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Seeks to increase tariff rate of basic customs duty (BCD) on tariff items (<https://www.thedollarbusiness.com/news/seek-to-increase-tariff-rate-of-basic-customs-duty-bcd-on-tariff-items/51783>)

Completion of Data Entry in DIGIT (<https://www.thedollarbusiness.com/news/completion-of-data-entry-in-digit/51772>)

Imports of Graphite Electrodes of all diameters from China PR Mid-term review (MTR) (<https://www.thedollarbusiness.com/news/imports-of-graphite-electrodes-of-all-diameters-from-china-pr-midterm-review-mtr/51771>)

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Draft GST Bills circulated to the States

The absence of slab rates in statutes could indicate a separate notification.

Ranjeet Mahtani & Stella Joseph

The three Draft GST Bills i.e. draft Central Goods and Service Tax Bill ('CGST Bill'), the Integrated Goods and Service Tax Bill ('IGST Bill'), and the Goods and Service Tax (Compensation for loss of revenue) Bill have been circulated to the States for comments. While the drafts per se have not been put up for public comment (like the Model GST law which was circulated on 14th June, 2016), in terms of indications that are emerging the slab rates (of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% for goods and as well as services [except the 28% slab rate]). The absence of the slab rates in the statutes may be an indication that these will be separately notified. The periodicity of a rate change will therefore become unpredictable if these are prescribed by way of notifications. We should remind ourselves that though the GST Council can make "recommendations" inter alia in relation to the rates (and which it did - in the form of the four slab rates), these recommendations are ultimately not binding. One only hopes that all the concerned authorities (Centre and State) respect the underlying federal spirit of GST and tow to the rates as decided cumulatively at the GST Council forum.

The bureaucracy parallelly is also deciding on classifying the goods/ services in terms of the slab rates. Hence, industry should continue to be proactive in representing their areas of concerns to the relevant authorities.

(<https://www.thedollarbusiness.com/exim-maps>)

The GST Bills have been listed for introduction, consideration and passing before the Parliament (without specifying the date), to be taken up during the current winter session (from November, 2016 to December, 2016). There are indications that this could be towards the end of November or early December. One will have to see if these are introduced as Money Bills (and thus circumventing the debate in the Rajya Sabha, where Opposition has a stronger presence). The recent brouhaha over the demonetisation drive may have some impact on the Parliamentary deliberations. One only hopes that the momentum picked up by the Government to fast track the GST process does not face such bumps and hurdles on the way.

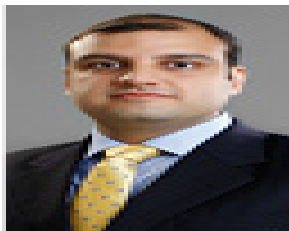
Progress on the enrolment drive

The enrolment process (for migration of existing registrations to GST) for the second set of States (including some of the key States such as Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa) – commenced on 14th (in some States, effectively on 15th since 14th was a Government holiday) and will continue till the end of this month. Typically, the relevant details (provisional ID and passwords) to initiate the process have been made available online (except in Goa where these were provided physically). The online process is seemingly simple and no major hiccups have yet been reported. There is yet no official clarification issued on whether this process has to be undertaken multiple times by the assesseees who have multiple registrations.

SEZ benefit to continue?

The Revenue Secretary on 9th November chaired a meeting to deliberate upon the changes that are to be made to the SEZ Act so that the indirect tax concessions presently enjoyed by SEZs may continue under GST as well. The benefits may be extended by way of amendments to the SEZ Act (specifically Sections 26 and 30) and the Rules thereunder. There were earlier speculations as regards the continuation of such benefits – given that GST generally is geared towards granting minimal exemptions - the uncertainty is now seemingly reduced.

Considering the momentum towards introducing GST, it is crucial for the industry to start evaluating their systems and processes and how these will get impacted under GST, to ensure overall preparedness towards GST.



About the author
Ranjeet Mahtani
 Partner, ELP

(The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily represent or reflect views of *The Dollar Business*.)



About the author
Stella Joseph
 Senior Associate, ELP

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Sheela Mamidenna - Nov 19, 2016 12:00 IST

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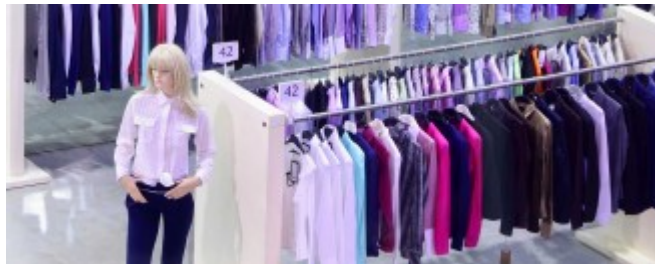
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Exports of two-wheelers from India were increased by 20.29% in 2017-18.

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(<https://www.thedollarbusiness.com/news/indias-economy-is-recovering-to-grow-at-7-3-in-2018-19-fitch>)

India's economic growth rate is estimated at 6.5% in the current fiscal.

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NMDC e-auctions pellets for the first time

The base price of the pellets was around Rs.5219/MT (basic).

The Dollar Business Bureau

NMDC, India's single largest producer of iron-ore had for the first time put up iron-ore pellets for commercial sale on Nov 15. The sale was conducted via e-auction by NMDC.

The pellets which were manufactured at NMDC's Donimalai plant Bellary, ranging in size from 6-16mm were placed in 12 different lots of 1000 MT each.

According to market sources, the auction received a good response with the base price of the pellets hovering around Rs.5219/MT (basic).



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Market sources confirmed that parties outside the state of Karnataka showed keen interest, as a result, the bids went up by Rs.50/MT and the entire quantity was sold.

Information on the same remains to be confirmed as the bid sheets have not been made public by NMDC.

Related Topics:

NMDC (https://www.thedollarbusiness.com/news/tag/national-mineral-development-corporation-nmdc)

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The Dollar Business Bureau - Nov 19, 2016 12:00 IST

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JIPB gets 27 investment proposals worth Rs.1 lakh cr

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State government organised inaugural of Jharkhand Investment Promotion Board in Mumbai.

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Govt to launch National Mineral Exploration Policy

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