

1st National GST Conference held on 25th November, 2019: Highlights

1st National GST Conference was held on 25th November, 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Revenue Secretary. There was participation of all Commissioners of State Tax and Zonal Chief Commissioners of Central Tax, Directors General of CBIC, Senior Officers of CBIC and DoR, and Officers from GSTN. This was the first all India Conference when both the tax administrations came together formally on a single platform to build synergy between States and Central Tax administration to share their knowledge/best practices with intent to bring about uniformity, remove dichotomy in practices and to build simple and efficient GST regime for taxpayers.

Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, Special Secretary, GST Council welcomed the Revenue Secretary and presented a memento "Vision and Mission of GST Council". He also welcomed Shri Pranab Kumar Das, Chairman, CBIC and presented memento. With the opening address of the Revenue Secretary, the conference was opened for participants.

Many presentations on different issues were made. CEO, GSTN and his team demonstrated through their presentation ongoing system related developments like New Return System, Refund Disbursement by Single Authority, E-invoicing and Linkage of FASTag with e-Way bill etc. A team of National Informatics Centre (NIC)'s officers demonstrated a GST Analytical System developed by them to help tax administrations to analyze and monitor tax collection and compliance. While presenting status of revenue collection by Joint Secretary (Revenue), measures/suggestions given by many states for revenue augmentation were also discussed.

Some Directorates of the CBIC demonstrated their functioning, performance and highlighted areas of capacity building for the Centre and State. DG NACIN presented an overview of the NACIN academy including its role in capacity building and audit. DG GST Intelligence presented functioning and performance of DGGI, which is an apex organization for collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence and causing enforcement with respect to GST evasion. DG ARM, presented about capability of data analytics on compliance management system developed by CBIC generating leads for enforcement action and feedback mechanism. He also presented efficacy analysis of red flag reports.

Presentations on best Practices by State Officers from Haryana, Assam and Telangana were well received, encouraged and appreciated by all, as it would benefit others also. On policy related matters, Principal Commissioner of the GST Policy Wing gave presentation on issues like Transitional Provisions and Trade Facilitation Measures.

The Conference witnessed extensive participation with 65 officers from State Tax administration, 27 officers from Central Tax Zones, 17 officers from various Directorates, 5 officers from Department of Revenue, 24 officers from CBIC, 2 officers from NIC, 12 officers from GSTN and 33 officers from GST Council Secretariat.





'Stakeholders Feedback Divas' on New Return

The Hon'ble Finance Minister convened a meeting on 16th November 2019 with chartered accountants, traders and other stakeholders as part of efforts to further simplify GST forms and make the filing process more user-friendly. The Hon'ble Finance Minister assured the stakeholders that their suggestions on simplification of GST filing will be implemented soon. She suggested holding similar exercises in the entire country to understand the issues and concerns of GST filers.

A nationwide "Stakeholders Feedback Divas" would be observed on **7th December 2019** in Centre and State Tax administrations so that more comprehensive exercise for getting insights into the challenges and problems, if any, in implementing the proposed new Return, could be addressed before its roll out.

The Chairman, CBIC in his communication to all Pr. Chief Commissioners and Chief Commissioners of CGST directed to ensure that all prominent organizations/associations representing taxpayers, tax practitioners and compliance managers from various Districts and sub-Divisions are invited to participate in the feedback session. Commissioner of a circle will call in some of assesses who will file in return and give suggestions. In addition, to make this day successful, a well conversant pool of officers should be made available to supervise and conduct the said feedback sessions across country. The GSTN has been requested to organize training sessions for field officers (both physical at Zonal campuses of NACIN and through video conferencing) in this regard.

It was also decided that the GSTN and CBIC will interact regularly after 7th December as this is an evolving system and this kind of interaction is required for further improvement of the system.

Source: D.O.F.No.CBEC-20/16/21/2019-GST dated 18/11/2019

Introduction of Document Identification Number (DIN)

In order to fulfill the Government's objectives of bringing transparency and accountability in the indirect tax administration, the CBIC, by leveraging the use of Information Technology, has implemented a system of quoting system generated unique DIN in all specified communications with effect from 8th November, 2019. In this regard, instructions vide **Circular No.122/2019 dated 05/11/2019** on generation and quoting of DIN have been issued. This measure would create a digital directory and maintain a proper audit trail of communication. Importantly, it would provide the recipients of such communication a digital facility to ascertain their genuineness. Accordingly no search authorization, summons, arrest memo, inspection notices and letters will be issued in the course of any enquiry by any officer under the Board to a taxpayer or any other person without a computer generated DIN being duly quoted prominently in the body of such communication. The exigent situations in which a communication may be issued without DIN are as follows:

- When there are technical difficulties in generating the electronic DIN, or
- When communication regarding investigation, verification etc. is required to be issued at short notice or in urgent situations and the authorized officer is outside the office in the discharge of his official duties.

The Board also directed that any specified communication which does not bear the electronically generated DIN and not covered by the exception mentioned above, shall be treated as invalid and shall be deemed to have never been issued. The genuineness of the communication can be ascertained by recipient by entering the CBIC-DIN for that communication in a window VERIFY CBIC-DIN on CBIC's website www.cbic.gov.in. Only in those cases where the DIN entered is valid, information about the office that issued communication and the date of generation of its DIN would be displayed on the screen.

This issue also came up for discussion in the address note of the Revenue Secretary in the National GST Conference on 25/11/2019 where he expressed that similar action may also be taken by States.

Simplification and Extension of Due Dates of Annual Return

CBIC has issued a **Notification No. 56/2019-Central Tax dated 14/11/2019** amending CGST Rules, 2017 through CGST (7th Amendment) Rules, 2019 for simplification of Form GST RFD-01, Form GSTR-9 and Form GSTR-9C. The brief of such changes are highlighted as under.

- Taxpayers are exempted from providing split of input tax credit availed on input, input services and capital goods for the financial year 2017-18 and 2018-19.
- Taxpayers are not required to provide HSN level information of outputs and inputs for FY 2017-18 and 2018-19.
- Following fields in FORM GSTR-9 have been made optional.
 - Table 4B to 4E, 5A to 5F (Option to fill net credit/debit notes and amendments)
 - Table 5D, 5E and 5F (Option to fill all (exempt, nil rated and non GST) in exempt category)
 - Table 6A to 6E (Option to fill all credit in input only, split not required)
 - Table 6C and 6D (Option to fill details in table 6D only)
 - Table 7A to 7H (Option to fill all details in table 7H only)
 - Table 8A to 8D (Option to upload details of these tables in pdf format in GSTR-9C)
 - Table 12 and 13 (Amendments)
 - Table 15A to 15D (Refund details)
 - Table 15E to 15G (Demands)
 - Table 16A (Supplies received from composition taxpayer), 16B (Deemed supplies from principle to job worker) and 16C (Deemed supplies sent on approval basis)
 - Table 17 and 18 (HSN wise details of inputs and outputs)
- Following fields in FORM GSTR-9C have been made optional.
 - Table 5B to 5N
 - Table 12B, 12c and 14

The last dates for furnishing annual return/reconciliation statement in FORM GSTR-9/FORM GSTR-9C have been extended vide **Removal of Difficulty Order No. 08/2019-Central Tax dated 14/11/2019**. Accordingly, the Annual Return for the period 1st July, 2017 to 31st March, 2018 (FY 2017-18) is to be furnished on or before 31st December, 2019 and Annual Return for the period from 1st April, 2018 to 31st March, 2019 (FY 2018-19) is to be furnished by 31st March, 2020.

CBIC vide its **Circular No. 124/43/2019-GST dated 18/11/2019** clarified optional filing of Annual Return under Notification No. 47/2019-Central Tax dated 9/10/2019. It is clarified that the tax payers may, at their own option, file FORM GSTR-9 for the said financial years before the due date. After the due date of furnishing the Annual Return for the year 2017-18 and 2018-19, the common portal shall not permit furnishing of FORM GSTR-9 for the said period. It has also been clarified that tax payers under composition scheme may, at their own option, file FORM GSTR-9A for the said financial years before the due date. After the due date of furnishing the Annual Return for the year 2017-18 and 2018-19, the common portal shall not permit furnishing of FORM GSTR-9A for the said period.

Single Authority Refund Disbursement Process

CBIC vide its **Circular No. 125/2019 dated 18/11/2019** clarified fully electronic refund process through FORM GST RFD-01 and disbursement of refund through Single Authority. The circular laid down procedure for electronic submission and processing of refund applications in supersession of all earlier circulars on the subject. The refund procedure was made fully electronic and was deployed on the common portal with effect from 26.09.2019.

GoM on Revenue Analysis

The Group of Ministers (GoM) on revenue analysis was constituted under the convenorship of Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Bihar in terms of the recommendations of the GST Council in its 31st meeting on 22nd December, 2018 with following mandates:

- Analyze trends of revenue collection for all the States in both pre and post GST era.
- Look into the structural patterns emerging out of revenue trends in major sectors of the economy.
- Identify underlying reasons for deviations in revenue collection trends vis-à-vis expected trends.
- Conduct data analytics using statistical and econometric tools with respect to the above three issues.
- Recommend measures for revenue augmentation especially for the States with larger shortfall in revenues.

The GoM has conducted two meetings so far as under.

Meeting	Date
1 st meeting	22 nd January, 2019
2 nd Meeting	9 th November, 2019

GoM on Real Estate

The Group of Ministers (GoM) on Real Estate was constituted on 15/01/2019 under the convenorship of Shri Nitin Patel, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Gujarat in terms of the recommendations of the 32nd GST Council meeting on 10/01/2019 to look into ways of boosting the Real Estate Sector and to submit their recommendations in respect of following terms of reference:

- Analyze the tax rates of GST for boosting the Real Estate Sector by providing a Composition Scheme for Residential Construction Units.
- Examine and suggest ways for Composition Scheme or any other Scheme for transition vis-à-vis introduction of suggested Scheme.
- Examine various aspects of levy of GST on Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and Development Rights in a joint Development Agreement.

- Examine legality of inclusion or exclusion of land in Composition and suggest Valuation Mechanism.
- Examine and suggest any other relevant aspects for boosting the Real Estate Sector.

The GoM has conducted two meetings so far as under.

Meeting	Date
1 st meeting	8 th February, 2019
2 nd Meeting	21 st November, 2019

Based on the recommendations of the GoM in its 1st meeting, GST Council in its 34th meeting dated 19th March, 2019 decided to lower effective GST rates on the construction of affordable houses to 1% and houses other than affordable ones to 5%. The changes were implemented with effect from 1st April, 2019. The recommendations of the 2nd meeting of the GoM would be presented in the next meeting of GST Council.

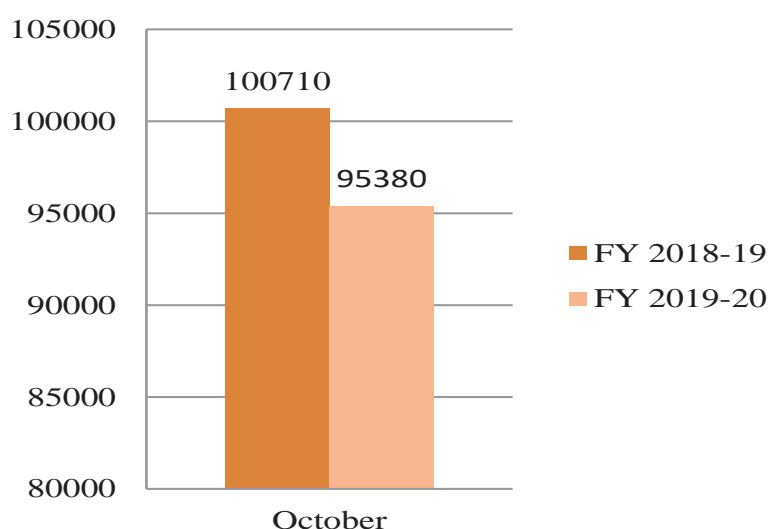
GST Workshop for CCTs

Goods and Services Tax Network organized a workshop for Commissioners of Commercial Taxes on 18th November, 2019 to demonstrate various Functionalities available on the GST online common portal and the working of these functionalities under different modules. The modules are that of Registration, Payment, Returns, E-Way Bill, Provisional Assessment, Assessment/Scrutiny of Return, Refunds, Advance Ruling, Dispute Resolution (Adjudication and Recovery), Appeal, Audit and Investigation.

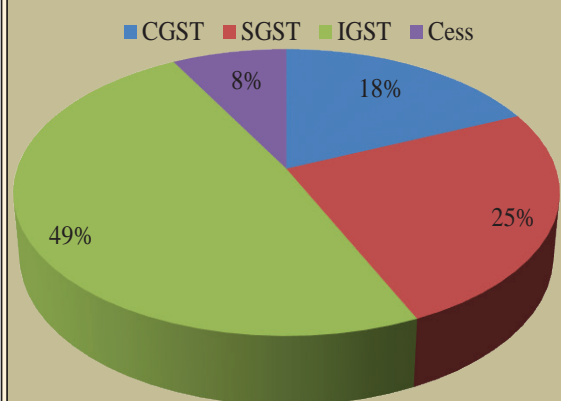
GST Revenue Collection

Gross GST revenue collected in the month of October, 2019 was Rs.95,380 crore including CGST Rs.17,582 crore, SGST Rs.23,674 crore, IGST Rs.46,517 crore and Cess of Rs.7,607 crore. The total revenue earned by Central and State Government after regular settlement in the month of October, 2019 is Rs. 38,224 crore for CGST and Rs.37,645 crore for the SGST. The revenue in October, 2019 declined by 5.29% as against the revenue in October, 2018.

Trends in GST Collection (Rs. Crore)



Break up of GST Revenue in October 2019



Source: PIB Press Release

Printed & Published by:

GST COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

5th Floor, Tower-II, Jeevan Bharati Building,
Connaught Place, New Delhi 110 001
Ph: 011-23762656, www.gstcouncil.gov.in

www.gstcouncil.gov.in



DISCLAIMER: This newsletter is in-house efforts of the GST Council Secretariat. The contents of this newsletter do not represent the views of GST Council and are for reference purpose only.