



भारत सरकार
वित्त मंत्रालय
राजस्व विभाग
केन्द्रीय अप्रत्यक्ष कर एवं सीमा शुल्क बोर्ड
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एस. रमेश

अध्यक्ष

S. Ramesh

Chairman

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Dear *Colleagues,*

CBIC has been in the forefront as far as enhancement in Ease of Doing Business and Trade facilitation is concerned. It is with great satisfaction that I commend JNCH, Nhava Sheva's initiative in this regard. As a measure to further streamline and simplify the working of the Direct Port Delivery scheme, JNCH has launched an on-line application for potential DPD clients. In addition, a web-based application for according priority in assessment and examination of consignments imported by DPD and AEO clients, on the lines of Chennai Customs, has also been launched at JNCH. I congratulate the officers and staff of Mumbai-II Customs Zone for this excellent initiative for trade facilitation!

Automation is a key driver for enhanced efficiency in Customs business processes, consequently, we have prioritized last mile IT connectivity to bring the remote border sites and other non-EDI locations onto the Customs EDI platform. This is also a necessity as after the advent of GST all the validations with GSTN in relation to imports and exports are happening electronically. In this regard, I am happy to share that with the joint efforts of DG Systems teams and the field officers, 18 non EDI sites have been converted to EDI in the recent past. However, some more sites are still pending conversion. I urge the officers concerned to proactively ensure their linkage to EDI at the earliest in coordination with DG Systems. In this context, I also propose to identify September 2018 as "Customs EDI Conversion Month" with the objective of linking all non-EDI sites to EDI by 30th September, 2018. I shall monitor the progress on this front.

A praiseworthy effort of DRI having positive impact on marine ecosystem deserves a special mention. This is regarding the recent spectacular haul of about


8,000 kilograms of prohibited shark fins by the DRI along the western coast of India. While this highlights the professional expertise of our enforcement agencies along the borders, it also draws attention to the Customs presence in Indian waters and importance of coastal patrolling as preventive measure. Our Marine Wings need to consolidate such efforts in this area.

Data analytics has become an indispensable and integral part of modern tax administrations. With the advent of GST and continuing modernization of our Customs, this has assumed far more importance for us than ever before. In this regard, a two-day workshop on topics like block chain technology, deep learning, big data analytics etc. in Tax administration was organized by NACIN this week. This interactive workshop deliberated as to how these technologies can be harnessed for taxpayer facilitation and enhanced tax compliance. While commending officers concerned for this effort, I would urge all zonal Chief Commissioners/Directors General to ensure that the power of data is unleashed for continuous advancements in these areas of indirect tax administration.

This week, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla inspected the Passing out Parade of the Officer Trainees of the 68th Batch of the IRS (C&CE) and took the Guard of Honour. While addressing them, he appreciated our role as sentinels of India's economic frontiers and as the civil service leading the implementation of India's federal GST regime. On this occasion a comprehensive book titled "*History of Indian Customs and Tariff*" was also released. The Officer Trainees of 68th Batch deserve appreciation for this pioneering work covering the evolution of Customs in India from the ancient and medieval era to the contemporary period. I warmly welcome these bright young minds into the department's fold and wish them a rewarding career ahead!

With *best wishes*,

Yours sincerely,


(S. Ramesh)

To,

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