

19 March 2023

INDIA: SMUGGLED GOLD SEIZURE RISES 47% TO 3,502 KG IN 2022

On 19 March, the Deccan Herald also reported that, in the first 2 months of 2023, as much as 916.37 kg of smuggled gold was seized, and that there were as many as 3,982 cases of seizure of gold in 2022 compared to 2,445 in 2021.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/national/smuggled-gold-seizure-rises-47-to-3502-kg-in-2022-1201592.html>

QATAR CHARGES EX-FINANCE MINISTER WITH BRIBERY AND EMBEZZLEMENT

On 19 March, the Mail Online reported that Qatar had announced that its former finance minister faces charges including bribery and embezzlement from his time in the post. Ali Shari al-Emadi was arrested in May 2021 but little detail of the case has been revealed. Once one of Qatar's most powerful officials, al-Emadi also served as chairman of the bank, on the board of Qatar's sovereign wealth fund and as president of the executive board of long-haul carrier Qatar Airways.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-11877947/Qatar-charges-ex-finance-minister-bribery-embezzlement.html>

ARBITRATION AND BLOCKCHAIN, CRYPTOCURRENCY, NFT AND METAVERSE DISPUTES

On 16 March, an article from HFW considers the issue of what arbitration and its supporting ecosystem must do, in order to remain an effective forum for the resolution of such disputes.

<https://www.hfw.com/downloads/004827-HFW-The-arbitrability-of-Web3-disputes-an-effective-court-of-First-World-problems-March-2023.pdf>

UK: SFO SECURES OVER \$7 MILLION FROM CONVICTED BRAZILIAN MONEY LAUNDERER

A news release from the SFO announced that it had recovered over \$7,699,204 from convicted money launderer, Mario Ildeu de Miranda, 71, after its investigation revealed he had channelled criminal proceeds through multiple international bank accounts using several different company names. This is the largest-ever amount seized by the SFO from a single bank account. He was convicted of 37 counts of money laundering in Brazil in 2019 as part of 'Operation *Car Wash*'. In August 2020, the SFO froze a UK bank account that contained over \$7,699,204 following a report that these funds were linked to Miranda, and he remains the subject of 2 ongoing investigations into corruption in Brazil.

<https://www.sfo.gov.uk/2023/03/17/sfo-secures-over-7-million-from-convicted-brazilian-money-lauderer/>

5 TAKEAWAYS FROM UN GLOBAL REPORT ON COCAINE 2023

On 17 March, Insight Crime published an article highlighting 5 takeaways from the recent report - Covid didn't stop cocaine; the increasing purity of cocaine; what happened in Brazil during the lockdown; the rise of African smugglers; and the increased violence in Latin American border communities.

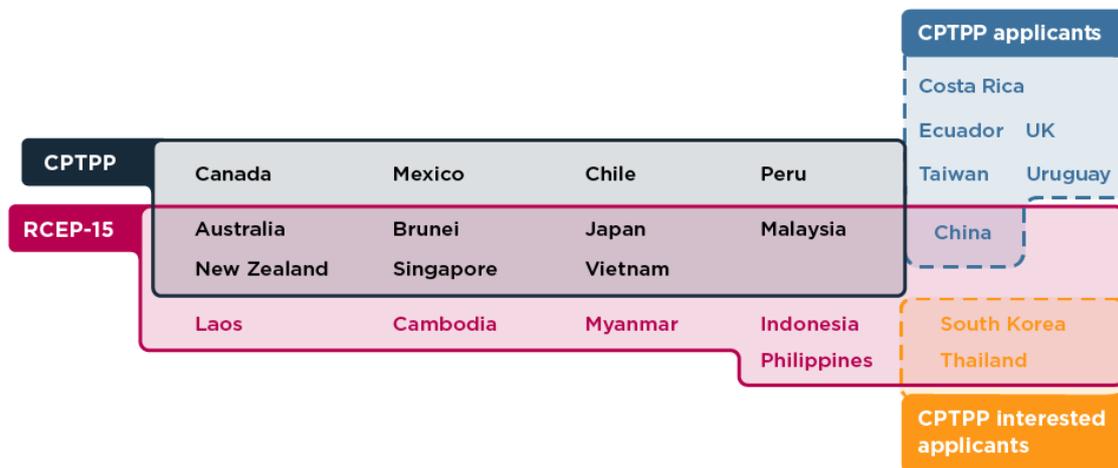
<https://insightcrime.org/news/5-takeaways-from-un-global-report-on-cocaine-2023/>

WHICH COUNTRIES ARE IN THE CPTPP AND RCEP TRADE AGREEMENTS AND WHICH WANT IN?

With the UK wanting to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), this article from the Peterson Institute on 3 March looks at who is already a member of it and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and who would like to be.

Which countries are in the CPTPP and RCEP trade agreements and which want in?

Trade agreement members, applicants, and interested applicants



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CPTPP = Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership
RCEP = Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

Note: CPTPP applicants refer to countries or separate customs territories that have formally submitted letters of application to the government of New Zealand. Interested applicants have publicly expressed interest in joining but have not yet formally applied.

Source: World Bank.

<https://www.piie.com/research/piie-charts/which-countries-are-cptpp-and-rcep-trade-agreements-and-which-want>

5 YEARS INTO THE TRADE WAR, CHINA CONTINUES ITS SLOW DECOUPLING FROM US EXPORTS

On 16 March, an article from the Peterson Institute says that recent trade data is misleading, and US exports to China, which cratered during President Trump's trade war of 2018–19, are continuing to suffer. China is now shifting some purchases of foreign goods away from the US.

<https://www.piie.com/blogs/realtime-economics/five-years-trade-war-china-continues-its-slow-decoupling-us-exports>

NOTTINGHAM FOREST FOOTBALLER RETURNS TO BRAZIL AFTER LOSING £1 MILLION IN CRYPTO SCAM

On 19 March, the Guardian reported that the club allowed their January signing to return to Brazil to deal with the matter, where returns on his significant investment were not paid. He moved to England in November after his contract at Palmeiras in Brazil expired, and has appeared in court in his homeland after trying to regain his money.

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2023/mar/15/nottingham-forests-gustavo-scarpa-in-brazil-after-losing-1m-in-crypto-scam>

MONEYVAL CARRIES OUT AML/CFT EVALUATION VISIT TO MONTENEGRO

On 17 March, the Council of Europe reported that a team of evaluators from the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) carried out an on-site visit to Montenegro from 6 to 17 March. The report is scheduled for discussion and adoption at the plenary meeting of MONEYVAL in December.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/moneyval/-/moneyval-carries-out-evaluation-visit-to-montenegro>

3 FORMER MINISTERS AND A FORMER COMPTROLLER OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ARRESTED AS 40 SEARCHES TAKE PLACE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

On 19 March, La Prensa de Panama reported that they were the former Ministers of the Presidency José Ramón Peralta, of Finance Donald Guerrero, and of Public Works Gonzalo Castillo, as well as the former Comptroller General of the Republic Daniel Omar Caamaño. Other detainees are said to be the former director of the State Sugar Council (CEA) Luis Miguel Piccirilo, the former director of the National Cadastre Claudio Silver Peña and the former directors of Casinos and Gambling Oscar Chalas Guerrero and Julián Omar Fernández.

<https://www.prensa.com/mundo/detienen-a-tres-exministros-dominicanos-en-una-operacion-anticorrupcion/>

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/KoIvM842y>

