



CBIC NEWSLETTER



Serving Nation Serving Taxpayers

January, 2021

From the Desk of the Director General, DGTS, CBIC



The year 2021 ahead is holding many hues of hope. One cannot forget to thank our taxpayers for their contribution which enabled the Government to revive the economy and distributing free Covid-19 vaccines, not only to its citizens but also extending humanity to the countries who cannot afford it.

Thinking back, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) has stood tall and strong throughout the pandemic period, leading a long term structural reforms to ensure Ease-of-Doing Business, leveraging technology to serve taxpayers during Covid-19, facilitating trade routes and faster clearances in medical supplies. The department has played a pivotal role during the lockdown period to ensure uninterrupted supplies across the country.

The department looks forward with the new theme set by WCO on International Customs Day 2021, adopting a people centric approach which will further augment the transformative process of the department's functioning.

DGTS also in its non-stop endurance introduced the first ever digital version of 2021 Calendars for its taxpayers and continues to be even more active on digital platforms for both internal and external communication.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate all the achievers and awardees of the Presidential Award and WCO Certificate of Merit for the year 2021.

This year may hold many new challenges which also offer us a great opportunity to grow, test, and challenge ourselves, too.

With warm wishes

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B.V. Siva Naga Kumari". The signature is written in a cursive style.

B.V. Siva Naga Kumari

DG, DGTS



CBIC Key Initiatives

CBIC GREETES UNION FINANCE MINISTER ON NEW YEAR

1st January, 2021

CBIC Members of the Board greeted the Hon'ble Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman and wished a happy new year 2021 on behalf of CBIC family.



CBIC WISHES MoS FOR FINANCE & CORPORATE AFFAIRS ON NEW YEAR

1st January, 2021

CBIC Members of the Board greeted the Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Singh Thakur on the occasion of New Year. Shri Thakur also greeted senior officials and encouraged the entire team to work with greater zeal towards the goal of PM's Aatma Nirbhar Bharat vision.



REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

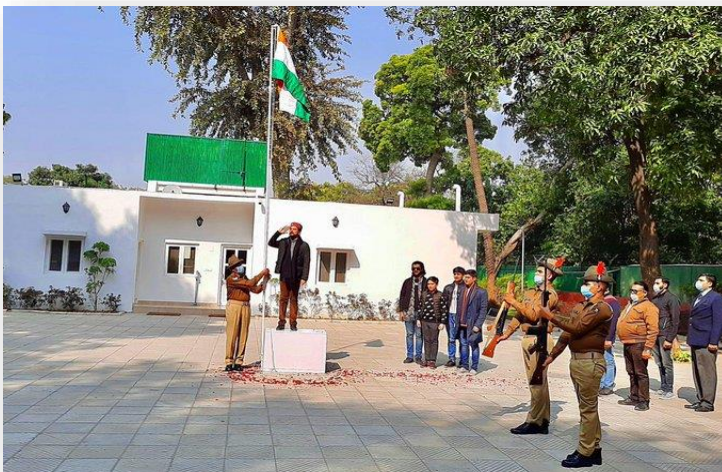
26th January, 2021

The Hon'ble Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman unfurled the National Flag at her residence and celebrated the 72nd Republic Day with her staff.



The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Singh Thakur hoisted the National Flag at his residence and wished for national prosperity.

Shri Thakur tweeted, “लोकतंत्र के महापर्व गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ । आइये, इस 72 वें राष्ट्रीय पर्व भारत भूमि की अनरवत सेवा करने ,हमारी एकता और अखण्डता की रक्षा करने व देश को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने की दिशा में सदैव तत्पर रहने के संकल्प को दोहराएँ।”



CBIC CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY 2021


27th January, 2021


International Customs Day 2021 was celebrated by CBIC in a virtual programme which was attended by field formations/Directorates and senior officers across India. The theme for this year as given by World Customs Organisation (WCO) was “Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience for a sustainable supply chain”.

Smt Sungita Sharma, Member - Admin & Vigilance in her welcome address said that Indian Customs armed with automation and new technologies has adapted to the new mode of working very well and equipped to meet any challenge.



निर्मला सीतारामन
विद्य एवं कारोबार कार्य मंत्री
भारत सरकार




सत्यमेव जयते

Nirmala Sitharaman
Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs
Government of India

Dy. No. 1603584/F.M/FMP/2021
23rd January, 2021


MESSAGE

It is heartening to note that the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is celebrating the International Customs Day.

There has been a paradigm shift in the working of Indian Customs as focus shifted to Ease of Doing Business and Trade Facilitation. Adopting a people centric approach will further augment the transformative process of Customs functioning.

The World Customs Organisation has very aptly chosen the theme for the year “Customs Bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience for a Sustainable Supply Chain.” A secure supply chain is vital to our growth and Indian Customs has been striving hard to lead from the front in ensuring it.

Best wishes to the entire CBIC fraternity on the occasion of International Customs Day.


[Nirmala Sitharaman]

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Shri Sandeep Bhatnagar, Member (Customs) Investigation said that CBIC has taken several steps last year under the umbrella of next generational Turant Customs programme which focusses on Faceless, Contactless and Paperless Customs clearance processes.

Shri Ajay Jain, Member Legal read the message of Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman during the programme.

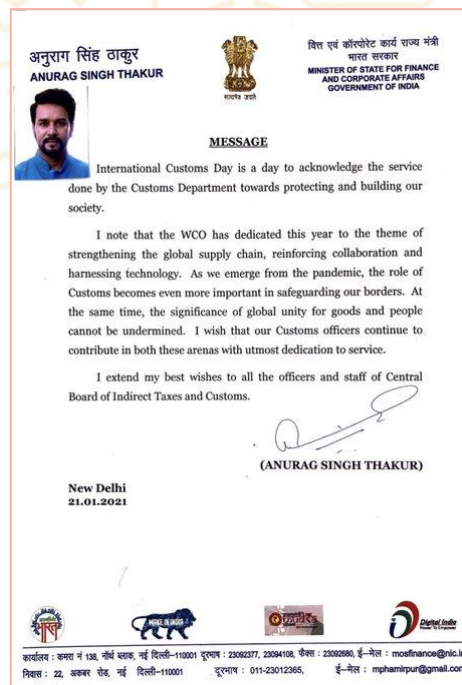
CBIC CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY 2021

27th January, 2021

Cont.

Shri Vivek Johri, Member GST read the message of Hon'ble MoS Finance Shri Anurag Singh Thakur during the programme.

The WCO Certificate of Merit was awarded to 17 officers in recognition of their exceptional service on this occasion. Chairman CBIC, Shri M. Ajit Kumar congratulated the awardees of WCO Certificate of Merit and highlighted recent key initiatives taken by the Customs for enhancing trade facilitation and ensuring Ease-of-Doing Business.



The Chairman lauded the efforts of Customs officers in this pandemic year to ensure hassle free movement of goods especially COVID relief material working 24*7. During lockdown, Customs being an essential service took up the challenge to ensure uninterrupted supplies.

CBIC CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY 2021

27th January, 2021

Cont.



During the programme 12 brochures on Indian Customs released by Hon'ble Finance Minister on 27th January, 2021 were showcased to all the attendees.



WCO has dedicated 2021 to bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience for a sustainable supply chain. Citizens around the globe made drastic changes to

their daily lives to adapt the new reality. Customs are also being called on to rethink the way they operate to strengthen Resilience by focusing on integrity, diversity & inclusiveness.

The WCO encouraged its Members & partners to embrace digital transformation to enable Renewal. The pandemic has shown the importance for Customs to use fully digital clearance of goods & persons, Single Window & technologies to facilitate processes. WCO also encouraged to enhance collaboration to drive the Recovery, to embrace digital transformation to enabling Renewal, and to put “people” at the centre of change for regenerating a Resilient and sustainable supply chain. It is stimulating to note that the expertise of all border agencies & stakeholders will be a decisive factor for the recovery process.

REVIEW MEETING AT KOLKATA

4th January, 2021

The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Singh Thakur reviewed the revenue performance of CGST/Customs Kolkata Zone during his visit to Kolkata on 4th January, 2021. He has expressed satisfaction over revenue growth which has crossed 6.5% for CGST with ₹ 1,737 crore during December, 2020, and 28% for Customs with ₹ 1,774 crore during December, 2020.

The Hon'ble MoS directed to take measures for plugging revenue leakage and at the same time not to delay disbursement of refund. He appreciated trade facilitation measures with neighbouring countries during Covid-19. He said compliance measures should be easier towards Aatma Nirbhar Bharat & Ease-of-Doing Business.

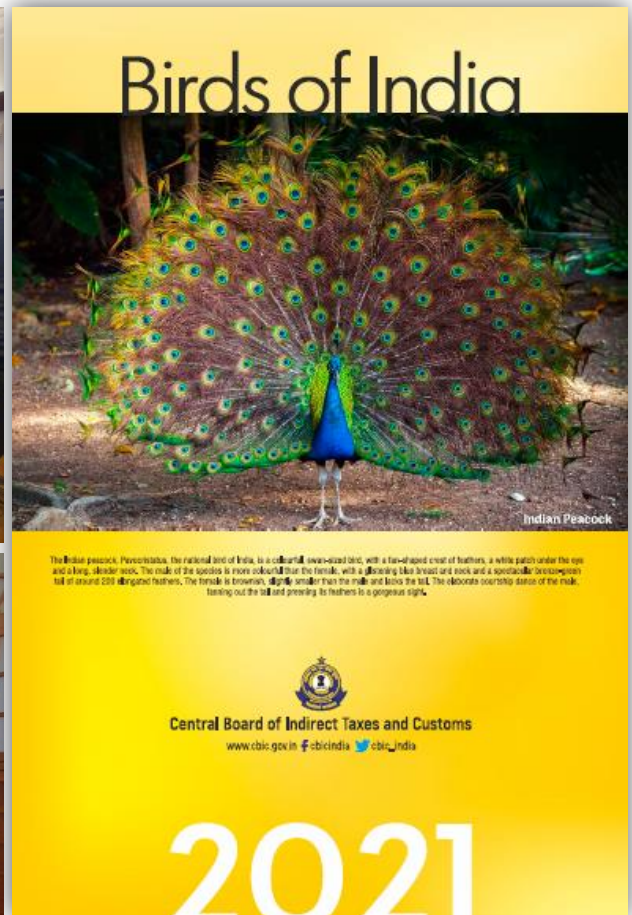


DGTS RELEASES DIGITAL CALENDARS

20th January, 2021

DGTS launched digital version of wall and desk calendars for the year 2021. The same was released by the Members of the Board on 20th January, 2021 in presence of DGTS Director General, Smt B V Siva Naga Kumari and senior officials from the department.

The wall and desk calendars has been designed to cover the diversity of state birds and rich cultural heritage of paintings, respectively.



INAUGURATION OF MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY AT CRCL, NEW DELHI

25th January, 2021

CBIC Chairman Shri M. Ajit Kumar along with Member Customs and Member Admin inaugurated the new Microbiology Laboratory at CRCL, New Delhi on 25th January, 2021. The new laboratory is equipped with latest and requisite facilities for microbiology testing of food samples.



PRIORITY CLEARANCE OF COVID-19 VACCINES TO BANGLADESH, BRAZIL & MOROCCO

22nd & 25th January, 2021

Indian Customs playing its role in ensuring priority clearance for transportation of Covid-19 vaccines bound for Morocco & Brazil, loaded the consignment into aircrafts on 22nd January, 2021 as per international protocol.

On the intervening night of 24th and 25th January, 2021 COVID-19 vaccine consignment to Dhaka was also cleared by Indian Customs from Mumbai.





Webinars & Trade Interactions

AEO FILING DRIVE FOR APPLICANTS

18th – 31st January, 2021

An all India AEO drive was conducted by Customs from 18th January, 2021 till 31st January, 2021 to assist MSMEs & other applicants in AEO application filing process and to process pending applications.

All applicants were requested to approach their jurisdictional AEO cell for clarification, query redressal, and expedite processing of applications.

Ministry of Finance
Government of India

Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Certification for MSMEs
Simplified Criteria for MSMEs AEO Accreditation

- 01 Reduced Customs transactions to 10 only
- 02 Qualifying time-frame for establishing compliance reduced to 2 years
- 03 Processing of MSME AEO T1 & T2 application has been reduced to 15 days (presently 1 month) and 3 months (presently 6 months) respectively
- 04 Filing reduced to 2 & 3 annexures for AEO T1 & T2 applicant respectively

For more details:
<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-chiec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-54-2020-updated.pdf>

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WEBINAR ON COUNTER COVID-19 FOR FRONTLINE OFFICERS

18th – 22nd January, 2021



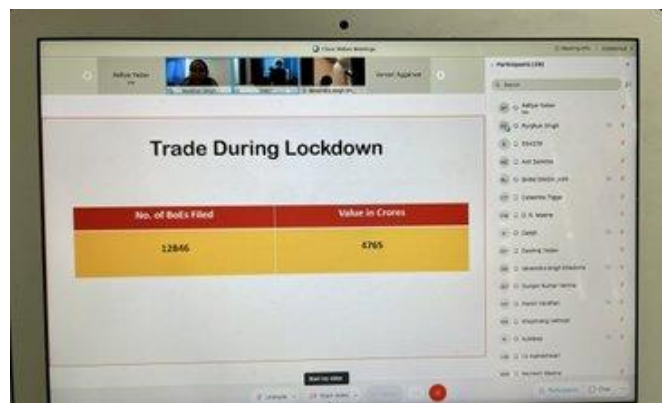
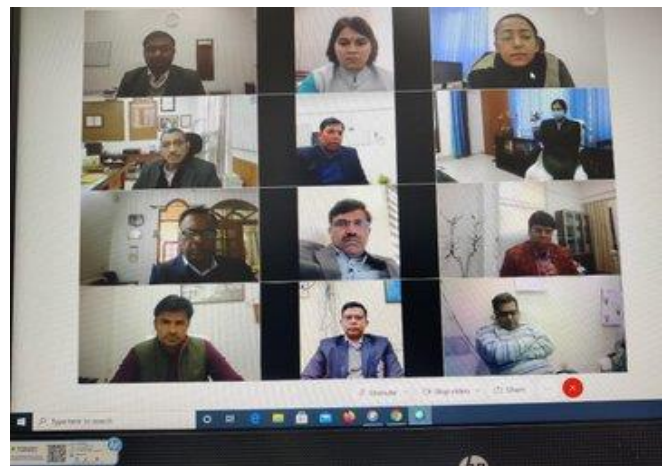
NACIN Faridabad in collaboration with U.S. Department of State and the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) organised a 5-day Webinar on 'Counter Covid-19' for frontline officers of Indian Customs from 18th till 22nd January, 2021.

WEBINAR ON TRADE FACILITATION MEASURES BY ICD TKD

27th January, 2021

ICD TKD Import & Export Commissionerate organised a webinar on Trade Facilitation Measures as part of International Customs Day celebrations. The webinar was attended by Customs Broker Association, CONCOR India representatives, importers and all officers of the Commissionerate.

During the webinar, presentations were given by Smt Runjhun, JC, TKDI and Shri Utkarsha, DC, TKDE highlighting the trade facilitation measures of Indian Customs. Shri M K Singh, Principal Commissioner, TKDI/TKDE said that 'we are committed to efficient and faster clearance'.



SESSION ON GST PRIME ANALYTICS TOOL IN BENGALURU

18th January, 2021

A brainstorming session on GST Prime analytics tool was jointly conducted by the State GST and Central GST authorities along with NIC, Karnataka on 18th January, 2021 at CCT office, Bengaluru.





Zonal Updates

DISPOSAL OF EXPIRED CONSIGNMENT BY LUDHIANA CUSTOMS

7th January, 2021

On 7th January, 2021 Ludhiana Customs in association with CFS OWPL, Ludhiana destroyed 2,669 packages of longstanding import consignment of expired soft drinks lying at shed by following the laid out procedure.



DISPOSAL OF NARCOTIC DRUG BY LUCKNOW CUSTOMS

7th & 8th January, 2021

Narcotic Drugs weighing 11.54 MT valued at ₹ 12.75 crore has been disposed off by way of incineration on 7th and 8th January, 2021 by Customs (P) Commissionerate Lucknow.

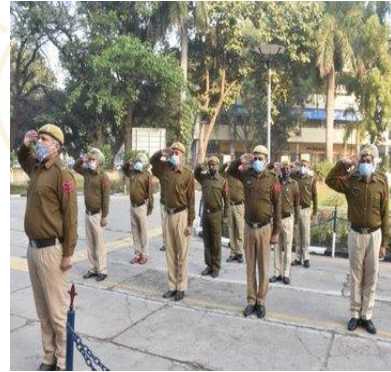


REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS AT CBIC ZONAL FORMATIONS

26th January, 2021

CBIC and all its zonal formations celebrated the 72nd Republic Day with great enthusiasm and fervour, in their respective offices maintaining social distancing guidelines. The National Flag was unfurled by Principal Chief Commissioner/Chief Commissioner of the respective zonal formations and appreciated the commendable performance of the Officers while addressing them on the occasion.

A few Glimpse of 72nd Republic Day Celebrations



INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY CELEBRATIONS AT CBIC ZONAL OFFICES

27th January, 2021

The International Customs Day (ICD) is celebrated worldwide by every year to commemorate the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council held in Brussels on 26th January, 1953. CBIC zonal offices on 27th January, 2021 also observed the International Customs Day, 2021 dedicated on the theme for this year as given by World Customs Organisation (WCO) as 'Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience for a sustainable supply chain'. A few glimpses from the zonal offices are showcased as below.

Patna Customs (Preventive) Zone

on 27th January, 2021 International Customs Day was celebrated by Customs (P) Zone, Patna. Shri Nishith Goyal, Chief Commissioner delivered a brief on the theme of International Customs Day 'Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience for a sustainable supply chain'.



INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY CELEBRATIONS AT CBIC ZONAL OFFICES

Cont.

27th January, 2021

Customs Jodhpur

Rajasthan Customs Celebrated International Customs Day with full compliance with COVID Guidelines. Officials were recognized for their contribution on this occasion.



Customs Cochin

International Customs Day was jointly celebrated by the Custom House, Cochin and Customs Preventive Commissionerate, Cochin at Custom House, Cochin. Chief Guest Shri Shyam Raj Prasad, Chief Commissioner along with the Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Cochin and Commissioner of Customs, Cochin jointly felicitated the top Importers, Exporters, Customs Brokers and concerned Stakeholders for their collective responsibility in smooth and effective implementation of Turant Customs.



INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY CELEBRATIONS AT CBIC ZONAL OFFICES

Cont.

27th January, 2021

CGST Panchkula Zone

On the occasion of International Customs Day, Shri Suresh Kishnani, Chief Commissioner, CGST Panchkula Zone felt humbled & honored to deliver the Chairman's Letter of Appreciation to 16 retired senior officers of CBIC residing in Panchkula and Gurugram.



Customs Vizag

Vizag Customs and CPC, Vijayawada combinedly celebrated International Customs Day 2021 in virtual mode. Shri Naresh Penumaka, Zonal Chief Commissioner; Dr D K Srinivas, Principal Commissioner and Dr K V R Reddy, Commissioner along with Officers & Staff, Stake holders from the trade & industry participated in this event.



INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY CELEBRATIONS AT CBIC ZONAL OFFICES

Cont.

27th January, 2021

Mumbai Customs

Officers across all Customs Zones participated in International Customs Day Celebration on virtual platform. The extreme dedication and hard work shown by Customs fraternity during challenging times of COVID-19 pandemic was recognized on the occasion by felicitating the Officers.



Noida Customs Commissionerate

International Customs Day Celebrations was carried out at Noida Customs in presence of Chief Commissioner, Meerut Zone as chief guest and Principal Commissioner, CGST Noida along with members from the trade and industry.

Bengaluru Customs

Bengaluru Customs celebrated International Customs Day 2021 and rededicated for 'Bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience for sustainable supply chain'. Shri M Srinivas, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Bengaluru Zone narrated initiatives of CBIC and Bengaluru Customs Zone towards Ease-of-doing business and facilitations. Chief Guest Shri D P Nagendra Kumar, Principal Chief Commissioner, CGST lauded the efforts of Bengaluru Customs Zone.

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY CELEBRATIONS AT CBIC ZONAL OFFICES

Cont.

27th January, 2021

CGST & Customs Pune Zone

International Customs Day was celebrated CGST Pune Zone on 27th January, 2021. Senior/retired officers, staff of the Zone, and trade representatives graced the occasion.



Hyderabad Customs

Hyderabad Customs celebrated the International Customs Day in the presence of Her Excellency Hon'ble Governor of Telangana Dr (Smt) Tamilisai Soundararajan.



INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY CELEBRATIONS AT CBIC ZONAL OFFICES

Cont.

27th January, 2021

Trichy Customs (Preventive) Zone

International Customs Day was celebrated today by the Trichy Customs (P) Zone. Shri Dr Uma Shanker, Chief Commissioner of Customs (P) Trichy graced the occasion.



Kolkata Customs

Kolkata Customs Zone celebrated International Customs Day at Custom House, Kolkata on 27th January, 2021. The theme for International Customs Day 2021 is “Customs bolstering Recovery, Renewal and Resilience for a sustainable supply chain”.



SEA VIGIL 2021 EXERCISE

12-13th January, 2021

The Officers of Customs (Preventive), Cochin actively participated in the Coastal Defence Exercise “Sea Vigil-2021” conducted from 12th to 13th January, 2021 by Indian Navy.





GST Evasions & Seizures

GST EVASION CASE UNCOVERED BY CGST DELHI

18th January, 2021

In the ongoing drive against availing of inadmissible ITC, officers of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Commissionerate, Delhi East unearthed a multi-layered network of fictitious firms being used to generate and pass on fake ITC.

Through the use of extensive data analytics, officers identified and searched 21 premises between 15th to 17th January, 2021, leading to the unraveling of a network of fake firms that were operating since 2017 to pass on fake ITC.

The network of fake firms was being operated by Shri Arvind Kumar, who used to pass fake ITC for a commission of 4 to 4.5% of the invoice amount. Investigation conducted so far has revealed 46 firms to be fictitious which were being controlled by Shri Arvind Kumar and his associates. These firms had no business activity and had been created solely for the purpose of passing on fake ITC. The total fake ITC quantified so far is ₹ 82.23 crore generated out of the fake billing of ₹ 541.13 crore which is expected to increase as the investigation progresses.

Shri Arvind Kumar was arrested under Section 69(1) of the CGST Act, 2017 and produced on 17th January, 2021 before the Duty Magistrate, who remanded him to judicial custody of 14 days till 31st January, 2021. Further investigation in the case is under progress.

It is pertinent to mention here that since the inception of GST Central Tax, Delhi Zone has made 19 arrests in various cases involving GST evasion amounting of more than ₹ 3766.69 crore.

CGST MEERUT UNEARTHED GST EVASION OF ₹ 25 CRORE

15th January, 2021

On the basis of initiative taken by the Chief Commissioner, Meerut Zone, Business Intelligence & Fraud Analytics cell analysed suspected firms. On further investigation CGST Meerut unearthed a case of issuance of fake GST invoices without actual supply of goods and passing on the said fraudulent ITC to the other existing firms after circulation of invoices through a chain of non-existent fake firms. These firms were operated by two brothers Shri Anshul Agarwal & Shri Archit Agarwal based in Moradabad. Prima facie investigation has revealed issuance of GST invoices from these fake firms involving fraudulent ITC of approximately ₹ 25 crore, which may go up further in the ongoing investigation.

During the search conducted at 13 premises of Moradabad, Haryana, Delhi and Punjab, various incriminating records, cash of ₹ 14.99 lakh, accounts maintained in software, cheque books etc. of more than 15 such non-existent firms have been recovered.

The offence committed by the accused due brothers is covered under Section 132(1)(b)&(c) of the CGST Act 2017, falling in the category of cognizable and non-bailable offence under Section 132(5) and the same is punishable under Section 132(1)(i) of the said Act. Accordingly, the above two accused were arrested under Section 69 of the CGST Act, 2017 on 15th January, 2021 and produced before the Economic Offences Court at Meerut. They have been sent to jail on judicial custody for 14 days till 28th January, 2021 by the order of the Special CJM, Meerut.



SEIZURES BY DELHI CUSTOMS (1/4)

In January, Delhi Customs made a significant number of narcotics seizures of 13.42 kg, Gold/Foreign goods worth ₹ 1.46 crore, and 60 kg of Saffron. The seizures are listed as below.

On the basis of suspicion, two Ugandan nationals coming from Entebbe via Doha by flight no. QR578 were intercepted by air customs officers at IGI Airport here on 24th January, 2021. During search of the checked in bags of the two passengers, total 51 pouches containing (approx.) 9.8 kg of white powdery substance, suspected to be narcotics was recovered. When this material was subjected to diagnostic test, prima facie it appears to contain commercial quantity of Heroin, valued at (approx.) ₹ 68 crore.

In view of the above, it is clear that the said passengers had violated provisions of section 8 of the NDPS act, 1985 and had committed offence punishable under section 21, section 23 and section 29 of NDPS act 1985 read along with provisions of the Customs Act, 1962. It is one of the biggest detection of Heroin/narcotics at any international airport in the country. Further investigation in the matter is under process.

Acting on specific intelligence, Delhi (C) Preventive intercepted a parcel at NCT, IGIA on 24th January, 2021. 510 gm Heroin worth ₹ 3.5 crore was found concealed in cavities of skipping ropes. Two separate arrests have been made and sent to 14 days Judicial Custody under NDPS Act. Further investigation is in progress.





SEIZURES BY DELHI CUSTOMS (2/4)

On 15th January, 2021 acting on specific intelligence, officers of Customs (P) Delhi intercepted multiple Consignments of foreign origin smuggled cigarettes of Premium Brands e.g. Gudang Garam, Esse Lights etc. Such interceptions were made at Arrival Shed, Domestic Cargo Terminal, IGIA and at various locations in Gurugram. Total seizure was about 7.27 lakh sticks of foreign origin smuggled cigarettes of Premium Brands amounting to appx. ₹ 1.5 crore. Valuation and further investigation in this matter is under progress.



On 15th January, 2021 Officers of Customs (Preventive) Delhi intercepted two Containers at ICD Garhi Harsaru, ICD PPG. Upon detailed search, four large Diesel generator sets, 9,900 kids camcorder, 2 Network equipment, 8 Led Smart Mirror, 48 Premium Wooden Doors, Printer, Shower head, Ceiling Fan, Carpet, Luxury Bed among other multiple items were found instead of declared very low value Door frames for Oven and Door sets for Ovens. Further investigation is in progress.





SEIZURES BY DELHI CUSTOMS (3/4)

On 15th January, 2021 ACC Export at Foreign Post Office, New Delhi seized 965 gm of MDMA from 1 parcel destined for New Zealand. MDMA was concealed in the cavity of 35 skipping ropes handle.

Delhi Airport Customs intercepted a female Indian passenger who had arrived by flight no. AI1928 from Dubai on 14th January, 2021 and on interrogation the passenger admitted to have left seven Gold bars weighing 816 gm of worth ₹ 36.80 lakh on her seat in the aircraft. The said Gold was recovered and seized. The passenger has been arrested u/s 104 of Customs Act, 1962 and further investigation is in progress.

On 12th January, 2021 Customs officers of ACC Export Commissionerate at FPO New Delhi, seized 6770 tablets of Tramadol 100 mg which were destined for USA. Drugs were declared and packed as diary and gifts.



Delhi Airport Customs intercepted an Indian passenger who had arrived by flight no. SG137 from Dubai on 10th January, 2021 and seized 520 gm Gold valued at ₹ 23.35 lakh concealed in form of paste. The passenger was arrested u/s 104 of Customs Act, 1962.

On 9th January, 2021 Customs officers of ACC Export Commissionerate at FPO New Delhi, seized 1250 gm of Opium & 60 gm of Pseudoephedrine from parcels destined for Australia & USA. The drugs were declared as ayurvedic medicines. A second parcel was seized with 200 gm of MDMA destined for Australia which was ingeniously concealed in the skipping ropes handles & sealed to perfection.



SEIZURES BY DELHI CUSTOMS (4/4)

On 8th January, 2021 Delhi Airport Customs intercepted an Indian passenger who had arrived from Jeddah by flight no. SG9558 and seized 1133 gm Gold jewellery, Apple iPad & iWatch, valued at ₹ 47.21 lakh. The passenger admitted of previous smuggling of 232 gm Gold valued at ₹ 10.48 lakh and was arrested u/s 104 of Customs Act.

On 7th January, 2021 Delhi Airport Customs intercepted an Indian Pax passenger who had arrived from Jeddah and seized 497 gm Gold valued at ₹ 22.46 lakh. On follow-up investigation it led to total three arrests, including the receiver and a second passenger so far u/s 104 of Customs Act.

On 5th January, 2021 Delhi Airport Customs intercepted two Afghan passengers and seized 60 kg Saffron valued at ₹ 15 lakh. The passenger admitted having smuggled Saffron and Commercial items valued at ₹ 45.25 lakh in his earlier visits. Both the passengers have been arrested u/s 104 of Customs Act and further investigation is in progress.



On 3rd January, 2021 Delhi Airport Customs intercepted one Afghan passenger and seized 635.5 gm of white powdery substance prima facie appearing to be heroin valued at ₹ 4.5 crore; which was concealed in abdomen in form of 89 plastic pellets. The passenger has been arrested under NDPS Act.

Delhi Airport Customs intercepted an Indian passenger on 2nd January, 2021 arriving from Dubai by flight no. IX1142 and seized 16 iPhones & one MacBook Air valued at ₹ 17.04 lakh. The passenger admitted of previous smuggling of ₹ 20.05 lakh and has been placed under arrest.



SEIZURES BY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ZONE (1/6)

In the month of January, 2021 the Customs formations under Thiruvananthapuram Zone, have made a record seizure of 116.50 kg (approx.) of Gold valued around ₹ 53 crore, which led to arrest of 91 persons, with the excellent and dedicated efforts & detection of the officers of this Zone. The seized Gold was found concealed in the shape of seeds inside dates and chocolates, cylinders inside door closures, as plates in the emergency lamp, as Gold thin sheets inside laptops, metal strap of trolley bag of passengers, as Gold sheets of coffee/tea mugs, screws of a trolley bag, inside the motor of mixer grinder, thin Gold plates inside a toy car, in person of the passengers in rectum in the form of capsules, body concealment, etc. This Zone has also made a seizure of 400 gm of Silver Granules, Foreign Currency worth ₹ 32 lakh and 16 Mavic Air-2 Drones. In addition to this, Foreign Currency of different nations equivalent to ₹ 1.28 crore and Indian Currency ₹ 44.56 lakh, was detained and further investigation is in progress. **The seizures are listed as below.**

Seizure of 2.6 kg Gold concealed as cylinders inside Door closers, from two passengers who arrived from Jeddah in Indigo flight 6E 8906, at Calicut Airport on 1st January, 2021.



Seizure of Gold compound weighing 90 gm approx., concealed inside dates and chocolates in the shape of seeds, on 2nd January, 2021 from a passenger who arrived from Dubai in Indigo flight 6E89, by Calicut AIU Batch C.



SEIZURES BY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ZONE (2/6)

CPD Calicut has made a seizure of 400 gm of Silver granules from a passenger who arrived from Sharjah in Air Arabia flight G9454 on 5th January, 2021. The same were extracted from 725 gm of paste like material found in 4 capsule shaped packets concealed inside the rectum of the passenger.



Seizure of 1134 gm of 24k Gold worth approx. 59 lakh at Calicut Airport on 6th January, 2021 from 4 passengers who arrived from Sharjah in Air Arabia flight G9454. The Gold was concealed as coins inside check-in baggage of the passengers.

Seizure of 129 gm of 24K Gold (3 small plates) on 7th January, 2021 by AIU Batch A at Calicut Airport from a passenger who arrived from Dubai in flight IX1346. Gold plates were concealed inside the battery of a LED emergency light.



Seizure of 24k purity Gold in the form of thin sheets concealed in a Laptop from two passengers who arrived from Dubai in Spice Jet flight SG141, by Calicut AIU officers on 7th January, 2021.



SEIZURES BY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ZONE (3/6)

Excellent detection and seizure of three Gold sheets weighing 65 gm concealed in mugs, by officers of ACC, Cochin on 8th January, 2021.



Seizure of 1798 gm of Gold from two passengers who arrived from Dubai flight IX1744, by AIU Kannur, on 11th January, 2021. The Gold was concealed as Gold chains and Gold wires inside the metal straps of their bags.

Detection of outright smuggling of Gold in the form of compound concealed in 4 capsules in rectum from a passenger who arrived on 12th January, 2021. The said compound in concealed form weighed 1069 gm and on extraction recovered 973 gm of Gold valued at ₹ 4914,623/- (MV).



Based on scrutiny of data obtained from APIS, on 19th January, 2021 officers of Trivandrum AIU B batch, identified a suspect passenger and in a meticulously planned operation shadowed the passenger from aerobridge resulting in the recovery and seizure of 1.810 kg of Gold blocks from the hand baggage.



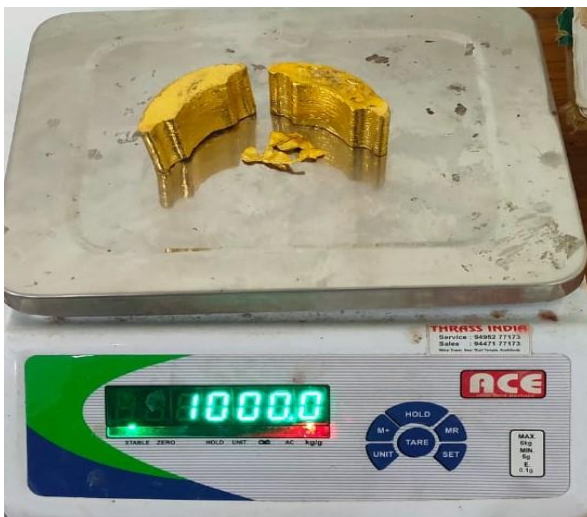
SEIZURES BY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ZONE (4/6)

Officers of UB, Karipur effected a seizure of approx. 1 kg of Gold from a passenger who arrived from Dubai. The Gold was detected during X-ray screening which was concealed as biscuit cut into half and kept inside Nutella chocolate bottles.



Town Seizure: CPU Kasargode seized approx. 4 kg of Gold on 22nd January, 2021 from a vehicle proceeding to Karnataka.

Detection of concealment of Gold in the form of screws of Trolley bag of a passenger, by officers of Calicut Airport posted at Belt, on 22nd January, 2021.

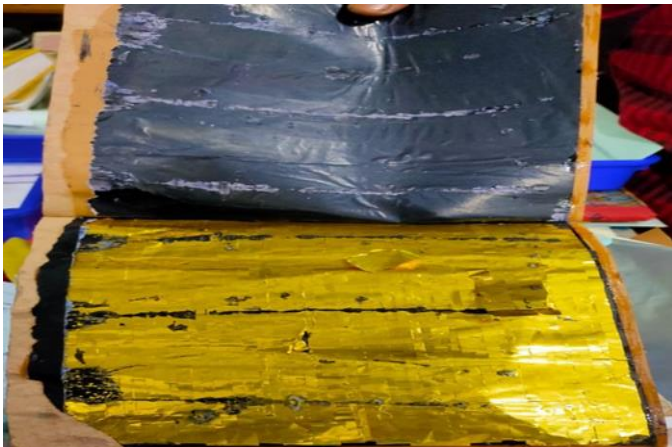


Seizure of 1 kg of 24k Gold worth ₹ 50.96 lakh by Calicut AIU Batch A on 25th January, 2021 from a passenger who arrived from Jeddah in Spicejet flight SG9711. The Gold was perfectly concealed inside the rotor of a mixer grinder which was working in perfect condition.



SEIZURES BY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ZONE (5/6)

Thiruvananthapuram
Airport- AIU Batch B seized
589.490 gm of
24 carat Gold ornaments
from a passenger who
arrived in flight no. G9441
on 25th January, 2021.



Seizure of 294 gm Gold
concealed in foil in Pringle
Box, other Card board boxes,
by TVM AIU-B Batch on 25th
January, 2021.

Detection of Gold at Luggage X-Ray
scanning concealed as plates inside
Toy Cars on 24th January, 2021 at
Calicut Airport.



On 10th January, 2021 with inputs
received from DRI, Calicut AIU B
batch intercepted one passenger who
arrived from Doha by flight no.
6E1712 and effected seizure of 16 Gold
biscuits totally weighing 1866 gm,
concealed in an emergency light,
valued ₹ 96,65,880/- (MV) & ₹
84,32,454/- (IV).



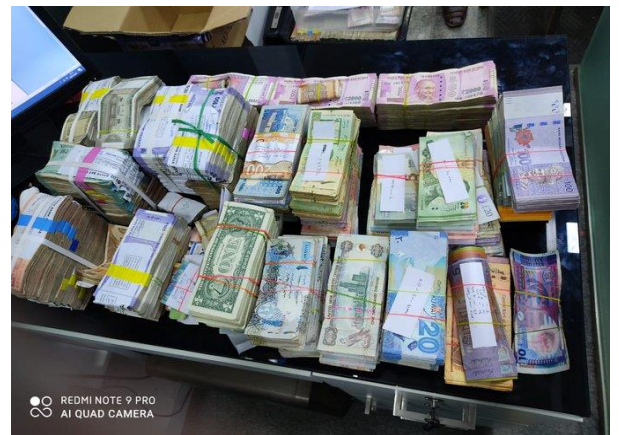
SEIZURES BY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ZONE (6/6)

Seizure of Currency

Seizure of Foreign Currency totally worth ₹ 17.30 lakh by CPD Trivandrum, from three passengers at departure hall of Thiruvananthapuram Airport on 16th January, 2021.



Detention of unaccounted Foreign Currency of different Nations equivalent to ₹ 1.28 crore and Indian currency ₹ 44.56 lakh, on 22nd January, 2021 by CPD, Thrissur, from M/s. Forex Duty Paid Shop, Guruvayur and from the residence of its Owner. Further investigation is in progress, which may lead to the seizure of the detained Currency.

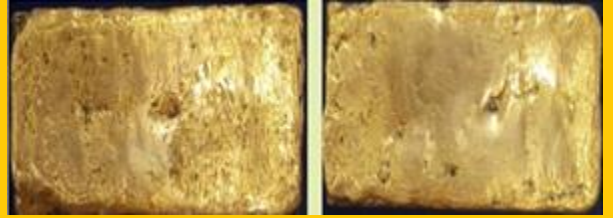




SEIZURES BY TRICHY CUSTOMS (P) ZONE

January, 2021

On 28th January, 2021 the Officers of Trichy Customs (Preventive) Zone seized 1634.50 gm Gold, totally valued at ₹ 81.82 lakh at Trichy International Airport. Two persons has been arrested.



Officers of Trichy Customs (Preventive) Zone seized 567.50 gm Gold, valued at ₹ 28.64 lakh, which was concealed in the form of paste in a carton pack containing liquor worth ₹ 5,500/-, at Trichy International Airport on 13th January, 2021.



On 10th January, 2021 the Officers of Trichy Customs (Preventive) Zone recovered 399 gm Gold, totally valued at ₹ 20.29 lakh, which was kept inside the flush tank in gents toilet at immigration area, Trichy International Airport.





SEIZURES BY KOLKATA CUSTOMS

January, 2021

Kolkata Customs intercepted a significant seizure of 1.4 kg of Gold concealed in the form of hollow cylindrical shaped piece, worth ₹ 70.55 lakh. The seizure was effected by Batch-C of AIU at NSCBI Airport on 24th January, 2021 after a lot of intensive interrogation & strenuous efforts.



Officers of Preventive Commissionerate, Kolkata Customs Zone intercepted one person at Khidderpore on 16th January, 2021 recovering 26 pieces of foreign origin Gold biscuits, weighing 3.02978 kg and valued at ₹ 1.52 crore.

Acting on specific intelligence, on 12th January, 2021 Officers of Preventive Commissionerate, Kolkata Customs Zone intercepted one passenger carrying 7 pieces of Gold biscuits of foreign origin weighing 816.13 gm valued at ₹ 41.54 lakh from a Sealdah bound train coming from Bangaon.

On 8th January, 2021 Officers of Preventive Commissionerate, Kolkata Customs Zone effected seizure of 15 pieces of Gold rods weighing 2.295 kg valued at ₹ 1.16 crore and Currency ₹ 11.10 lakh from a premises at Burtolla Road, Kolkata. Two persons have been arrested.



SEIZURES BY MUMBAI CUSTOMS-III

January, 2021



Mumbai Customs on 10th January, 2021 while rummaging of the Air India flight no. AI1946 which arrived from Dubai via Kannur at CSMI airport, resulted in recovery of 14 Gold bars of 10 Tola each from the hollow pipe under the seat, weighing 1.633 kg, valued at ₹ 73.35 lakh.



On 27th January, 2021 Mumbai Customs rummaging of the spice jet flight no. SG174 which arrived from Dubai at CSMI airport resulted in recovery of 2 Gold bars of 1 kg each beneath the tissue paper compartment in toilet, totally weighing 2 kg valued at ₹ 87.58 lakh.

GOLD SEIZED BY CUSTOMS GOA

23rd January, 2020



Officers of Goa Customs seized 2170 gm of foreign origin Gold bars having approx. value of ₹ 92.77 lakh from a domestic passenger at Dabolim Airport who was on a flight from DEL-GOI sector on 23rd January, 2021.



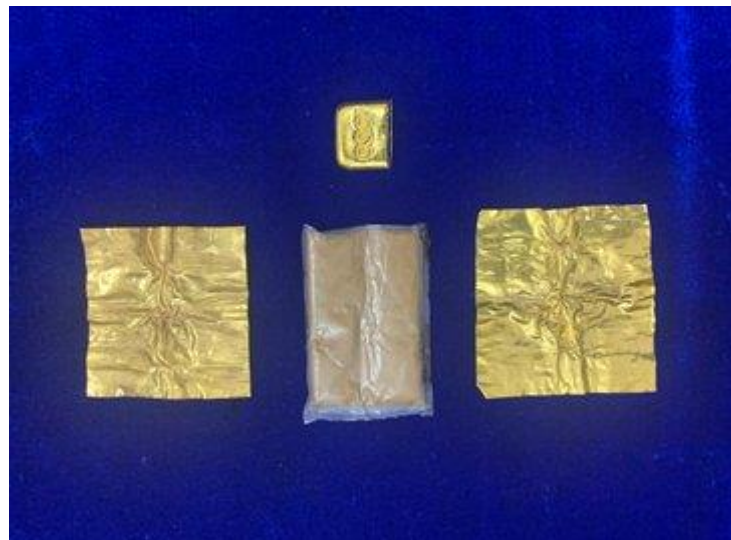
SEIZURES BY CHENNAI CUSTOMS

January, 2021

On 7th January, 2021 Chennai Airport Customs seized and recovered 546 gm of Gold valued at ₹ 28.7 lakh under Customs Act concealed as chocolate. On opening the wrapper, a plastic packet containing Gold paste was recovered.



On 2nd January, 2021 Chennai Air Customs seized 937 gm of Gold valued at ₹ 48.27 lakh under Custom Act from 2 passengers who arrived from Dubai by flight no. AIIX 1644. The Gold paste was concealed in rectum, and Gold plates & cut bit were recovered from handbag.



AMRITSAR CUSTOMS SEIZED 905 GM GOLD

5th January, 2020



On 5th January, 2021 Customs (P) Amritsar intercepted one passenger arrived via flight no. IX1192 from Dubai at 13:45 hours carrying Gold concealed as foil in the trolley bag and in the speaker. The weight of the Gold seized was 905.16 gm valued ₹ 47.54 lakh. The passenger was arrested and further investigation is in progress.



GOLD SEIZED BY CUSTOMS JODHPUR

12th January, 2020



Customs officers of International Airport, Jaipur effected recovery of 592 gm gold valued at ₹ 30 lakh approx. when intercepted a lady passenger on 12th January, 2021, who arrived from Sharjah through flight no. G9435 found to be carrying metal in paste form, concealed in her clothes.





Success Story

DRI SEIZES 55.61 KG OF FOREIGN GOLD WORTH ₹ 28 CRORE

21st January, 2021

In a spectacular bust of the Myanmar-India Gold smuggling network, the Delhi Zonal Unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 55.61 kg of foreign origin Gold valued at ₹ 28 crore from eight persons at two locations, i.e. Delhi and Lucknow on 21st January, 2021.



Specific information was developed by DRI regarding smuggling of huge quantity of foreign origin Gold from Myanmar into India through the Indo-Myanmar border and sending it to different parts of India. The spurt of economic activity seen after the lifting of COVID-19 related lockdowns throughout the country, combined with the pent-up demand for Gold, coincided with a surge in such smuggling activities. The blocking of air routes through the lock down period also saw a significant shift in the modus operandi of smugglers from the air routes to the land route through the

Indo-Myanmar border.

Due to the intensive counter-smuggling efforts by DRI, the smugglers have been seen to shift their preferred modus from vehicle concealment to in-person concealment. However, in the latest operation, codenamed “Golden Triangle”, which was a coordinated effort by the officers of Delhi Zonal Unit and Lucknow Zonal Unit of DRI, the modus of human concealment has also been busted where the carriers were found to have been concealing the Gold bars in belts worn around their waists.

DRI SEIZES 55.61 KG OF FOREIGN GOLD WORTH ₹ 28 CRORE

21st January, 2021

Cont.

Five such passengers were intercepted by officers of DRI, Delhi Zonal Unit near Delhi and three passengers were intercepted by the officers of DRI, Lucknow Zonal Unit at Lucknow. Search of the persons resulted in recovery and seizure of 335 Gold bars, weighing 55.61 kg. The said 8 persons have been apprehended and further investigations are underway.



and Pr. DG, DRI were also present.

Shri Thakur appreciated the efforts made by the officers and encouraged them to effect even bigger seizures in the future. He also motivated the officials stating, “I will personally visit those units where CBIC Officers have outperformed and set new benchmarks in tackling smuggling activities. Their valuable insights must be exchanged within the system for the benefit of all”.



The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Singh Thakur visited the office of DRI, Delhi Zonal Unit to congratulate the officers of DRI for the successful seizure. CBIC Chairman Shri M. Ajit Kumar

Source: PIB Delhi



Recognitions & Awards



GRANT OF PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS TO THE OFFICERS OF CBIC ON OCCASION OF THE REPUBLIC DAY, 2021

Every year, the officers of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs and its field offices are considered for grant of Presidential Award of Appreciation Certificates and Medals for “Exceptionally Meritorious Service rendered at the Risk of Life” and for Presidential Award of Appreciation Certificates and Medals for “Specially Distinguished Record of Service” on their achieving and maintaining excellence in discharge of their duties. These awards are announced on the eve of the Republic Day.

This year, 2 officers have been selected for grant of Presidential Award of Appreciation Certificates and Medals for “Exceptionally Meritorious Service rendered at the Risk of Life” and 22 officers for “Specially Distinguished Record of Service” on the basis of their exemplary and flawless performance in their respective fields of service over the years. The awardees selected this year include the officers working as Additional Director General, Assistant Director, Superintendent/ Senior Intelligence Officer (SIO), Intelligence Officer (IO), Senior Technical Assistant and Driver, who have been consistently committed to the department in various fields over the years.

The list of officers, along with their designation and their present place of posting, who have been selected for grant of the Presidential Award of Appreciation Certificate and Medals for “Exceptionally Meritorious Service rendered at the Risk of Life” and “Specially Distinguished Record of Service”, on the occasion of the Republic Day, 2021 are mentioned in the following page.



GRANT OF PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS TO THE OFFICERS OF CBIC ON OCCASION OF THE REPUBLIC DAY, 2021

Exceptionally Meritorious Service at Risk to Life:

Shri Vipin Pal, Intelligence Officer, DRI, Delhi Zonal Unit, Jodhpur
Shri Albert George, Intelligence Officer, DRI, Cochin

Specially Distinguished Record of Service:

Shri S. Thirunavukkarasu, ADG, DG Systems, Chennai
Shri Amitesh Bharat Singh, ADG, DGTS, Bengaluru
Shri Venugopalan Nair, Assistant Director, NACIN, Chennai
Shri Dibyendu Das, Assistant Director, DGHRD, New Delhi
Shri Vijaysinh Pratapsinh Bihola, Assistant Director, DRI, Gandhidham
Shri Himansu Sekhar Sha, Sr Intelligence Officer, DGGI,
Bhubaneswar
Shri Rajiv Ranjan Kumar, Sr Intelligence Officer, DGGI, New Delhi
Shri Mohanan Maloth Valappil, Sr Intelligence Officer, DGGI, Cochin
Shri Suvakanta Pradhan, Sr Intelligence Officer, DRI, Hyderabad
Shri Suhrud Avinash Rabde, Sr Intelligence Officer, DRI, Mumbai
Shri Ramakant Yashwant More, Sr Intelligence Officer, DRI, Mumbai
Shri P. Kannabiran, Sr Intelligence Officer, DRI, Coimbatore
Shri A. Lakshmi Kanthan, Sr Intelligence Officer, DRI, Coimbatore
Shri S. Vijayakumar, Sr Intelligence Officer, DRI, Chennai
Shri Arghya Bhattacharya, Sr Intelligence Officer, DRI, Kolkata
Shri M.K. Madhivanan, Superintendent, CGST, Chennai
Shri Mahesh Kumar, Superintendent, CGST, Bengaluru
Smt Anita Jadhav, Superintendent, CGST, Pune
Shri Ajit Suresh Limaye, Intelligence Officer, DGGI, Pune
Shri Prasanna V.S. Jois, Sr Technical Assistant (Telecom), Customs
Bengaluru
Shri Madan Das, Driver Grade- I, DRI, Kolkata
Shri Rajpal Singh, Driver Grade- I, DRI Headquarters, New Delhi

Source: PIB Delhi



ENCOURAGING WORDS OF APPRECIATIONS

 **CBIC Retweeted**



Anurag Thakur  @ianuragthakur · Jan 24 

Well done India Customs!
Always on vigil [@cbic_india](#).

 **Ministry of Finance**  @FinMinIndia · Jan 24

Two foreign nationals held at IGI Airport with heroin worth around Rs 68 crore.

It is one of the biggest detection of heroin/narcotics at any international airport in the country.

Read more  pib.gov.in/PressReleaself...

@nsitharamanoffc @Anurag_Office @PIB_India @cbic_india

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WCO CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR THE YEAR 2021



The following 17 Officers received the WCO Certificate of Merit for the year 2021.

1. Shri Gaurav Singh, Deputy Secretary, Tax Research Unit-I, CBIC
2. Shri R. Gopalsamy, Additional Commissioner, Customs, Chennai Zone
3. Shri Samaya Murali, Additional Commissioner, Customs, Chennai Zone
4. Smt Priyadarshika Srivastava, Joint Commissioner, Customs, Mumbai Zone-I
5. Shri Vinit Kumar, Deputy Director, NACIN, Faridabad
6. Shri Aditya Singh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner, Customs, Delhi Zone
7. Shri Manudev Jain, Deputy Commissioner, Directorate of International Customs
8. Shri Nikhil Goyal, Officer on Special Duty, Tax Research Unit-I, CBIC
9. Dr Vikram Singh, Deputy Commissioner, NCTF
10. Shri S.A. Ansari, Under Secretary, AD-II, CBIC
11. Dr Mahesh Kumar, Chemical Examiner, Grade-I, CRCL, Vadodara
12. Shri Neeraj Babu Jain, Assistant Director, DGHRD, New Delhi
13. Shri Rajesh Kaushal, Superintendent, Customs, Ludhiana
14. Shri Jitender Maindoliya, Superintendent, WCO Cell, New Delhi
15. Shri Gagandeep Singh, Superintendent, Single Window, New Delhi
16. Shri Rajendra Prasad Samariya, Appraiser, Customs (Preventive), Jodhpur
17. Shri Ashish Malik, Inspector, DGHRD, New Delhi



SHRI UPENDER GUPTA CONFERRED WITH CA ACHIEVER AWARD

Shri Upender Gupta, Pr. Additional Director General, DGTS was awarded 'CA ACHIEVER IN PUBLIC SERVICES' category in recognition of his exemplary contribution and professional excellence on 21st January, 2021 as part of 14th ICAI Awards by the Hon'ble Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari.





Directorate General of Taxpayer Services
Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs
Department of Revenue
Ministry of Finance