

GST BULLETIN

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Rates to be decided in the next GST council meeting on May 18-19

Finance ministry said the next meeting of the GST (Goods and Services Tax) Council will take place on May 18-19. The meeting will be held in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

This round of meeting to be headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is scheduled to finalise the rates of different commodities and services. It will also approve rates of remaining items. However, these rates would not be announced to avoid chaos in the market.

PM reviews preparedness for GST rollout

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held a high-level meeting with key officials from the Finance Ministry to review the preparedness to roll out the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Prime Minister Modi met Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and senior officials from the Revenue Department including Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia to review the

The Council has already approved half of the rules that are required for rolling out of GST from July 1.

It has also approved to amend the five rules on registration of entities under GST, filing of returns, payment of tax and refund, invoicing and debit and credit notes in consonance with the GST law approved by parliament in March.

COMMENT: The decision on rates is believed to be a mechanical work as most of the rates would be similar to the prevailing ones but

progress on the GST roll-out, among other issues. The government is looking at July 1 as the date for the GST roll-out – marking the biggest indirect tax reform since Independence.

COMMENT: The much awaited indirect tax regime has to be carefully implemented after considering all the aspects.

however services are believed to be taxed a bit higher.

Govt firm on rolling out GST from July 1: Adhia

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Dr Hasmukh Adhia, revenue secretary, Government of India said that Central Government is committed to roll out Goods and Services Tax (GST) from July 1 to create a common national market for seamless flow of goods. While speaking at the GST conference organized jointly by Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), Adhia said that "The USA's Federal Bank has studied the impact on GST on India's economy. You would be surprised to know that it has predicted GDP growth by 4.2 per cent."

Comment: Government has to ensure that the market and the Revenue are well prepared before the rollout.

Government will sync trade policy with GST: Nirmala

The Commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday a committee set up by her ministry will take up the concerns of exporters regarding an expected increase in fund requirement under goods and services tax (GST) regime with the council headed by finance minister Arun Jaitley and comprising all states, while promising to rework the Foreign Trade Policy from July 1 to bring it in sync with the new tax regime.

Comment: It is of the at most importance to ensure that the exporters do not face any issues during the transition period and FTP should be reviewed according to the new tax regime.

All India Tax Advocates' Forum urges FM to protect confidentiality under GST

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The All India Tax Advocates' Forum (AITAF) has asked the government to ensure confidentiality of details furnished by assesses under the new Goods and Service Tax regime. "While framing the GST Rules, adequate safeguards of the information provided by the assessee like records, accounts, returns and statements to the tax under the new tax system must be ensured and penal provision be made for un authorized disclosure or leakage of such information," AITAF President MK Gandhi said in a statement. Such a provision for protection of information submitted by assessee to the tax authorities already exists in the DVAT Act, he said in a representation to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. Under the present Delhi Value Added Tax (DVAT) Act all particulars contained in any statement made, return furnished or account or documents produced in accordance with this Act are being treated as confidential, he said. "Protection of confidentiality of information submitted to the tax authorities is of extreme importance. Any compromise on this front will jeopardize the competitiveness of business enterprise, which holds key to economic growth," it added.

COMMENT: Assessee is entitled to confidentiality to maintain the competitiveness.

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