

## A study about goods and services tax (GST) in India

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### Abstract

According to Kautilya in his book 'Arathshashtra' the tax system of a country should be "liberal in assessment and ruthless in collection". To implement such feeling we need more tax reforms in our country. The main objective of Tax reforms is to establish a tax system that is economically efficient and neutral in its application, distribution ally attractive, and simple to administer. Neutral in application means tax should be a uniform percentage of the final retail price of a product, regardless of the supply-chain arrangements for its manufacturing and distribution. One of the major step on this tax reform is introduction of Goods and Services tax. The GST (Goods and Services Tax) is a proposed system of nationwide VAT which will be uniform for goods and services transactions in India. The VAT is a type of consumption tax that is placed on a product whenever value is added at a stage of production and at final sale. It is levied at each stage of chain including production and distribution from raw materials to the final sale of finished product based on the value added at each stage. In this system the full brunt is borne by the end consumer. As per the decisions made by all will of GST Council, the tax rates would be at 4 slabs of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. Luxury and demerit goods will be taxed at 28% plus cess. The main purpose of this paper is to study and analyze about Goods and Services Tax in India that is going to be implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017. This paper focuses on why does India Need GST? How is the GST different from current system? GST's merit and demerit. Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a proposed system of indirect taxation in India merging most of the existing taxes into single system of taxation. Data has been collected from multiple sources of evidence, in addition to books, journals, websites, and newspapers. It explores the main issues, the introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) would be a significant step in the reform of indirect taxation in India. "GST is a great step by Team India, great step towards transformation, great steps towards transparency". - Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi. "Consumer is the King; we intend to bring uniformity in taxes". - Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi.

**Keywords:** tax, VAT, council, consumer, levies and central & state

### Introduction

According to Kautilya in his book 'Arathshashtra' the tax system of a country should be "liberal in assessment and ruthless in collection". To implement such feeling we need more tax reforms in our country. The main objective of Tax reforms is to establish a tax system that is economically efficient and neutral in its application, distribution ally attractive, and simple to administer. Neutral in application means tax should be a uniform percentage of the final retail price of a product, regardless of the supply-chain arrangements for its manufacturing and distribution.

One of the major step on this tax reform is introduction of Goods and Services tax. The GST (Goods and Services Tax) is a proposed system of nationwide VAT which will be uniform for goods and services transactions in India. The VAT is a type of consumption tax that is placed on a product whenever value is added at a stage of production and at final sale. It is levied at each stage of chain including production and distribution from raw materials to the final sale of finished product based on the value added at each stage. In this system the full brunt is borne by the end consumer.

The GST is recommended by the Kelkar Task Force on implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003. According to them the existing system of taxation of goods and services still suffers from many problems. The tax base is fragmented between the Centre and the States. Services, which make up half of the

GDP, are not taxed appropriately. In many situations, the existing tax structure has cascading effects. These problems lead to low tax-GDP ratio, besides causing various distortions in the economy. The effort to introduce the new tax regime was reflected, for the first time, in 2006-2007 Union Budget Speech by Finance Minister. He proposed 1st April 2010 as the date for introducing GST, and in same fashion he set some more deadlines.

Unlike sales tax GST will work according to negative list concept, it means all services and sales will be taxed unless specifically exempted (should be covered under negative list). This concept of negative list will increase the tax base for both the Centre and state governments, many more sectors will be covered under this tax net. There are many positive factors of this system. The GST will consolidate various taxes levied on goods and services by central and state governments. It is going to eliminate the cascading effect of some of the taxes, lowering the cost structure. It will help consumers by reduction in effective tax rates on most of the goods, reduction in transaction as well as tax payment costs.

For the federal system of India empowered committee has suggested Concurrent Dual GST system. Under this model, the tax is levied concurrently by the Centre as well as the States. For this Exports will be zero-rated and imports will be levied the same taxes as domestic goods and services adhering to the destination principle. Zero rated export means there will be no tax levied on exports and destination principle means that the

tax be kept only by the state where the taxed product is being sold. But here some states have major concerns. As a state with high productivity and less consumption could suffer loss due to non-receipt of any tax on goods produced and sold to another state under GST regime because current 2% central sales tax (CST) will be abolished. But that problem can be solved by initial compensations. But still there is a lack of consensus regarding to this tax reform and also by the union government there are no dates, no rates, no list of exempt items. Introduction of an integrated Goods and Services Tax (GST) to replace the existing multiple tax structures of Centre and State taxes is not only desirable but imperative in the emerging economic environment. Introducing GST will do more than simply redistribute the tax burden from one sector or group in the economy to another. This will reduce the overall indirect taxation and by this it will decrease the overall tax burden and it will bring about a macroeconomic dividend. It will remove the many distortionary features of the present sales tax system. There are many studies which shows if this system is implemented it will increase the GDP growth with 50 basis points. A report of National council of Applied Economic Research has estimated an increase of. 9 to 1.7 percent in economic growth with the implementation of GST. According to this study export will also increase. From last three years' tax to GDP ratio is reducing and fiscal deficit is increasing, at this point of time we need this type of tax reform urgently. We hope soon we will see consensus in implementing this system and smooth passage of Amendment bill which is required for its activation.

### Objective of the Study

The objective of the present study is to review the following:

- 1) Goods and Services Tax in India that is going to be implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017.
- 2) Why does India Need GST?
- 3) How is the GST different from current system?
- 4) Benefits of GST.
- 5) Challenges threatening GST rollout/ Demerits of GST.
- 6) GST: Global Scenario and Global Perspective.

### Research Methodology

The study has been done mainly on the basis of secondary data and information available from books and published works and reports.

### Historical Background of GST (Goods and Services Tax)

History of GST, Historical Background of GST (Goods and Services Tax). GST History in India, France is the first country in the world, which has implemented GST in 1954. In India Finance Ministry has placed 122<sup>nd</sup> Constitution Amendment Bill in Lok Sabha in 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2014. The Government of India has appointed various committees, task force to give their views to introduce a vibrant and modern Indirect Tax Structure in India, some of views are;

1. Amaresh Baghchi Report, 1994 suggests that the introduction of "Value Added Tax (VAT) 'will act as root for implementation of Goods and Services Tax in India
2. Ashim Dasgupta, 2000 empowered committee, which introduces VAT System in 2005, which has replaced old age taxation system in India.
3. Vijay Kelkar Task Force 2004, it strongly recommended that the integration of indirect taxes into the form of GST

in India.

4. Announcement of GST to be implemented by 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010 after successfully implementation of VAT system in India and suggestion of various committees and task forces on GST, the Union Government first time in Union Budget 2006-07 announced that the GST would be applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010.
5. The government has formed various Joint Working Groups of state finance ministers to study the impact of GST on the revenue of various States.
6. The empowered committees of State Finance Ministers after various meetings reached on amicable formula for implementation of GST in India.
7. Task force of Finance Ministers has submitted their report in December, 2009 on structure of GST in India.
8. Government of India has issued first discussion paper in November, 2009.
9. Constitution (115<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill introduced on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2011 and same was referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance for discussion.
10. Finance Minister in his speech announced that the GST will be rolled out by April, 2011.
11. Constitution (122<sup>nd</sup> Amendment) Bill introduced in the Parliament in December, 2014; since 115<sup>th</sup> Amendment Bill has been lapsed due completion of parliamentary terms. The Government of India has introduced Constitution (122<sup>nd</sup> Amendment) Bill on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 the Lok Sabha has passed the bill on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 but Bill is pending in Rajya Sabha.
12. GST Bill Passed in Rajya Sabha on 3rd August 2016 (03-08-2016)
13. When GST is Applicable – Modi Government Want to applicable GST Bill from 1st July 2017, Due to Some Legal Problems GST Bill is not applicable before 1st July 2017.

### Tax Structure in India

- **Direct Tax:** e.g.: Income Tax, Corporate Tax, and Wealth Tax
- **Indirect Tax:** e.g.: Excise duty, custom duty, Service Tax, Octroi Tax, and VAT.

### Method of Taxation

- **Progressive Tax:** Increasing rate of tax for Increasing Value or Volume.
- **Regressive Tax:** Decreasing rate tax for Increasing Value or Volume
- **Proportional Tax:** Fixed rate of tax for every level of income or production

Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a proposed system of indirect taxation in India merging most of the existing taxes into single system of taxation.

"Goods and Services Tax" would be a comprehensive indirect tax on manufacture, sale and consumption of goods and services throughout India, to replace taxes levied by the central and state governments. Goods and Services Tax would be levied and collected at each stage of sale or purchase of goods or services based on the input tax credit method. This method allows GST-registered businesses to claim tax credit to the value of GST they paid on purchase of goods or services as part of their normal commercial activity. Taxable goods and services are not distinguished from one another and are taxed at a single rate in a supply chain till the goods or services reach

the consumer. Administrative responsibility would generally rest with a single authority to levy tax on goods and services. Exports would be zero-rated and imports would be levied the same taxes as domestic goods and services adhering to the destination principle.

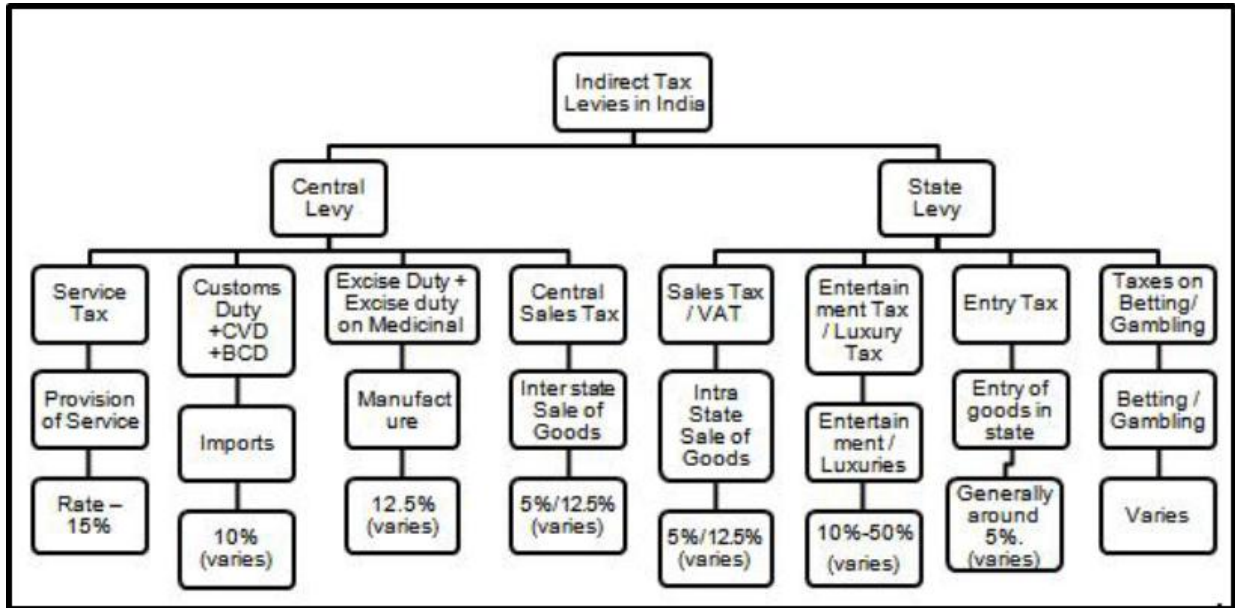
The introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) would be a significant step in the reform of indirect taxation in India. Amalgamating several Central and State taxes into a single tax would mitigate cascading or double taxation, facilitating a common national market. The simplicity of the tax should lead to easier administration and enforcement. From the consumer point of view, the biggest advantage would be in terms of a reduction in the overall tax burden on goods, which is currently estimated at 25%-30%, free movement of goods from one state

to another without stopping at state borders for hours for payment of state tax or entry tax and reduction in paperwork to a large extent.

What changes there would be if India launches GST- “The tax rate under GST may be nominal or zero rated for the time being. It has been proposed to insulate the revenues of the States from the impact of GST, with the expectation that in due course, GST will be levied on petroleum and petroleum products.” The central government has assured states of compensation for any revenue losses incurred by them from the date of introduction of GST for a period of five years.

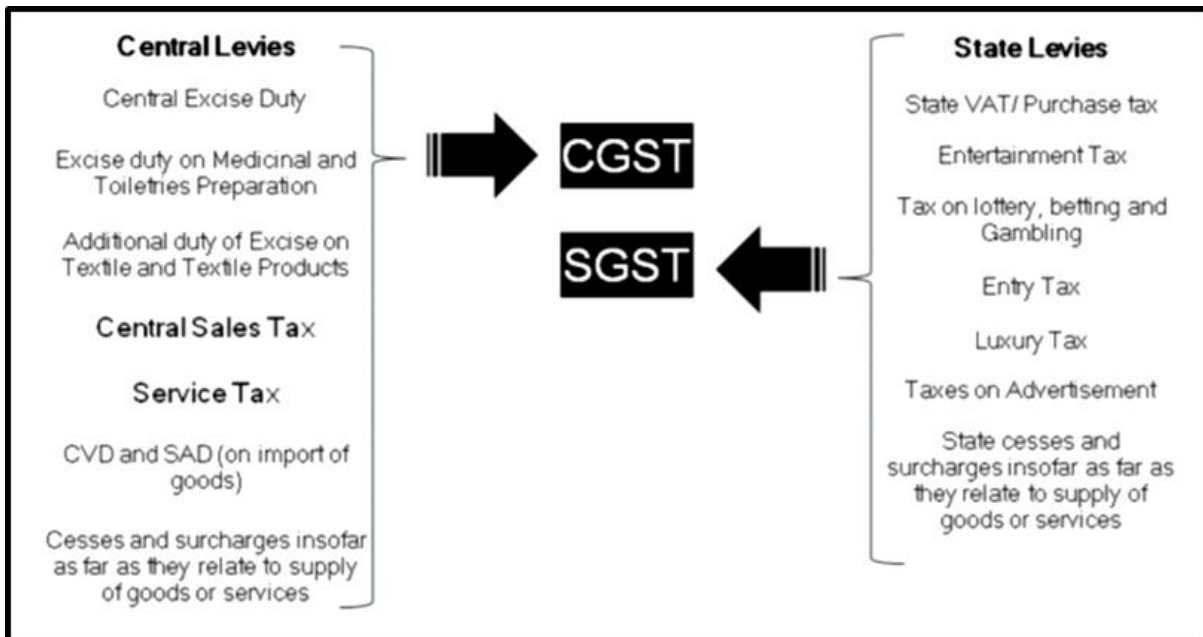
As India is a federal republic GST would be implemented concurrently by the central government and by state governments.

**Current Indirect Tax Regime in India**



**GST is seen as a solution to the above problems.**

GST shall subsume the following taxes in the times to come once the law is in force



**The proposed GST regime shall have the following features**

- It shall be a destination based taxation
- It shall have a Dual Administration – Centre and state
- State wise determination of taxable person – no more centralized registration
- Seamless credit amongst goods and services

**Why does India Need GST?**

- GST is being introduced majorly due to 2 reason
  - a) The current indirect tax structure is full of uncertainties due to multiple rates.
  - b) Due to multiple rates there are multiple forms.
- GST the tax complexity in the prevailing tax regime.

**How is the GST different from current system?**

|                           | <b>Current</b>   | <b>GST</b>   |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Nature of Regime          | A Combination of value added tax (VAT) which is a destination-based tax and origin-based taxes such as excise duties etc.            | Tax incidence at the point of sale   |
| Tax Base                  | Goods & Services are taxed separately, subject to some exemptions.   | Comprehensive base of goods & services included.   |
| Multiplicity of tax rates | Multiple tax rates   | Single tax rate  |
| Tax Cascading             | Incomplete set off mechanism for tax paid in the supply chain (e.g. no set off available for VAT against service tax or excise duty) | Complete set-off should be available in the entire chain of production and distribution to eliminate tax cascading effect. |

**Benefits of GST**

**i) To Traders**

- Reduction in multiplicity of taxes
- Mitigation of cascading/ double taxation
- More efficient neutralization of taxes especially for exports
- Development of common national market
- Simpler tax regime
  - Fewer rates and exemptions
  - Distinction between Goods & Services no longer required

**ii) To Consumers**

- Simpler Tax system
- Reduction in prices of goods & services due to elimination of cascading
- Uniform prices throughout the country
- Transparency in taxation system
- Increase in employment opportunities

**GST: Global Scenario**

- More than 140 countries have already introduced GST/National VAT.
- France was the first country to introduce GST system in 1954.
- Typically, it is a single rate system but two/three rate systems are also prevalent. Canada and Brazil alone have a dual VAT.
- Standard GST rate in most countries ranges between 15-20%.

- **Australia:** Gst In Australia Was Introuced In The Year 2000 By Howard Government Replacing The Previous Federal Tax System
- **Germany:** It Was Introduced On Its Outset As Vat @ 10% And Later Given The Name.
- **New Zealand:** Gst Was Introduced In The Year 1986 And The Tax Regime Saw A Dramatic Change

**GST: Global Perspective**

- GST has been a part of the tax landscape in Europe for the past 50 years.
- GST is fast becoming the preferred form of indirect tax in the Asia-pacific region.
- While countries such as Singapore and New Zealand tax virtually everything at a single rate, Indonesia has five positive rates, a zero rate and over 30 categories of exemptions.
- In china, GST applies only to goods and the provision of repairs, replacement and processing services.
- It is only recoverable on goods used in the production process, and gst on fixed assets is not recoverable.
- There is a separate business tax in the form of vat.
- Goods and services tax in brazil
  - Brazil was the first country to adopt GST system.
  - Brazil has adopted a dual GST where the tax is levied by both the central and the provincial governments.
  - GST rate is 20 %.

| S. No. | Country      | Rate (%) |
|--------|--------------|----------|
| 1.     | Australia    | 10       |
| 2.     | Austria      | 20       |
| 3.     | Canada       | 7        |
| 4.     | China        | 17       |
| 5.     | Denmark      | 25       |
| 6.     | Finland      | 22       |
| 7.     | France       | 19.6     |
| 8.     | Germany      | 16       |
| 9.     | Indonesia    | 10       |
| 10.    | Italy        | 20       |
| 11.    | Japan        | 5        |
| 12.    | Malaysia     | 5        |
| 13.    | Mexico       | 15       |
| 14.    | New Zealand  | 12.5     |
| 15.    | Philippines  | 10       |
| 16.    | Russia       | 18       |
| 17.    | Singapore    | 7        |
| 18.    | South Africa | 14       |
| 19.    | Sweden       | 25       |
| 20.    | Taiwan       | 5        |
| 21.    | U.K.         | 17.5     |

### Goods and Services Tax (GST) effective from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017

The GST Council finalised tax rates of goods and services under the four-slab structure with essential items of daily use being kept in the lowest bracket of 5 percent.

The Council, headed by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and comprising representatives of all states, also approved rules for the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime that is scheduled to kick in from July 1.

The Council fixed the rates for over 1200 items under the Goods and Services tax, amid demand by some states to keep essential items under the lower tax category.

Under the new tax regime, rates will range from 5 to 28 percent, with 12 percent and 18 percent being the standard rates. Only 19 percent of goods will be taxed above 18 percent while 81 percent of items will fall under below 18 percent GST rate slabs.

Cereals and milk will be exempted from tax. While sugar, tea, coffee and edible oil will be taxed at a rate of 5 percent. Coal will be taxed at 5 percent along with a levy of Rs 400 per tonne. Hair oil, soap, tooth paste will attract 18 percent GST.

Taxes on entertainment, cable and DTH services will come down under GST which is scheduled to be rolled out on July 1. The taxes on these services will come down as taxes on entertainment and amusements have been subsumed under GST except to the extent of taxes on entertainment and amusements levied by a panchayat or a municipality. The rate of GST approved by the GST Council on services by way of admission to entertainment events or cinematography films in cinema theatres is 28 per cent. However, the entertainment tax rates in respect of exhibition of cinematography films in theaters/cinema halls, currently levied by states are as high as

100 per cent in some of the states. The rate of entertainment tax on cable TV and DTH levied by states is in the range of 10-30 per cent in many states. Apart from this, service tax is also leviable at the rate of 15 per cent. "As against this, the rate of GST approved by GST Council on these services is 18 percent". The rate of GST approved by the GST Council on access to circus, theatre, Indian classical dance including folk dance and drama is 18 per cent ad valorem. Further, the council has approved an exemption up to a consideration for admission of Rs 250 per person. "These services currently attract entertainment tax levied by the states".

Telecoms and financial services will be taxed at a standard rate of 18 per cent, up from the earlier tax rate of 15 per cent.

While transport services (railways and air travel) will be taxed at 5 per cent, travelling in metro, local train, religious travel will be exempted from GST. Non-AC train travel will be exempted and the five per cent tax will be levied only on AC travel tickets.

Textile units fret over 18% GST, fear job cuts.

Economy class air travel will attract 5 per cent GST and business class travel will be taxed at 12 per cent, he added.

Five per cent GST to be levied on cab aggregators like Ola and Uber, down from the effective tax rate of 6 per cent that cab aggregators are paying currently.

Non-AC restaurants will charge 12 per cent GST on food bill and tax rate for AC restaurants and those with a liquor license will be 18 per cent, while 5-star hotels will charge 28 per cent GST. Restaurants with turnover of Rs. 50 lakh or below will go under the 5 per cent composition.

Entertainment tax will be merged with service tax under GST and a composite 28 per cent levy charged on cinema services (tickets) as well as gambling and betting on horses.

Hotels and lodges with per day tariffs of below Rs. 1,000 will be exempted from GST. Rate for hotels with tariff of Rs.1,000

to 2,000 per day will be 12 per cent, while those with tariff of Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 5,000 will be taxed at 18 per cent. GST for hotels with tariff above Rs. 5,000 will be 28 per cent.

The World Gold Council has said that the gold industry will witness a positive impact due to the higher tax rate in gold once the Goods and Services Tax is rolled out on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017.

GST Council has been kind enough to provide a special 3% GST on gold and precious metals. GST Council reduced the applicable rate on making charges from 18% to just 5%.

Basic food items like cereals, eggs and meat will attract zero tax, while processed food items will be charged between 12 and 28 per cent.

E-commerce players like Flipkart, Snapdeal will have to deduct 1% TCS (tax collected at source) while making payments to suppliers. GST triggers another '80%' online sale for Flipkart, Amazon.

Walmart India has launched a GST toll-free helpline to enable its kiranas and other reseller member's transition smoothly into the new tax regime.

Consumer durables such as smart phones that are imported could see a temporary spike in prices as India transitions to the goods and services tax (GST) that's set to be rolled out from 1<sup>st</sup> July. Those selling imported goods will need to claim deemed credit of 60% or 40% of the central GST paid, depending on the tax rate levied on the products.

The GST will be a national sales tax that will be levied on consumption of goods or use of services. It will replace 16 current levies — seven central taxes like excise duty and service tax and nine state taxes like VAT and entertainment tax — thereby creating India as one market with one tax rate.

With the GST, India will join select League of Nations with a goods and services tax.

France was the first country to implement the GST in 1954. Since then, Germany, Italy, the UK, South Korea, Japan, Canada and Australia have been among the over a dozen nations which have implemented the GST.

China implemented GST in 1994, while Russia did it in 1991. Saudi Arabia plans to do it in 2018.

The Reserve Bank called the GST a "game changer" and said given the cross-country experience and empirical evidence on efficiency gains from the Value Added Tax (VAT) in the Indian context, the implementation of this comprehensive indirect tax is likely to ensure higher tax buoyancy and an improvement in government finances over the medium term.

The GST is a destination-based single tax on the supply of goods and services from the manufacturer to the consumer and is one indirect tax for the entire country.

### Challenges threatening GST rollout/ Demerits of GST

- A small-scale manufacturing company with operations in only one state will have to file a minimum of 37 returns instead of the current 13 once the goods and services tax (GST) goes live from 1<sup>st</sup> July, increasing work for industry, accountants and banks.
- With the deadline for the GST less than a month away, finance professionals, banks and industry seem unprepared for the challenges of implementing the one nation-one tax idea, work towards which began 13 years ago.
- "The entire ecosystem needs to be changed to accept GST".
- "Everything will now be online and will need to be updated regularly. A business will have to file 37 returns in a year

(three returns per month and one annual return) per state,". "If it does business from offices in more than one state, the number of returns will go up accordingly. A business with offices in three states will have to file 111 tax returns in a year."

- With the government announcing GST for four tax rates -- 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent -- industry will face implementation challenges that include system upgrades, manpower training and understanding new taxes. Every transaction -- sale or purchase -- will now have to be recorded online to benefit from the tax paid earlier.
- While 24 states have passed state GST acts, seven have not - as yet. They are: Meghalaya, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal.
- While the location of the supplier and the customer within the country is immaterial for the purpose of CGST, SGST would be charged only when the supplier and the customer are within the state.
- The wholesaler would be required to deposit the CGST into a central government account and the SGST into the account of the state government.
- Every invoice from buyers and sellers must be entered in the GST system correctly to ensure that benefits accrue down the chain.
- "We have a system today across a majority of small units where an accountant comes (in) once a month, makes vouchers and inputs details for taxes,". "That will have to end now because we are moving to an online, almost real-time system that will need a lot of manpower."
- India's industry and its banking system will have to change systems, train personnel and accept the extra workload for the new taxation system. The banking system has clearly said it is not yet ready. Industry is ambivalent.
- "Nearly 50 per cent of Indian businesses are not aware of the changes that GST will usher in,".
- Tally accounting software is widely used by Indian companies. The company is waiting for the GST rules to be finalised, so that it can roll out its GST software for Indian companies.
- The industrial sector, especially the services sector, is waiting for more clarity on tax rates, processes and the time frame for the systems to settle down.
- "What we still don't know is which tax slab we fall in,"
- "While it is good that the taxation system will be streamlined and we will not have to deal with multiple tax payments like excise, service tax and value added tax, we still don't know how much time it will take for everybody to be on board."

### GST Council forms 18 groups to sort out industry worries

The GST Council has set up 18 sectoral groups to interact with the sectors like telecom, banking and export and sort out their issues in a time-bound manner for a smooth transition to the new indirect tax regime.

These sectoral working groups consist of senior officers from the Centre and states and they will interact and examine representations received from trade and industry associations/ bodies of their respective sector.

Also, the groups will highlight specific issues for the smooth transition of the respective sector to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime and prepare sector-specific draft guidance. "These 18 sectoral groups representing various sectors of the

economy and containing senior officers of the Centre and states are being set up to ensure smooth implementation of GST by

timely responding to the issues and problems of their respective sectors,".

### GST Rates on Essential Goods for Common Man - A Detailed List



- **Goods exempt from GST:** Unpacked food grains, gur, milk, eggs, curd, lassi, unpacked paneer, unbranded natural honey fresh, vegetables, unbranded atta, unbranded maida, unbranded besan, prasad, common salt, contraceptives, raw jute, raw silk
- **Services exempt from GST:** Health, education.
- **Goods attracting 5% GST:** Sugar, tea, roasted coffee beans, edible oils, skimmed milk powder, milk food for babies, packed paneer, cotton yarn, fabric, brooms of 'sarkanda' (saccharum bengalense), footwear up to Rs. 500, newsprint, PDS or public distribution system kerosene, domestic LPG, coal, solar photovoltaic cell & modules, cotton fibre, apparels up to Rs. 1,000.
- Besides, the government also mentioned few items each in the 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent tax slabs.
- **12% GST:** Butter, ghee, mobile, cashew, almonds, sausages, fruit juice, packed coconut water, agarbatti (incense sticks), umbrella, apparels above Rs. 1,000.
- **18% GST:** Hair oil, soap, toothpaste, capital goods, industrial intermediaries, pasta, corn flakes, jams, soups, ice cream, toilet/facial tissues, iron/steel, fountain pen, computer, manmade fibres, footwear above Rs. 500.
- **28% GST:** Consumer durables, cement, chewing gum, custard powder, perfume, shampoo, make-up, fireworks and motorcycle

#### Tax-Rate under the proposed GST

As per the decisions made by all will of GST Council, the tax rates would be at 4 slabs of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. Luxury and demerit goods will be taxed at 28% plus cess.

#### Conclusion

- The GST Council has finalized a four-tier tax structure of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% but has left room for the highest slab to be pegged at 40% with essential items of daily use

being kept in the lowest bracket of 5 percent. Under the new tax regime, rates will range from 5 to 28 percent, with 12 percent and 18 percent being the standard rates. Only 19 percent of goods will be taxed above 18 percent while 81 percent of items will fall under below 18 percent GST rate slabs.

- GST implementation as "a turning point" in the Indian economy. Creation of the one-nation, one-market and one-tax system would greatly benefit the common man.
  - A small-scale manufacturing company with operations in only one state will have to file a minimum of 37 returns instead of the current 13 once the goods and services tax (GST) goes live from 1st July, increasing work for industry, accountants and banks.
  - "The entire ecosystem needs to be changed to accept GST,
  - GST seeks to replace central taxes including central excise, service tax and cesses along with state taxes including value-added tax, purchase tax and entertainment tax by a single levy, thus creating a unified national market. Moreover, industry will be eligible for seamless input tax credit that should also drive down prices as tax embedding through imposition of tax on tax inflates the final price of a product.
  - By slashing costs and boosting efficiency, GST will result in GDP growth getting a 1-2 percentage point lift.
- “GST is a great step by Team India, great step towards transformation, great steps towards transparency”. - Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi.
- “Consumer is the King; we intend to bring uniformity in taxes”. - Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi.

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