The ACC has approved empanelment of 11 officers of the 1988 batch to hold the post of Joint Secretary or equivalent at the Centre. My heartiest congratulations to all these officers.

There is a 2 day refresher course on GST for the Group A officers at NACIN Faridabad from the 22nd - 23rd January 2018. I would like the nominated officers to take full advantage of this training and use this refresher course to remain updated on GST issues. Letter dated 29th December 2017 in this regard has been issued by NACIN, Faridabad.

As part of the GST outreach and awareness programme, NACIN has come up with a compendium of Flyers on important topics of GST which is going to be released by the Finance Secretary on 6th January 2018. This compilation has been updated upto 1st January 2018. I am sure this shall be of immense help to both the officers and staff of the department as well as the assessees. I would urge all of you to bring this to the notice of all the stakeholders and inform all that this material is available on the CBEC website.

It has been decided that one representative of the rank of Commissioner or above from every zone shall attend every GST Council Meeting. In this regard Commissioner (GST) has already issued a letter dated 2nd January 2018. Kindly share the desired information within the due date as mentioned in the letter. It is informed that the next Officers’ Meeting is on the 11th January 2018 and the GST Council’s Meeting is scheduled for the 18th January 2018.

I am happy to learn of the several innovative initiatives taken by various zones in our commitment to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and trade facilitation. Mumbai-I Zone has been particularly active in this regard, and in one such initiative received appreciation from the Special Protection Group for timely and prompt action for clearance of ambulances. These efforts go a long way in improving the image of the department.

With warm wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(Vanaja N. Sarna)

To,

All officers and staff of Central Board of Excise and Customs