



एस. रमेश

अध्यक्ष

*S. Ramesh*

Chairman



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

As you are aware, CBIC's commitment towards Trade facilitation has been paramount and our sustained efforts in this direction have helped the country improve its position in the Ease of Doing Business rankings. In this regard, I am delighted to mention that the Hon'ble PM, last Monday, shared his reflections on India's improved rankings and inter alia appreciated the role of Customs officers in trade facilitation. He also stressed that the collective participation of all the stakeholders is a must for accomplishing our goal of reaching within the top 50 ranks by next year. May I urge each and every officer of CBIC to put his/her best foot forward towards realizing this target.

DG, DRI and DG, Customs, Nepal met at Kathmandu on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Indo-Nepal DG level Talks. Both sides discussed measures to increase cooperation along the borders to combat smuggling, improve border management and facilitate trade. Both of them also agreed to establish a Customs Hotline between India and Nepal for effective coordination. This initiative is the first of its kind by Indian Customs with any other Customs administration.

An important responsibility assigned to the CBIC in the area of GST implementation is assessing competence of GST Practitioners, enrolled with Centre or States, by way of conducting their examination in terms of Rule

83(3) of CGST Rules 2017. For this purpose, NACIN has been notified as the Exam Conducting Authority *vide* notification no. 24/2018-Central Tax dated 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. I am pleased to note that NACIN has successfully conducted the first examination of GSTP Practitioners all over India on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2018. This is the first time that an online platform on CBT model (Computer Based Test) has been used to conduct any examination by the Department. The same CBT model will gradually be used in future for conducting other Departmental exams also.

I am glad to inform that a DPC for regular promotion to the grade of Joint Commissioner for the vacancy years 2003-04 to 2006-07 was held in the UPSC on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2018. Officers from the 1993 to 1996 batch have been considered and the order will be issued shortly.

Yesterday I visited the GST & Customs Pavilion in Hall No. 8 at IITF-2018 and interacted with the audience. I am happy to share that GST & Customs pavilion saw a substantial number of visitors. CBIC officials have been conducting interactive sessions on GST and have been engaging the audience in various informative and entertaining activities to make them conversant with the basic indirect taxation system.

With *best wishes,*

Yours sincerely,

*S. Ramesh*  
(S. Ramesh)

To,

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