicpa.com

Grindwell Norton Limited to acquire PRS Permacel Pvt. Ltd.

The Board of Directors of Grindwell Norton Limited have approved the execution of the Share Purchase Agreement ("SPA") with the existing shareholders of PRS Permacel Private Limited for the acquisition of 100% equity shares

for a consideration of Rs. 1,220 million (subject to closing adjustments). The acquisition will help broadening the product portfolio and alignment with the global business interests. PRS Permacel is engaged in manufacturing and marketing of aesthetic decals, other adhesive tapes etc. in India.

World Food Safety Day

Food Safety, Everyone's Business

World Food Safety Day on 7 June 2022 will draw attention and mobilize action to prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks and improve human health.

In the current scenario, with the pandemic situation, its importance becomes more relevant and needs attention from all the stakeholders. While Government & Business operations must ensure food safety, Agriculture and Food products need to adopt good practices, consumers need to be aware of their rights for having authentic & safe food. While the world needs a new era of smarter food safety, there are various challenges ahead in achieving this. One of them is food fraud.

It has become a major issue around the globe. According to Price Waterhouse Coopers study, food fraud is estimated to cost the global industry USD 30-40 billion a year. Not only is this issue causing an economic headache but it is damaging people's health. Consumers are losing faith in their food as the number of contaminant cases has increased exponentially.

Understanding its seriousness, Interpol, together with Europol, has been conducting operation OPSON since 2011 targeting fake and sub-standard food and beverages. In the latest seizure conducted between December 2019 – June 2020, 77 countries

(including India) took part in this and resulted in more than 27,579 inspections. These checks resulted in 408 criminals and 2980 administrative cases, seizure of 12,000 tonnes of illegal and harmful products with an estimated retail value of about USD 5.8 million. Regarding Intellectual Property Rights, most of the criminal activity is connected with the illicit use of trademarks and protected designations of origin. The level of counterfeiting reported this year is about 8 per cent of the total seizures.

Unfortunately, the situation is no different in India. Recent news reported in the media shows an alarming trends. Last month, in May, Mumbai police have arrested two men from a slum pocket in Sewree for allegedly adulterating tea with a scented chemical powder and supplying it to various retailers in the city. The police also seized 430 kg of adulterated tea. Last year Delhi Police busted a gang operating for the past seven years who were involved in the manufacturing of fake cumin. More than 450 bags each containing 20 Kg of fake cumin were seized by the police. This fake cumin was made of stone dust, semolina, and a grass paste. Consumption of this could cause serious health hazards. This is just one of the many instances across the country but reflects on is the gravity of the situation.

In a recent judgement, The Punjab and Haryana High Court recently disposed of a public interest litigation (PIL) filed seeking a direction to the respondent-authorities to take all effective steps to stop the sale of synthetic/spurious as well as adulterated milk.

In this situation, the question arises that what can be done to combat this issue. In this scenario, we all must work together to take on the critical task of building an

environment for Food Safety Culture. The world and India need a new era of smarter food safety and for that, we all need to team up together to share our responsibility.

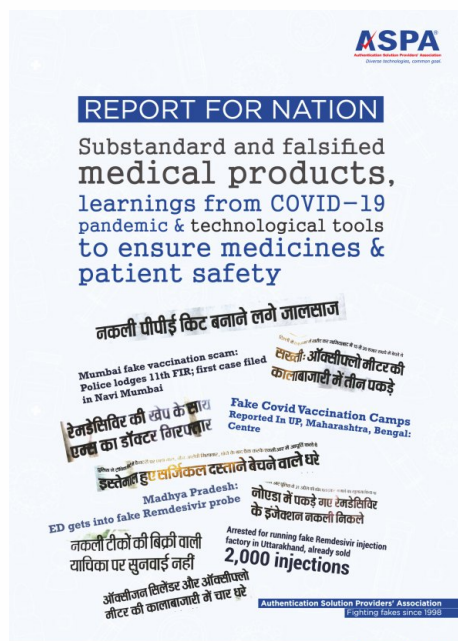
What can we do together?

All stakeholders need to become aware of the role they can play in developing the food safety ecosystem and actively contribute towards it. As a country (India) require more development in current national food laws and an urgent need to adopt an effective traceability system to improve and change within the current food industry and food supply chain. There are various challenges which indeed to be addressed, such as enhancing visibility and transparency for food export products, minimizing the risk of food safety issues such as certifications, agro-terrorism threats, reduction in food wastage, and reducing product recall cost, etc. Developing a strong traceability infrastructure will benefit Indian in many ways. While the regulators, industry, food producers and aggregators are adopting technologies to support this function, a lot of onus falls on the consumer side also, especially in the current scenario. As a consumer of foods and food products, we must keep in mind a few important things with regards to food safety. It could be related to giving close attention to packaging, participating in authentication, information about nutritional facts, and day to day normal habits about food safety.

Determination of food authenticity is a vital part of quality control. After all, authenticity is also a quality criterion and validation for food and food ingredients.

Sources: 1. Fighting \$40bn food fraud to protect food supply, <https://www.pwc.com/in/en/press/160127-fighting-40bn-food-fraud-to-protect-food-supply.html> | 2. Over €100 million worth of fake goods and drinks seized in latest Europol-Interpol operation, <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/over-100-million-worth-of-fake-food-and-drinks-seized-in-latest-europol-interpol-operation> | 3. You Might Be Eating Fake Jeera: Police Discover 20,000 Kg Fake Jeera From A Factory In Delhi, <https://www.indiatimes.com/trending/social-relevance/fake-jeera-cumin-seed-delhi-police-bawana-500809.html> | 4. Food adulteration, Hindustan, September 08, 2017 | 5. Before Christmas & New Year FSSAI Banned 74 Brands of Coconut Oil in Kerala, <https://krishijagran.com/news/before-christmas-new-year-fssai-banned-74-brands-of-coconut-oil-in-kerala/> | 6. 10 states unequipped to ensure food safety: FSSAI, <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/10-states-unequipped-to-ensure-food-safety-fssai-11574708979786.html>

ASPA report highlights trends in pharma crime



The menace of substandard and falsified (SF) medical products is not new.

In its latest report titled Substandard and falsified medical products, learning from Covid-19 pandemic and technological tools to ensure medicines and patient safety, the Authentication Solutions Providers' Association (ASPA) has studied a major counterfeit incident that occurred during the Covid-19 period and its impact in the country.

The report highlights the trends on pharmaceutical crime and incidents of SF medical products during Covid-19 and recommendations to combat it. The report also welcomes the government of India's decision to make QR codes mandatory on

active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).

The study found that fueled by the Covid-19 pandemic, incidents of SF medical products increased by almost 47% from 2020 to 2021. During the peak of Covid-19, incidents of SF medical were observed in 23 out of 29 states and seven union territories, and mostly involved Covid-19 related medical products, such as vaccines, medicines, Covid test kits, antibiotics, face masks and sanitisers.

In India, the incidents of counterfeiting have risen by 20% during January 2018 to December 2020. Globally too, pharmaceutical SF incidents rose 111% over the past ten years, derailing global efforts to fight life-threatening disease and to achieve its sustainability goals.

Source: <https://www.aspaglobal.com/report-for-nation>

ASPA organises brand protection webinar

In collaboration with ASPA, Messe Frankfurt India (MFI) organised a virtual summit, Designing and Implementing Brand Protection Solutions on April 8, 2022. The event featured two interactive Panel discussions along a distinguished and diverse panel of experts including Dr. K. Madan Gopal, Sr. Consultant (Health), Niti Aayog, Mr. D'Arcy

Quinn, Director - Anti-Counterfeiting, CropLife International, Mr. Rajat Wahi, Partner, Deloitte, Mr. Pradeep Pandey, President- Pkg. Dev., Emami Ltd, Mr. Yash Pal Sachar, General Manager - Corporate Affairs, Honda Cars India Ltd, Mr. Soumyanath Mishra, Head- Packaging Development, Mankind Research Centre, Mr. Prashant Kumar Gupta, Country Head Sales, Shriram Veritech Solutions Pvt Ltd, Mr. Nakul Pasricha, President, ASPA, Mr. Manoj Kochar, Vice President, ASPA, Mr. Ashish Vasudeva, Business Development Manager, HP India Pvt Ltd., Mr. Yann ISCHI, Business Development Director, Product and Brand Protection, SICPA SA, Mr. Sumantra Mukherjee- Director - Innovation and Intellectual Property, KPMG India, Mr. Vikrant Rana, Managing Partner, S. S. Rana & Co. and Mr. Lloyd Mathias, leading Business Strategist.

A truly global event, it hosted more than 30+ countries who participated as delegates. The webinar was sponsored by ASPA member companies including Shriram Veritech, Holostik, HP and SICPA. To read post event report, visit.

Source: <https://www.aspaglobal.com/brand-protection-workshops>

ITSA Appoints New Board and Chairman



Juan Carlos Yañez Arenas (left) passes ITSA chairmanship baton to Gerben van Wijk.

Following its 5th Annual General Meeting, held in May 2022 in Malta, during the Tax Stamp & Traceability Forum, the International Tax Stamp Association (ITSA) has appointed three directors to its board. Furthermore, ITSA is pleased to announce the appointment of a new chairman.

The three directors are Marietta Ulrich-Horn of Securikett and Tim Driscoll of Authentix, who have been re-elected by ITSA members to serve an additional term, while Nasser Bakkar of De La Rue joins the board as a new director. Kelly Smith of Ashton Potter, one of the 10 founding members of ITSA, has stepped down as director, a role he has held since 2019.

In addition to these three appointments, Juan Carlos Yañez Arenas, who has been chairman of ITSA since its founding in 2015, has stepped down from this role, and Gerben van Wijk of Luminescence Sun Chemical

Security, who has been on the board since 2018, has been appointed as ITSA's new chairman. Juan Carlos will continue serving on the board as director until the end of his term.

Source: International Tax Stamp Association

GS1 India, AHPI raises concern over healthcare supply chain in India

occasion of the GS1 India silver jubilee celebration.

The main findings of the study are:

- In the current scenario, over 80% of the pharmaceutical and medical devices manufacturers do not have product visibility till point of care.
- Best-in-class pharma companies globally have inventory period of 64 days as compared to Indian counterparts having 98 days, leading to inefficient inventory management and adding to the inventory holding costs, driving the product prices upwards.
- The overall supply chain, logistics, and warehousing costs in India are 15% higher compared to other countries.
- More than 50% of pharma and



GS1 India and Association of Healthcare Providers (India) have conducted a comprehensive study on the healthcare supply chain in India. The findings and recommendations of the study titled Building resilience in India's post covid healthcare supply chain was released by Dr Ashutosh Raghuvanshi, MD and CEO, Fortis Healthcare on

medical devices manufacturers lose 1% of their sales due to expiry and pilferage.

- Nearly 69% of survey respondents (Pharma and Medical Devices Manufacturers) do not have the capability to implement product recall beyond the distributor due to lack of end to end visibility.

Source: GS1India

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