Abhishek Batra



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Summary

A former federal officer and social venture co-founder who blends the discipline of high-stakes operations with hands-on nonprofit leadership. I apply investigative rigour from financial crime investigations to people strategy, spotting risk early and shaping resilient talent policies to help workforces thrive under pressure.

Professional Experience

Intelligence Officer | Directorate of Revenue Intelligence | New Delhi and Arunachal Pradesh

- (DRI is a federal corporate fraud investigation & anti-smuggling agency)
- Youngest officer to probe customs fraud cases; investigated 20 cases with detection of \$61mn & recovery worth \$35mn
- Spearheaded field operations as search team leader for 30 cases, provided assistance in 60 cases, part of 200 interrogations and five arrests.
- Investigated complex valuation and import **policy violations** totalling \$15.2mn including misclassification by prominent Korean TV manufacturers and mis-declaration of imported EV cars by a leading Chinese company.
- Uncovered **policy misuse** responsible for \$25mn lost revenue via diversion of duty-free imported liquor, illegal imports under diplomatic privileges and tax evasion through "Unaccompanied Luggage" of Non-Resident Indians.
- Led enforcement operations to combat smuggling & narcotics, targeting narcotic drugs manufacturing in disused factories, smuggling of hydroponic cannabis & E-Cigarettes, diversion of export-oriented Betel Nuts into the domestic market; total value of seized goods \$18.5mn.
- Addressed unfair competition issues worth \$2.5mn, including IPR violation in counterfeit cigarettes from Cambodia and forgery of certificate of origin for steel imports from China.
- Reviewed 300+ Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) by FATF, the international anti-financial crime body; re-established two cases using forensics data analysis on legally cloned devices.

Chief of Staff | Principal Chief Commissioner (Customs, GST & Narcotics) | Guwahati, India

(SPOC for the Federal Chief with jurisdiction over seven states, four international borders and 1200 officers)

- Assisted in uncovering a scam involving the falsified destruction of areca nuts and cigarettes worth over \$3.8mn, coordinating with **whistleblowers** and facilitating inter agency meetings; resulted in the suspension of six officers.
- Monitored citizen complaints via the CPGRAMS platform, streamlining redressal mechanisms in alignment with national accountability protocols.
- Investigated a \$0.15mn Red Sanders smuggling case that led to the reinstatement of a wrongfully convicted officer, helping correct a miscarriage of justice within the enforcement system.
- Appointed Flying Squad Leader by the Election Commission of India; led four police officers to action on 30 incidents.
- Facilitated a high-level meeting between Department's Board Member and seven State Govt. GST Chiefs to promote the adoption of advanced data tools like ADVAIT.
- Strengthened public-private dialogue by bringing together women entrepreneurs from across Northeast for Budget interactions with the Hon'ble Finance Minister.
- Secured \$17.3mn in recovered tax revenue by leading targeted follow-ups within a special compliance initiative that utilized data analytics from the Ministry of Finance's DGARM wing to ensure taxpayer filings.

Tax Inspector (Goods & Services Tax) | Ministry of Finance, Government of India | Shillong, India

- Reviewed 9,000+ GST registrations, flagging 500+ fraudulent ones, preventing future tax evasion through shell firms.
- Nodal officer for the federal department's regional twitter handle, resolving over 100 GST registration complaints.
- Selected in a Special Cell to identify tax evasion across Northeast India. Worked closely with senior officers to trace irregular patterns, detect high-risk entities, and flag anomalies for further investigation.
- Spearheaded the early-stage transition to paperless files through E-Office platform across the North East Zone by coordinating with 11 Commissionerates and conducting **training to streamline workflow** and document approvals.
- Directed the zone-wide implementation of the **digital performance appraisal system**, overseeing system mapping and data migration to ensure timely and structured evaluations for 1000+ officers across the zone.

Co-Founder & Vice President | Khwaahish | Uttarakhand, India

(A social-impact venture focused on urban poverty and animal welfare)

- Introduced remedial classes and provided medical & nutritional assistance to combat malnutrition in 500 children.
- Secured educational sponsorships benefiting 200 students; established two libraries for slum residents, one funded by IIM, with 2k relevant books; secured land donation for vocational training of 300 women & children; received recognition from India's President and an education minister for slum development.
- Founded a veterinary hospital cum animal shelter with 24hr ambulance, rescuing 3000 strays and facilitating 200 adoptions.

- Recognised as "Covid Warriors" for providing 5k meals to stray animals during Covid Lockdowns; collaborated with Government Veterinary Officer for supervision, volunteers for meal preparation and police officers for distribution.
- Signed an MoU with IIM-Kashipur for **MBA Experiential Learning Program** and with NMIMS for **MBA internships**; overall recruited 300 interns across 10 colleges and 500 community volunteers.
- Secured a shop donation in a prominent mall for an outlet run by community women for selling handicrafts.

Head of Ops & Strategy | Ram Cycles (Seven-decade-old family business) | Uttarakhand, India

- Pioneered a new business line of refurbished cycles in the district, making premium brands accessible and affordable; addressed labour shortage by introducing freelance; solved the issue of reselling of stolen bicycles.
- Devised innovative off-line marketing techniques in absence of social media penetration, achieving 5x profit increase.

Teaching Mentor | Vision Valley School | Uttarakhand, India

Research Analyst | Delhi University (Integrating tourism enterprises with NGOs) | Delhi

Education

B.Sc. (Computer Science & Mathematics) - Delhi University | India

Accomplishments

- Awarded 25% Merit-Based Entry Scholarship for pursuing MBA (PGPX) at IIM Ahmedabad
- Recognized by Chairman of Taxes for detecting a unique Customs fraud case
- Selected as Inspector (Training) in National Academy of Customs & Narcotics
- Awarded certificate of "Exceptional Service in tax administration" by Chief Commissioner
- Facilitated by Ad. Commissioner for "Exceptional knowledge of government rules"
- Top-3% in Indian Civil Services exam; Selected as Bank PO in the National Banks Recruitment exam

Certifications

- Excel Skills for Business : Advanced, Macquarie University
- Pre-MBA Statistics, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad

Extra-Curriculars

- Elected PGPX Secretary (Social Impact & Public Policy) in Student-Council at IIM Ahmedabad leading a 50-member team across eight student clubs
- Organized "Green Day" with Bicycle Mayors NGO to promote cycling among 300+ officers
- Participated in 'Gyanodaya', a 07-day train journey on tier-II cities urbanization ('13)
- Taught 30+ children of college support staff under National Service Scheme during undergrad
- Organized 'Vote for India' campaign supported by Election Commission involving 2000 first time voters
- Served as the Chief English Editor of college magazine during undergrad
- Revived undergraduate Placement cell, leading a team of 10 to secure job offers for 100+ students