

## **PRESS NOTE**

### **The Hon'ble Finance Minister's address to the Officer Trainees of the 67<sup>th</sup> Batch of Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise)**

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance Corporate Affairs and Information Broadcasting addressed the 67<sup>th</sup> Batch of Officer Trainees (OTs) of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise) on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 at Mavlankar Hall, The Constitution Club of India, New Delhi.

The OTs of 67<sup>th</sup> Batch qualified the Civil Service Exam 2014 and have joined the Indian Revenue Service, Customs & C.Excise Service on 28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015. 190 officers trainees have reported for training including 25 officers of the earlier batch who had availed of extra ordinary leave. There are also five customs officers from the Royal Govt. of Bhutan who are training with this Batch. The educational qualifications of the OTs varies from engineering degrees to doctors to post graduate degree holders and graduates in the field of humanities science and commerce besides management and law graduates and a Ph D. The batch is truly representative of the states of India covering Jammu and Kashmir to Tamil Nadu and Gujarat to Manipur and Nagaland. The largest representation come from the state of Rajasthan followed by Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra. Their age profile varies from 24 years to 35 years.

Their training includes class room training in Customs, Central Excise, Service Tax and Narcotics besides Public Finance and Policy, Foreign Trade Policy, International Conventions, Administrative Law and other related laws including those relating to protection of the environment, heritage of India, national security etc. Besides they are exposed to on the job training in the various field formations of Customs, Excise and Service Tax and

also training with para military forces, like BSF, ITBP, Coast Guard, Indian Navy to learn the finer aspects of Border Management and National Security. They are also sent to a leading university abroad for a week's training on leadership and public policy and to acquaint with international best practices.

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These officers had the privilege to draw the Hon'ble FM's vast bank of wisdom and experience. During the Finance Minister's address, he mentioned that the starting point of any activity is investment and the purpose of investment is to yield profitability. And in this process the investors work out the element of taxability and this tax content which is generated as revenue is used for infrastructure and for fulfilling the social responsibilities of the State as well as to yield more economic activity. And for this the FM in his address to the OTs indicated the road map for the future. He wanted them to retain the idealism which they inculcated at the time of joining the service to be retained with the same enthusiasm at the time when they are retiring from Service. For this they needed to have the basic cardinal principle of striving for excellence. He also desired that they should emulate the Gandhian principle that even in moments of struggle they should be in a position to maintain the position of ethics and morality on their side. Even when facing pulls and pressures they must never forget to go straight. If they maintain absolute standards of ethics and 100% integrity they would definitely go a long way. All this was to be accompanied with professional competence and a judicious and fair approach in tax collection. Taxation should not be a painful process for the people. Ideally government should collection taxes like a honeybee, which sucks just the right amount of honey from the flower so that both can survive.