

# **An Economic impact , approaches and analysis of Goods and services Tax (GST) in India**

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## **Abstract:**

In order to make India a manufacturing hub, as it will create employment for burgeoning youth, it is imperative that the foreign investors/companies find the environment to be conducive here. But major impediment to this is, uncertain & unpredictable indirect tax regime. To address this constitution amendment bill for Goods & Service Tax (GST) has been approved and implemented from April 2017 which is replaced to all multi staged taxes by centre & state giving birth to unified tax structure.

Goods and services are divided into five different tax slabs for collection of tax - 0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. However, petroleum products, alcoholic drinks, and electricity are not taxed under GST and instead are taxed separately by the individual state governments, as per the previous tax system. There is a special rate of 0.25% on rough precious and semi-precious stones and 3% on gold. In addition a cess of 22% or other rates on top of 28% GST applies on few items like aerated drinks, luxury cars and tobacco products. Pre-GST, the statutory tax rate for most goods was about 26.5%, Post-GST, most goods are expected to be in the 18% tax range.

The tax came into effect from 1 July 2017 through the implementation of the One Hundred and First Amendment of the Constitution of India by the Indian government. The GST replaced existing multiple taxes levied by the central and state governments.

The tax rates, rules and regulations are governed by the GST Council which consists of the finance ministers of the central government and all the states. The GST is meant to replace a slew of indirect taxes with a federated tax and is therefore expected to reshape the country's 2.4 trillion dollar economy, but its implementation has received criticism. Positive outcomes of the GST includes the travel time in interstate movement, which dropped by 20%, because of disbanding of interstate check posts. The GST bill was implemented in India from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. In this particular research paper we discuss about probable pros and cons of GST system in Indian context and positive and negative impact of GST on business and Indian Economy.

## **Keywords:**

*GST, Economy, Tax System, Impact of GST, Growth Rate, Inflation, Rate, Tax Rate, Ability-To-Pay Taxation, Unemployment.*

## **1.0 Introduction:**

Goods and Services Tax (GST) is an indirect tax (or consumption tax) used in India on the supply of goods and services. It is a comprehensive, multistage, destination-based tax: comprehensive because it has subsumed almost all the indirect taxes except a few state taxes. Multi-staged as it is, the GST is imposed at every step in the production process, but is meant to

be refunded to all parties in the various stages of production other than the final consumer and as a destination-based tax, it is collected from point of consumption and not point of origin like previous taxes.

*The Goods and Services Tax is a reform designed to create an ecosystem where free and fair competition can thrive. The state and centre in unison decided to pool in their resource and sovereignty to create this fiscal consolidation for the common goal of economic prosperity. India's first federal institution, the GST reform does away with the old multilayer arbitrary tax scheme, making it easier to administer taxes while making revenue collection more efficient. The idea of Goods & Services Tax (GST) was contemplated in 2004 by the Task Force, named Kelkar Committee, on the implementation of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 in India. This Committee was convinced that a dual GST system shall be able to tax all the goods and services in Indian Economy. It will be helpful to cover wider market of tax base system and also help to improve revenue collection through levying and collection of indirect tax. According to GST, every person is liable to pay tax on output and tax will be applied only on value added amount. GST consider the principle of "one nation, one tax and one market." GST exists in more than 160 countries of the world. It will help to improve the productivity in the country as well as benefited to the consumers because as maximum rate of GST is predetermined. It helps to avoid double taxation system, tax evasion etc. Government proposed State GST as well as Central GST. State GST includes sales tax/ VAT which are collected by states and Central GST includes excise duty, custom duty, service tax etc. which are imposed by Central Government. In GST, goods and services rates classified under different five categories of taxes: - 0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. However, petroleum products, alcoholic drinks, and electricity are not taxed under GST and instead are taxed separately by the individual state governments, as per the previous tax system. There is a special rate of 0.25% on rough precious and semi-precious stones and 3% on gold. In addition a cess of 22% or other rates on top of 28% GST applies on few items like aerated drinks, luxury cars and tobacco products. Pre-GST, the statutory tax rate for most goods was about 26.5%, Post-GST, most goods are expected to be in the 18% tax range..*

The history of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India dates back to the year 2000 and culminates in 2017 with four bills relating to it becoming an Act. The GST Act aims to streamline taxes for goods and services across India.

The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India was a historical move, as it marked a significant indirect tax reform in the country. The amalgamation of a large number of taxes (levied at a central and state level) into a single tax is expected to have big advantages. One of the most important benefit of the move is the mitigation of double taxation or the elimination of the cascading effect of taxation. The initiative is now paving the way for a common national market. Indian goods are also expected to be more competitive in international and domestic markets post GST implementation.

From the viewpoint of the consumer, there would be a marked reduction in the overall tax burden that is currently in the range of 25% to 30%. The GST, due to its self-policing and transparent nature, is also easier to administer on an overall scale

The President of India approved the Constitution Amendment Bill for Goods and Services Tax (GST) on 8 September 2016, following the bill's passage in the Indian parliament and its ratification by more than 50% of state legislatures. This law will replace all indirect taxes levied on goods

and services by the central government and state government and implement GST by April 2017. The implementation of GST will have a far-reaching impact on almost all the aspects of the business operations in India. With more than 140 countries now adopting some form of GST, India has long been a stand-out exception. In 2017 Four Bills related to GST become Act, following approval in the parliament and the President's assent: Central GST Bill, Integrated GST Bill, Union Territory GST Bill, GST (Compensation to States) Bill

The GST Council also finalised on the GST rates and GST rules. The Government declares that the GST Bill will be applicable from 1 July 2017, following a short delay that is attributed to legal issues.

## **2.0 Tax Structure before GST**

Before the implementation of GST, taxation laws between the Centre and states were clearly demarcated. There were no overlaps between the fiscal powers, whatsoever. The Centre would levy tax on goods manufacture, except alcohol for consumption, narcotics, opium, etc.

The states had the power to charge tax on the sale of goods.

The Centre would levy the Central Sales Tax that was collected by the originating states.

The Centre was also levying service tax on all types of services.

Additionally, the Centre was charging and collecting additional duties of customs on goods that were imported into or exported from India. This tax was levied in addition to the Basic Customs Duty. This additional duty of customs is referred to as Countervailing Duty (CVD) and Special Additional Duty (SAD) and it counter balances excise duties, state VAT, sales tax, and other such taxes.

The introduction of the GST regime made amendments to the Constitution so that the Centre and states are empowered at the same time to levy and collect GST. This concurrent jurisdiction of the states and Centre also requires an institutional mechanism that ensures joint decisions are taken about the structure and operation of GST.

## **3.0 Following are the salient features of the proposed GST system:**

The power to make laws in respect of supplies in the course of inter-state trade or commerce will remain with the central government. The states will have the right to levy GST on intrastate transactions, including on services.

The administration of GST will be the responsibility of the GST Council, which will be the apex policy-making body for GST. Members of GST Council will comprise central and state ministers in charge of the finance portfolio.

The threshold for levy of GST is a turnover of Rs. 1 million. For a taxpayer who conducts business in a north-eastern state of India the threshold is Rs.500,000.

The central government will levy IGST on inter-state supply of goods and services. Import of goods will be subject to basic customs duty and IGST.

Central taxes such as central excise duty, additional excise duty, service tax, additional custom duty and special additional duty, as well as state-level taxes such as VAT or sales tax, central

sales tax, entertainment tax, entry tax, purchase tax, luxury tax and octroi will be subsumed in GST.

Entertainment tax, imposed by states on movies, theatre, etc., will be subsumed in GST, but taxes on entertainment at panchayat, municipality or district level will continue.

Stamp duties, typically imposed on legal agreements by states, will continue to be levied.

Offers a wider tax base, necessary for lowering tax rates and eliminating classification disputes.

#### **4.0 Objective of the study:**

- 1- To identify the economic consequences of GST in India.*
- 2- To find out the anticipated barriers and future predictions for GST.*
- 3- To study the positive and negative impact of GST on Indian economy*

#### **5.0 Research Methodology:**

The paper is based on secondary sources of data, which have been obtained from various GST implementation discussion papers, published articles in journals, web articles (internet sources), past studies and newspaper etc. With the help of these secondary sources, an attempt has been made to find the obstacles coming on the way of GST and looking for future opportunities of it in India.

#### **6.0 Goods and Services Tax Network**

Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) was set up as a private company in 2013 by the Government under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. GSTN is expected to offer the front-end services of registration, payment, and returns to taxpayers. It would also develop back-end technical modules that will be utilised by 25 states that have opted in.

GSTN has also identified 34 IT and financial technology companies and tagged them as GST Suvidha Providers (GSPs). These organisations will develop applications that will be used by taxpayers when they interact with GSTN.

#### **7.0 Key features of the GST regime**

The GST system is characterized by the following features:

GST is applicable on the “supply” of services or goods as opposed to the earlier concept of taxation on goods manufacture, sale of goods, or service provision. GST is a destination-based tax structure unlike the origin-based structure that existed previously. CGST, IGST, and SGST/UTGST are levied at rates that would be mutually agreed upon by the states and Centre. GST will replace the central taxes mentioned below:

Duties of Excise (medicinal and toilet needs), Central Excise Duty, Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance), Additional Duties of Customs (CVD), Service Tax, Special Additional Duty of Customs (SAD), Additional Duties of Excise (Textiles and Textile Products), Cesses and surcharges,

GST will subsume the following state taxes:

Central Sales Tax, Entry Tax, State VAT, Luxury Tax, Purchase Tax, Entertainment Tax, except that levied by local entities, Taxes on lotteries and gambling, Taxes on advertisements, State cesses and surcharges

Taxpayers with annual turnover of Rs.20 lakh is exempt from GST. For special category states, this cut-off is Rs.10 lakh. An option of compounding is available to small-scale taxpayers with annual turnover of Rs.50 lakh or below. The choice of threshold exemption and the compounding scheme are optional.

Input credit of CGST shall be used only for paying CGST on the output. Similarly, input credit of SGST/UTGST will be used only for the payment of SGST/UTGST. Therefore, the two channels of input tax credit cannot be cross-utilised, except for the payment of IGST for inter-state supplies.

Here I am sharing some Key benefits of the GST announcement are detailed below:

1. As mentioned above, the GST system will create a common national market that boosts foreign investment.
2. The cascading effect of taxation will be mitigated.
3. There will be uniformity in laws, rates of tax, and procedures across states.
4. The GST regime is expected to boost manufacturing activities and exports. This would, in turn, generate more employment and lead to the growth of the economy.
5. Indian products would be more competitive in the international markets.
6. The GST system is likely to improve the overall investment climate in India.
7. Uniformity in the rates of SGST and IGST will reduce tax evasion to a large extent.
8. The average sales burden experienced by companies is expected to come down, thereby increasing consumption and boosting subsequent production of goods.
9. GST is a simpler system of taxation with smaller number of exemptions.
10. There are automated and simplified methods for processes such as registration, refunds, returns of GST, tax payments, etc.
11. All interactions will be handled by the common GSTN website.
12. The input tax credit process will be more accurate and transparent, as electronic matching will be performed.
13. The final price of most goods will be lower when taxation is at the New GST rates. There will also be a seamless input tax credit flow between the manufacturer, retailer, and supplier of service.
14. A huge segment of small-scale retailers may be either exempt from tax or may benefit from low tax rates based on the compounding scheme. Consumers will further benefit if purchases are made from these small retailers.

### **8.0 Economic consequences of GST in India:**

As per the Indian retail industry, the total tax component is around 30% of the product cost. Due to the impact of GST, the taxes have gone down. So, the end consumer has to pay lesser taxes. The reduced burden of taxes has enhanced the production and growth of the retail and other industries.

The registration of GST will create a unified market. This will help in the facilitation of seamless movement of goods to different states of India and reduce the transaction cost of businesses.

Under GST regime the burden of taxation will be allocated fairly between manufacturing and services via lower tax rates resulting in increased tax base and minimized exemptions.

It is expected to remove the cascading effects of taxes and help in establishing of common national market.

Increased investments in manufacturing sectors and reduced cost will result in increased volume of exports.

### **9.0 Anticipated barriers for GST:**

The results of analysis found that lack of skilled manpower, lack of clarity of GST provisions, political unwillingness, and lack of policy for proper division of tax are the major barriers in the implementation of GST.

The most evident issue is the exemptions of key sectors such as electricity, diesel, petrol, crude oil and real estate. These exemptions may not be able to reduce the cascading effect of indirect taxes as expected.

Though transitional phase also faces roadblocks as well as lack of clarity till it reaches final implementation. There are few blind spots which need to be uncovered so that the benefits trickle down to every sector of the economy. One such is the dual structure. A strong mechanism is needed to monitor the tax levied on the origin state till the destination stage. It is essential that the tax payer should feel burden with zealous taxes and his cash flow is uninterrupted.

There are panels expected to overcome these few hitches, however only time and effective implementation would help the nation to reap the benefits of unifying tax structure.

### **10.0 Future Predictions for GST:**

Three years ago, the indirect tax system in India went through a massive change and taxpayers across the country were introduced to a consumption-based indirect tax, the Goods and Services Tax. Known as India's most significant and most historic indirect tax reform, this new system revolutionised the way India perceived indirect tax by introducing uniform taxation under its philosophy of one nation, one tax. GST as a consistent taxation system replaced indirect taxes like excise duty, service tax, additional duties of excise and other duties, customs at the Central Government level as well as State VAT, luxury tax, entry tax, central sales tax, entertainment and amusement tax, taxes on advertisements, taxes on lotteries and purchase tax at the State Government level. This marked the start of a tax revolution in the country – "One Nation, One Tax".

As a nation, we have come a long way since the Goods and Services Tax was first implemented on July 1, 2017. Here are the highlights of the Goods and Services Tax journey since its implementation in India, its challenges and achievements, its future prospects and its most recent efforts to revive the nation from the economic slump caused due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak and subsequent nationwide lockdown.

India launched the world's most extensive coordinated lockdown in March 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Naturally, this lockdown brought already struggling businesses to a

standstill. 2019 already saw India in an economic slump, and the Union Budget 2020 was mainly focused on introducing automation and advocating digitisation in a bid to crackdown on tax evasion and propose measures for easier GST compliance. Two significant reforms that were expected to be rolled out in April 2020 were e-invoicing and the new returns system. These reforms were expected to further the nation’s Digital India campaign with digitised tax management and tax operations. Unfortunately, the reforms were deferred due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Sales Tax Rate in India is expected to reach 18% by the end of 2020, according to Trading Economics global macro models and analysts’ expectations. In the long-term, the India Sales Tax Rate - GST is projected to trend around 18% in 2021, according to our econometric models.

This meant that all eyes were on the COVID-19 economic stimulus relief package that was announced by the Centre after India went into lockdown in March 2020. This economic stimulus package eased several concerns of the otherwise troubled MSME sector who contribute to a large chunk of the Indian economy.

**11.0 Positive Impact of GST in Indian Economy:**

From 1st May 2018 onwards Ministry of Finance of Government of India started releasing monthly GST revenue collection data via official press release through Press Information Bureau. And to further improve transparency Government of India started issuing state-wise monthly collection data from January 1 2020.

**12.0 Monthly National Revenue Collections**

Month	2020-21		2019-20		2018-19		2017-18	
	Collections	M-O-M Change	Collections	M-O-M Change	Collections	M-O-M Change	Collections	M-O-M Change
April	□ 32,294 crore (US\$4.5 billion) <sup>[2]</sup>	▼	□ 113,865 crore (US\$16 billion) <sup>[3]</sup>	▲	□ 103,459 crore (US\$15 billion) <sup>[4]</sup>	▲	NA	
May	□ 62,009 crore (US\$8.7 billion) <sup>[2]</sup>	▲	□ 100,289 crore (US\$14 billion) <sup>[3]</sup>	▼	□ 94,016 crore (US\$13 billion) <sup>[5]</sup>	▼	NA	

Month	2020-21		2019-20		2018-19		2017-18	
	Collections	M-O-M Change	Collections	M-O-M Change	Collections	M-O-M Change	Collections	M-O-M Change
June	□90,917 crore (US\$13 billion) <sup>[2]</sup>	▲	□99,938 crore (US\$14 billion) <sup>[3]</sup>	▼	□95,610 crore (US\$13 billion) <sup>[5]</sup>	▲	NA	
July	□87,422 crore (US\$12 billion) <sup>[6]</sup>	▼	□102,083 crore (US\$14 billion) <sup>[3]</sup>	▲	□96,483 crore (US\$14 billion) <sup>[5]</sup>	▲	□21,572 crore (US\$3.0 billion) <sup>[7]</sup>	—
August	□86,449 crore (US\$12 billion) <sup>[8]</sup>	▼	□98,203 crore (US\$14 billion) <sup>[3]</sup>	▼	□93,960 crore (US\$13 billion) <sup>[5]</sup>	▼	□95,633 crore (US\$13 billion) <sup>[7]</sup>	▲
September	□95,480 crore (US\$13 billion) <sup>[9]</sup>	▲	□91,917 crore (US\$13 billion) <sup>[3]</sup>	▼	□94,442 crore (US\$13 billion) <sup>[5]</sup>	▲	□94,064 crore (US\$13 billion) <sup>[7]</sup>	▼
October	□105,155 crore (US\$15 billion) <sup>[10]</sup>	▲	□95,380 crore (US\$13 billion) <sup>[3]</sup>	▲	□100,710 crore (US\$14 billion) <sup>[5]</sup>	▲	□93,333 crore (US\$13 billion) <sup>[7]</sup>	▼
November	□104,963 crore (US\$15 billion) <sup>[11]</sup>	▼	□103,491 crore (US\$15 billion) <sup>[3]</sup>	▲	□97,637 crore (US\$14 billion) <sup>[4]</sup>	▼	□83,780 crore (US\$12 billion) <sup>[7]</sup>	▼
December			□103,184 crore (US\$1	▼	□94,726 crore (US\$1	▼	□84,314 crore (US\$1	▲

Month	2020-21		2019-20		2018-19		2017-18	
	Collections	M-O-M Change	Collections	M-O-M Change	Collections	M-O-M Change	Collections	M-O-M Change
			4 billion) <sup>[12]</sup>		3 billion) <sup>[13]</sup>		2 billion) <sup>[7]</sup>	
January			□ 110,818 crore (US\$16 billion) <sup>[3]</sup>	▲	□ 102,503 crore (US\$14 billion) <sup>[4]</sup>	▲	□ 89,825 crore (US\$13 billion) <sup>[7]</sup>	▲
February			□ 105,366 crore (US\$15 billion) <sup>[3]</sup>	▼	□ 97,247 crore (US\$14 billion) <sup>[4]</sup>	▼	□ 85,962 crore (US\$12 billion) <sup>[7]</sup>	▼
March			□ 97,597 crore (US\$14 billion) <sup>[3]</sup>	▼	□ 106,577 crore (US\$15 billion) <sup>[4]</sup>	▲	□ 92,167 crore (US\$13 billion) <sup>[7]</sup>	▲
<b>Annual Average</b>			□ <b>101,844 crore (US\$14 billion)</b>	▲	□ <b>98,114 crore (US\$14 billion)</b>	▲	□ <b>82,294 crore (US\$12 billion)<sup>[a]</sup></b>	

**13.0 Increase in Foreign Investment-** With GST, India is now a unified market and the foreign investment has increased in India. The goods that are manufactured within India because of their reduced costs have become more competitive in international market leading to growth in export. The implementation of Goods & Services tax puts India in the line of international tax standards, making it easier for Indian businesses to sell in the globalmarket.

**Fewer Tax-** GST has two constituents: The central GST and the State GST. The Central GST will replace - Service Tax, Central Excise Duty, and Custom Duty etc. The State GST will replace - State VAT, Central Sales Tax, Tax on Advertisements, Luxury Tax, Purchase Tax, Entertainment Tax etc. Before GST, there were so many taxes and now they have replaced all these taxes and duties with Central GST and StateGST.

**14.0 Reduce the cost of doing business-** GST has changed VAT all over India. Now we do not need to pay different amounts of taxes in different states. It is one tax system for all states of India and so we have already got rid of various taxes and duties on our businesses.

Transparency- The tax administration has started working corruption free. Also enabling sales invoices to show the tax applied has resulted in transparency.

#### **15.0 Negative Impact of GST in Indian Economy:**

GST is a concept for the large confusion among common man. The main aim of this research paper is to explain the concept of the GST and its impact on Indian economy. In India, the idea of GST was contemplated in 2004 by the Task Force on implementation of the FRBM Act, 2003, named Kelkar Committee. GST is an indirect tax of government of India, having large negative impact on poor people, because, the theory of equality or ability to pay has been excluded in the tax system. Taxes should be straight, simple and easy, it means that the poor and the rich person should be taxed according to their income, which is lacking in the GST system of the government of India. Briefly, every person is liable to pay tax on output and is entitled to enjoy credit on input tax paid and tax should be only on the amount of value added. According to the world bank, GST is one of the most complicated tax systems in the world, with its high tax rates and a larger number of tax rates, The GST system was launched in a function at Central Hall of Parliament on July 1, 2017. GST is a "one nation, one tax, one market" aimed at unifying the country's \$2 trillion economy and 1.3 billion people into a common market. Under GST, goods and services fall under five tax categories: 0 per cent, 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent. The current tax system puts negative impact on the growth rate, consumption, demand and the inflation rate and tax rate and unemployment rate in India. This condition is not good for common man. GST is not Ability-to-pay taxation. It should follow a progressive taxation principle, where taxes are levied according to a taxpayer's ability to pay. Here I am sharing some negative impact of GST in Indian Economy:-GST is being referred to as a single taxation system but in reality it is a dual tax because both the state and centre both will collect separate tax on a single transaction of sale and service. The tax rate has been increased for many products, thus increasing their costs. Some sectors are at a loss- Sectors like Textile, Media, Pharma, Dairy Products, IT and Telecom are bearing the brunt of a higher tax. Also the price of commodities has increased like jewellery, mobile phones and credit cards. Economists are of the opinion that GST in India has already had a negative impact on the real estate market. It has added up to 8% to the cost of new homes and reduced demand by about 12%.

#### **16.0 GST Revenue Drivers and Collection Amounts:**

GST revenues continue to rise, owing to the number of registered taxpayers and improved compliance with more returns being filed. This is facilitated by the implementation of anti-tax evasion measures such as e-Way Bill, reverse charge mechanism and the much-anticipated system of invoice matching expected to be put into action by end of 2018. GST collections peaked in April 2018 at Rs 89,885 crore. This is much higher than the monthly average GST collection in the last financial year of Rs 89,885 crore.

#### **Economic Impact:**

GST the biggest tax reform in India founded on the notion of "one nation, one market, one tax" is finally here. The moment that the Indian government was waiting for a decade has finally

arrived. The single biggest indirect tax regime has kicked into force, dismantling all the interstate barriers with respect to trade. The GST rollout, with a single stroke, has converted India into a unified market of 1.3 billion citizens. Fundamentally, the \$2.4-trillion economy is attempting to transform itself by doing away with the internal tariff barriers and subsuming central, state and local taxes into a unified GST.

The rollout has renewed the hope of India's fiscal reform program regaining momentum and widening the economy. Then again, there are fears of disruption, embedded in what's perceived as a rushed transition which may not assist the interests of the country.

Will the hopes triumph over uncertainty would be determined by how our government works towards making GST a "good and simple tax". The idea behind implementing GST across the country in 29 states and 7 Union Territories is that it would offer a win-win situation for everyone. Manufacturers and traders would benefit from fewer tax filings, transparent rules, and easy bookkeeping; consumers would be paying less for the goods and services, and the government would generate more revenues as revenue leaks would be plugged. Ground realities, as we all know, vary. So, how has GST really impacted India.

Tax regime has become convenient reducing duplication and multiplicity of tax filings creating ease of doing business. From a macro-economic perspective, the government and industry expected that the GST would be instrumental in reducing economic distortions, which in turn, would provide necessary impetus to economic growth. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has declared India's GDP growth to be 7.7% in 2017-18 compared to 7.1% in 2016-17. After the initial phase of GST implementation, marginal improvement was expected given the scale of changes in business and tax administration that it got along. However, this increase is expected to be temporary and GDP is projected to settle back in the range of 7% to 7.5% in 2018-19 due to reduction in initial ambiguities.

**Conclusion:**

From the viewpoint of the consumer, they would now have pay more tax for most of the goods and services they consume. The majority of everyday consumables now draw the same or a slightly higher rate of tax. Furthermore, the GST implementation has a cost of compliance attached to it. It seems that this cost of compliance will be prohibitive and high for the small scale manufacturers and traders, who have also protested against the same. They may end up pricing their goods at higher rates. With the GST journey on the move, the government has been proactively involved in resolving issues faced by the Indian taxpayers. There are still gaps between expectation and actual implementation of the GST in terms of a simplified tax structure, ease of doing business and overall reduction in prices. But there has definitely been an overall positive impact in terms of macro-economic growth and digitalization in the tax system.

India's historic and bold move towards integrated tax structure is viewed by most economists as an answer to regressive indirect tax structure. It is believed that GST would put India's indirect tax structure at par with more than 140 countries and would be productive for all the sectors. Implementation of such reforms does face surmountable challenges; however this is expected to bring in benefits in the form of higher GDP and also transparency in the tax system. The GST would be imposed on the value-addition and thus would leave lesser scope for tax evasion

On priority, it is up to the government to address the capacity building amongst the lesser-endowed participants, such as the small-scale manufacturers and traders. Ways have to be found for lowering the overall compliance cost, and necessary changes may have to be made for the good of the masses. GST will become good and simple, only when the entire country

works as a whole towards making it successful. From the above description, we can say no doubt that GST is the biggest ever change in tax structure of India. GST is the most logical steps towards the comprehensive indirect tax reform in our country since independence. It is leviable on all supply of goods and provision of services as well combination thereof. All sectors of economy whether the industry, business including Government departments and service sector shall have to bear impact of GST. As a result, there is a fall in prices of some items like Auto Commercial Vehicle, Two wheelers, Small cars, Midsized cars and SUV, essential items, Footwear, Building Materials etc., but on the other hand, price of some other goods and services hiked after GST like Hotel room rental, Restaurants & fine dining and Branded Apparels etc. Implementation of GST leads to gain in GDP, exports and growth of the economy. At last, I can say that, after going through sectorial impact of GST , one can assess that GST could be a game change and beneficial not only to common man but also to economy as a whole converting India to a unified national market with simplified tan regime.

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