

RBI Bats for Producers' Price Index

Reserve Bank of India has said the policymakers should develop a producers' price index, or PPI, which measures the selling price of goods and service to make a better assessment of inflation and, in turn, help monetary policy management. The Governor of RBI D Subbarao, while highlighting the flaws in the current wholesale price index, or WPI, which is more popular measure and interprets inflation, has made out a strong case for looking at new measures such as the PPI. "In its present structure, the WPI does not capture the price movement of services... it is a hybrid of consumer and producer price quotes," said Subbarao at a function to mark the sixth national Statistics Day at RBI headquarters in Mumbai.

(Source: <http://www.economictimes.com>)

e-Filing of Tax Returns a Must for Those Earning over ₹ 10 lakh a Year

People will have to file you income-tax returns electronically if their earnings exceed ₹10 lakh in a financial year. Also, a resident individual or a Hindu Undivided Family will now have to file returns electronically if any assets (including financial interest in any entity) are held outside India. These are latest set of mandatory e-filing requirements put out by the CBDT.

(Source: <http://www.business-standard.com/india/>)

Rail Travel, Transport Escape Service Tax, Yet Again

Travel and transportation by rail will be free from service tax for another three months at least. The negative list regime came into effect from 1st July, but Dr. Manmohan Singh, who now holds the Finance portfolio also – refrained from adding an effected 3.6% servicetaxlevyonrailtransportofsuchcorecommodities as coal, cement and steel. Dr. Singh also gave the middle and upper middle class segments a breather by not levying the service tax on air-conditioned rail travel. Dr. Singh putting off the levy is the eighth deferment of service tax levy on rail transportation since 2009. The Government would have mopped up ₹3,000 crore from the service tax levy on the freight segment and around ₹300 crore from passenger side.

(Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/>)

Customs Department Unveils New Website

The customs department has started a website to provide an easy access

to information of duty and regulatory requirements for import. The website is based on "Interactive Customs Tariff" application as part of the ongoing trade facilitative measures. The purpose of the application is to enhance public access to information on duty payment and other regulatory requirements for clearance of goods, when imported into India. The application is designed to show various customs and other applicable duties. It helps the importers in calculation of actual effective duty applicable by taking into account the various exemption notifications. It also provides alerts related to anti-dumping duties and MRP based abatements and displays Compulsory Compliance Requirements (CCRs). India has also developed an Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme consistent with World Customs Organisation (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards. The trade supply chain has become extremely complicated and vulnerable to external threats which led to an urgent need to have a system that ensures end to end supply chain security while ensuring faster release of goods.

(Source: Press Information Bureau)

Income Tax Department Bid to Reach Out to Youths

The Income Tax (I-T) department is making conscious efforts to shed its image of an 'inspector and tax collector' to a more friendly service provider and facilitator of tax related issues. In a bid for image makeover the 150-year-old department has initiated steps to reach out to the youth- especially the students from the prestigious schools and colleges- and interact with them as confidence building measures. The Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Indore Surendra Mishra said, "The department has in its action plan for the current fiscal, has given a mandate to the field officers to interact with the younger generation once in a quarter. The motive for the activity was three-fold- to motivate, inform, win confidence, guide, educate and interact with the younger generations and make them aware about tax laws and working of the department.

Secondly, we are also looking towards confidence building so that they know the process and are not shy to meet the officers. Above all, the idea was to develop bright enlightened tax payers." He said that department had undertaken a series of interactions with the students of the Indian Institute of Management, Indore (IMM-I), prominent business and management schools, aspiring law students and Chartered Accountants (CAs) and top schools.

(Source: www.timesofindia.com)