

Capacity Building for Maldives Customs Services (MCS) officials



On June 02, 2022 a sending-off ceremony was organised at Maldives' Customs Service (MCS) for a group of 30 Custom Officers who are visiting National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN), Mumbai from 06 June to 01 July, 2022.

The MCS officers would be attending a four-week long training on the topic - Law Enforcement at Air and Sea Customs borders. Interactive sessions and field visits have been included in the training programme.

Deputy High Commissioner Rohit Rathish attended the ceremony along with Mr. Abulla Shareef, Commissioner General of Maldives Customs Service.

Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Rohit Rathish, appreciated custom officers participation in all the events in previous training programmes at NACIN, Mumbai. The MoU on Customs Cooperation was signed in June 2019 during the State Visit of PM Narendra Modi to the Maldives.

DHC Rohit Rathish mentioned that 2-3 more training programmes are being scheduled in this year to cater to the needs of MCS. He underlined that India-Maldives trade in 2021 grew by 31% over the previous year. It crossed the USD 300 million mark for the first time in 2021, reaching USD 323 million. India also ranked among the top five export destinations for the Maldives in 2021.

India-Maldives cooperation in Customs has grown significantly in recent years. Until now, 100 Maldives Customs Service (MCS) officials have undergone in-person training in India on various subjects related to customs. In addition, 90 MCS officials have also been trained through online programmes. Under another MoU signed in July 2021 on Pre-arrival exchange of Cargo Data signed between CBIC and MCS, in December 2021, a pilot project on Pre-arrival Customs Data Exchange was launched. The project leverages technology which enables the two Customs Administrations to share customs data on real - time basis. It is expected to enhance facilitation of bilateral trade using risk management as well as aid compliance monitoring in line with international best practices.