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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Indian Customs has moved to Faceless and Contactless Assessment of Import Consignments

Indian Customs is shifting to Faceless Assessment of import consignments. In simple words, under this system of assessment of imports, the import consignments reported for clearance in any port will be assessed by the assessing officers posted in any other port. When the Bill of Entry is filed for clearance of import consignment in a particular port, the Customs Automated System (CAS) will assign the Bill of Entry for assessment to any proper Assessing Officer posted in any other port. In other words, the assessment of import consignments will become contactless and paperless under the Faceless Assessment system. The pilot programme of Faceless Assessment was launched in Chennai on 14.08.2019 for electrical machineries. Gradually more ports and products were brought under the Faceless Assessment in four phases and by 31.10.2020 the Faceless Assessment will be rolled out in all the ports in the country (excluding Land Customs Stations) for all products. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has issued Circular No. 40/2020-Customs dated 04.09.2020 regarding the "All India Roll Out of Faceless Assessment".

In the North Eastern Region, Inland Container Depot (ICD), Amingaon and Air Cargo, Guwahati have been brought under Faceless Assessment w.e.f. 15.09.2020. For the smooth implementation of Faceless Assessment, the Faceless Assessment Group (FAG) and the Port Assessment Group (PAG) have been formed at these two locations. FAG Guwahati will assess the CAS assigned Bills of Entry filed in other ports. The PAG Guwahati will verify the assessment of the Bills of Entry filed at ICD Amingaon and Air Cargo Guwahati which are assessed by the FAG of other Zones and also perform the other functions relating to clearance of import consignments as per normal practice. Turant Suvidha Kendra (TSK) has also been formed at these two locations to facilitate and assist the trade in completing the various formalities relating to Customs assessment. CBIC has also constituted National Assessment Centres (NACs) to ensure timely assessment of import consignments, to bring uniformity and enhanced quality of assessment. CBIC has rolled out numerous changes to the Customs clearance process to support Turant Customs. These initiatives include self-registration of goods by the importers, automated clearance of Bills of Entry, digitization of Customs documents, paperless clearance. One such initiative of CBIC on ease of doing business is the Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) to integrate Customs and other Participating Government Agencies (PGAs) for seamless processing of import and export clearance. It may be mentioned here that import of some commodities requires clearance by other

concerned regulatory government authorities like the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Plant Quarantine, Animal Quarantine, Drug Controller, Wildlife Authority, Ministry of Environment and Forest etc. before Customs clearance. One of the components of SWIFT is e-Sanchit which is an application where the importer/exporter can submit electronically digitally signed supporting documents for clearance of import/export consignments. e-Sanchit will further reduce physical interface between Customs/regulatory agencies and the trade and increase the speed of import and export clearance. At present 51 PGAs have been brought onboard the e-Sanchit platform. The Faceless Assessment is the latest of the initiatives of CBIC for speedy clearance of import consignments, transparency in decision making and ease of doing business.

जी. एम. कामेई / G.M. Kamei

आयुक्त / Commissioner