



एस. रमेश

अध्यक्ष

S. Ramesh

Chairman



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वित्त मंत्रालय
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केन्द्रीय अप्रत्यक्ष कर एवं सीमा शुल्क बोर्ड
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Dear *Colleagues,*

Being the Vice Chair of Asia Pacific region of World Customs Organization (WCO), India hosted WCO Regional Strategic Plan Workshop and Regional Contact Points (RCP) meeting at Jaipur from 13th to 16th November, 2018. Deputy Secretary General of WCO, Mr. Ricardo Trevino represented the Organization in this event. Customs delegates from more than twenty countries were present. I may mention here that this regional workshop assumes greater importance as Asia Pacific region is home to over half the population of the globe.

In the Strategic Plan workshop, discussions were held on the priorities of the Asia Pacific region, which could be included in the overall Strategic Plan of WCO. In the RCP meeting, WCO and other regional bodies briefed about their activities. There were intense discussions on issues like digital Customs, e-Commerce, TFA, Security etc. Member countries drove home the point that levels of efficiency of Customs can be scaled up through enhanced levels of transparency, predictability, simplicity of rules & regulations and by going paperless. The tireless work of Member (Customs) and his team, as well as Chief Commissioner of GST, Jaipur Zone and her team, deserve special appreciation for having conducted this event and engaging the Asia Pacific region Members in a productive conference.

As you are aware, the India International Trade Fair (IITF), 2018 has commenced on 14th November at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi and will

continue till 27th November, 2018. CBIC has put up a GST & Customs Pavilion in IITF, which has six Helpdesks relating to GST, GSTN and Customs to guide and assist taxpayers. General information has been displayed through interesting info-graphics in the Pavilion. Apart from the aforesaid activities, entertainment programmes such as Nukkad Natak, Magic Show, Ventriloquist show, Painting Competition for kids etc. are also being organized on regular basis. The highlight will be Special Interactive Sessions by the officers of the GST Policy Wing and GSTN for addressing queries of taxpayers & other stakeholders.

It gives me immense pride to share that the DRI has scaled up its efforts to contain organized smuggling in border areas in coordination with the Indian Army. In two such concerted efforts, a large cache of explosives, arms, ammunition, and narcotics was seized at the International Border in Jammu & Kashmir. Our special congratulations to Team DRI for their outstanding anti-smuggling efforts.

Secretary (Expenditure) had a review meeting regarding Revised Budget for F.Y. 2018-19, during which it was observed that expenditure by CBIC Budgetary Authorities is below the Monthly expenditure plan- both under Revenue and Capital heads. I urge all the Budgetary Authorities / Heads of the Departments under CBIC to monitor their expenditure to ensure that funds are effectively utilized. I also request all the Heads of the Departments to have closer interaction with local CPWD / NBCC authorities to enable faster and better utilization of funds.

With *best wishes,*

Yours sincerely,

S. Ramesh

(S. Ramesh)

To,

All officers and staff of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs