Dear Colleagues,

Today the IRS Probationers of the 69th Batch are completing their initial training at NACIN and have been posted to various field formations for their On-the-Job Training. On behalf of the entire CBIC, I would like to convey our best wishes to these young, dynamic officers as they embark on a challenging and fulfilling career ahead. I am sure these Probationers will diligently shoulder their responsibilities as IRS officers at a time when Indian Customs has made a distinct mark in trade facilitation and ease of doing business and when GST implementation is in the stabilization phase.

India had the privilege of hosting the 80th Policy Commission meeting of World Customs Organization (WCO) was held in Mumbai from 3rd to 5th Dec, 2018. Such a meeting was last held in India more than a decade ago. The Hon’ble Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley addressed the delegates via video-conferencing. The Secretary General of WCO along with other top officials of WCO and Customs delegations from more than 30 countries took part in discussions on various matters related to international trade & cooperation between respective Customs administrations. This included the discussion on Strategic Plan (2019-2022) of WCO to carry forward their work on trade facilitation, revenue collection, protection of society and capacity building. There were also discussions on methods to curb the menace of illicit financial flows, including Trade Based Money Laundering. I would like to congratulate Shri Pranab Kumar Das, Member (Customs) and his team as well as the officers and staff of Mumbai Customs Zones for their dedication and commitment in conducting such a major international event so successfully in India.
Indian Customs also held separate bilateral talks with many countries on the margins of the WCO sessions in Mumbai on mutual issues concerning customs. India and Uganda signed Joint Action Plan (JAP) for entering into a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for facilitating trade of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) for two countries. An agreement on Co-operation and Mutual Assistance between Customs administrations of India and Peru was also signed.

As you are aware, the DRI observed its 61st Founding Day on 4th December, 2018. At the function to commemorate the occasion at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi the Hon’ble Union Finance Minister congratulated the officers and staff of the DRI on their continued excellent performance. He exhorted the officers and staff of DRI to maintain the highest standards of integrity and professionalism and endeavour to become a ‘near perfect’ organization. During the function, the first ever DRI Martyr’s Medal was awarded to Late Shri L. D. Arora, Additional Commissioner, who laid down his life in the service of the Nation. DG, DRI and his team deserve all praise for the successful conduct of the Regional Customs Enforcement Meeting (RCEM) on 4th – 5th December, 2018 at New Delhi.

I am also glad to inform another milestone in augmenting Departmental infrastructure! Yesterday I had the privilege of laying the foundation stone for the construction of 256 residential quarters for CBIC officers at GST & Customs Officers Enclave, Dwarka, Delhi. You would be glad to know that on completion of this project, our existing housing facilities in the national capital would be doubled. I convey my sincere accolades to the teams led by the CC, CGST Delhi Zone and DG, HRD for spearheading this landmark project.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(S. Ramesh)

To,
All officers and staff of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.