



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,*

This week's newsletter is from the USA, where I have been leading a delegation of officers, including Shri Satya L. Srinivas, Jt. Secy (Customs) and Shri Nikunj Kumar Srivastav, Addl DGFT. We had meetings in Washington, DC with officials from US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), United States Trade Representative (USTR), World Bank and representatives of US Chamber of Commerce, Confederation of Indian Industry and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The meeting with USTR and representatives of US and Indian trade associations was part of continuing dialogue on implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement. The US Trade Associations were appraised about the reforms that have been taken in the sphere of cross border trade in India. We also met Dr Caroline Freund, Director, Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment Global Practice in the World Bank and her team to discuss the cooperation between Indian Customs and World Bank in the area of trade facilitation. We also made an informal presentation in the World Bank on "India's story on implementation of GST".

I would like to specifically allude to our visit to CBP's National Targeting Centre, where they have a dedicated facility for risk profiling of cargo and passengers crossing the borders of United States. We can draw important lessons from their enterprise approach to risk management as well as their adoption of latest technological solutions.

We were also equally impressed with their concept of Centres of Excellence and Expertise (CoEE) - which are industry focussed and entity

oriented Centres within CBP for facilitating legitimate trade. CBP has established ten CoEEs across the country so far. We visited their Centre on Pharmaceuticals, Health and Chemicals in New York. This visit provided some valuable and firm ideas which CBIC would need to carry forward and build upon.

On the home front I have been informed that the Chennai Customs Zone has launched a major initiative on the 'Direct Port Entry' (DPE). I would like other major ports to take similar initiative. I also learn that a delegation of senior officers from CBIC attended the first Regional Cooperation Meeting at Dhaka, Bangladesh from 4th to 6th September, 2018 on Container Control Program organized by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) & WCO. Our officers gave a detailed presentation on "Indian Customs:-Risk Management System and Control of Cargo". This presentation highlighted the strides made by India in Risk Management and enhancing/bolstering enforcement capabilities for making trade through containerized cargo more secure.

I solemnly recall the memory of Late Tarun Kumar Dutta, former Intelligence Officer of DRI, who made the supreme sacrifice this month 12 years ago while engaging with the smugglers. He was instrumental in busting many smuggling syndicates and drug cartels in North East region of India. We salute the brave heart, who is the only officer from Indian Customs to have been decorated with Kirti Chakra and with Presidential Award twice! His illustrious professionalism, I am confident, would inspire all our officers and staff to rededicate themselves to the cause of the nation.

With *best wishes,*

Yours sincerely,

S. Ramesh
(S. Ramesh)

To,

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