



## Central Excise officers to protest at Jantar Mantar

Apr 20, 2011: CHANDIGARH: After Anna Hazare's public protest against corruption at Jantar Mantar, the place seems to have caught the attention of all future protesters, including those from within the government who want their voice to be heard by the authorities.

Barely has the dust settled down at the site after Anna's protest that the Chandigarh zone of All India association of central excise and gazetted executive officers (AICEGO) – this includes officers from Punjab, HP, J&K and Chandigarh – have now decided to hold a 'shanti goshti' at Jantar Mantar on April 20 to highlight their demand. However, the organization is claiming credit for using the site for protest earlier too, as they had held a "peaceful dharna" at the same place in November 2009 too.

A K Sharma, president of the AICEGO, Punjab zone, said the protest was aimed at highlighting the "prolonged stagnation, financial degradation due to pay erosion and social humiliation in officio-social hierarchy of some categories of the officers, due to non-responsive attitude of central board of excise & customs (CBEC) at Delhi". The matter was earlier raised by Congress MP Manish Tewari in Parliament and the PMO was apprised of the issue, but no follow-up action has taken place. Adopting a strong stance, Sharma said, "The CBEC is doing a disservice to the nation by underutilizing its resources. IRS officers of CBEC have already benefited themselves on a par with the IRS in CBDT, but are using delaying tactics when it comes to the cadre of superintendents/inspectors of central excise and perpetuating the problem with cosmetic promises. Discontentment is rampant among our people due to this."