

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**FM SAYS RESTRICTING THE IMPORT OF GOLD HELPED IN
CONTAINING CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT; DIRECTS CUSTOMS TO SET
MEASURABLE QUANTITATIVE GOALS FOR RISK MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM (RMS); ASKS CUSTOMS OFFICERS TO KEEP PACE WITH THE
TECHNOLOGY AND TO MASTER IT**

New Delhi, January 27, 2014

Magha 7, 1935

The Union Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram said that the restricting the import of gold helped in containing Current Account Deficit (CAD) and balance of payments' position. Shri Chidambaram said that the restrictions on gold may be revisited at the end of the current fiscal. The Finance Minister was speaking at the function organized here today in order to celebrate International Customs Day. This Day is being celebrated on 26th January each year by 179 Customs administrations, members of the Brussels based World Customs Organization (WCO), to mark the first session of the Customs Co-operation Council, which was renamed WCO in 1994. The theme for the International Customs Day this year is "Communication: sharing information for better cooperation."

Speaking on the occasion, the Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram further said that in the era of integrated global economy, technology is the key driver of growth. Therefore, he asked the customs officers, especially the young officers to keep pace with the technology. He rather asked them to master the technology.

Dwelling on the post-GST revenue scenario, the Finance Minister said that the Customs would continue to perform a critical function as sentinels of our borders and facilitators of legitimate trade. He said that India played an important role in the recent WTO Ministerial Meeting in Bali reaching a Trade Facilitation Agreement, which will have long term relevance for Customs' functioning

The Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram also appreciated the Customs Risk Management System (RMS) in imports and its implementation last year in Exports. The Finance Minister said that it is important for the Customs to set measurable quantitative goals for Risk Management System (RMS) in terms of reduction of dwell time and reduction of paperwork.

Besides the Union Finance Minister, both the Ministers of State for Finance Shri Namo Narain Meen and Shri J.D. Seelam, Shri Sumit Bose, Finance Secretary, Ms Praveen Mahajan, Chairperson CBEC, Ms. Shobha Chary, Member (Customs) along with other members of the CBEC and senior officers of the Ministry of Finance and CBEC were also present on this occasion .

Earlier the Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram released the Customs Manual 2014. A short film, "Indian Customs: A Journey of Excellence" was also screened on the occasion. Later, the Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram gave away the WCO Certificates of Merit to Federation

of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), Council for Leather Exports (CLE) and the Air Cargo Agents Association of India (ACAAI) and to 16 Customs officials. The awardees include Shri Ashok Kumar Mehta, Additional Director General, NACEN, Faridabad, Ms. Neeta Lall Butalia, Commissioner of Customs (I & G), New Delhi, Dr. Tej Pal Singh, First Secretary (Trade), Embassy of India, Brussels, Dr. M. Mathew Jolly, Additional Commissioner, Central Excise, Mumbai, Shri Hitesh Ajit Shah, Additional Director, Risk Management Division, Mumbai, Shri Rajiv Kapoor, Additional Commissioner, JNCH, Mumbai, Shri. Reyaz Ahmed, Additional Director, DRI Hqrs, New Delhi, Shri K. Ramakrishnan, Director (Anti Smuggling), CBEC, New Delhi, Shri Dheeraj Rastogi, Additional Commissioner, Service Tax Commissionerate, New Delhi, Shri. Ravi Pratap Singh, Director (Customs), CBEC, New Delhi, Shri. Avinash Pushkarna, Additional Commissioner, Central Excise, Rohtak, Dr. Shobhit Jain, Joint Commissioner, IGI Airport, New Delhi, Shri Shalabh Katiyar, Assistant Commissioner, Central Excise, Kolkatta-II, Shri D. Ranjith Kumar, Assistant Commissioner, Custom House, Tuticorin, Shri Harish Chand Saini, Superintendent, Directorate General of Safeguards, New Delhi and Shri. Pankaj Kumar, Inspector, CC Unit, Delhi Customs Zone.
