

Goods & Services Tax (GST)

EPCH continues to guide sector through seminars and interactive sessions with Govt. representatives and expert faculty

In order to educate exporters about the implication of the GST on the handicrafts sector and also how to migrate to the new tax regime, EPCH conducted awareness seminars in several craft hubs and clusters across India throughout the months of May, June, July and August. EPCH also made representations to concerned Govt. departments for relief to the handicrafts industry. EPCH has been in constant dialogue with these concerned departments to offer clarity to exporters regarding the procedural bottlenecks they are being encountered with. This section features GST seminars EPCH conducted recently.

Delhi NCR - 5th and 10th August 2017; India Expo Centre, Greater Noida
Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs and Deputy CM, UP,
address seminars



A seminar on GST was organised at India Expo Centre on 5th August 2017 with Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal as the Chief Guest. This coincided with the inauguration of the India International Mega Trade Fair at India Expo Centre and saw the presence of Mr. Nitish Srivastava, Additional Commissioner, Customs; Mr. O P Prahladka, Chairman, EPCH; Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, EPCH; Mr. Manoj Goyal, Chartered Accountant; and senior representatives from IEML and GS Marketing Associates. While welcoming GST-a positive taxation reform which aims to integrate the state economies and boost overall growth thereby facilitating a move towards One Nation One Tax,

(Above) Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal, addresses the gathering at the seminar;

(Right) The Hon'ble Minister being greeted by Mr. O P Prahladka, Chairman, EPCH; and Mr. Rakesh Kuma, Executive Director, EPCH



Mr. O P Prahladka, Chairman, EPCH, apprised the Hon'ble Minister on procedural bottlenecks such as blocking of working capital of small exporters, payment of GST for job work, stock in hand, utilisation of duty credit scrips, GST on fair

participation both in India and abroad, GST on foreign agency commission, treatment of free trade sample and most importantly "Handicrafts" not being reflected anywhere in the GST schedule.

Further, the issue of GST on handicraft items at higher rates

i.e. 12, 18 and 28% was also raised.

While addressing the handicrafts exporting community during the seminar, Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal said, the Govt. has initiated various steps to enhance the tax net and give impetus to the economy through demonetisation, digitisation and introduction of GST. He acknowledged the fact that there are certain 'teething troubles' with the GST and assured that with the passage of time the bottlenecks will be removed and GST will be a 'game changer' for the Indian economy. Mr. Manoj Goyal, Chartered Accountant, made a detailed presentation and along with Mr. Nitish Srivastava, Additional Commissioner, Customs, answered the queries raised by exporters at the seminar. While speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, EPCH, requested the Hon'ble Minister for his urgent intervention on the issues raised during the seminar, bringing to the notice of the Minister that facilitation/procedural delays were hampering smooth flow of exports.

Another seminar on GST was organised at the India Expo Centre on 10th August 2017 by Greater Noida Udyog Vyapar Mandal and IEML, in association with AICOSMIA. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Dinesh Sharma



Mr. O.P. Prahladka and Mr. Rakesh Kumar presenting a Memorandum to Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal, on behalf of the handicraft exporters



Hon'ble Deputy CM of Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Dinesh Sharma was the Chief Guest at the GST Seminar organised on 10th August 2017

was the Chief Guest and Pt. Shyam Bihari Misra, Chairman, Bhartiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal; Mr. Sudarshan Sareen, National President, AICOSMIA; MLA from Jewar, Mr. Thakur Dharendra Singh; and MLA from Dadri, Mr. Tejpal Nagar were among special invitees. Present from Greater Noida Udyog Vyapar Mandal were Mr. Ravi Bansal, President, Chaudhary Jagdish Pal Singh, General Secretary and Mr. Vijay Saxena, Office Secretary. Addressing concerns raised by different traders, Dr. Dinesh Sharma assured that UP Government will put forward all issues and concerns in front of the GST Council and make sure that necessary amendments are brought in. Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, IEML and Executive Director, EPCH, presented a memorandum to the Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister, requesting him for the resolution of various issues on GST specific to the handicrafts sector. A memorandum was also presented by Moradabad Handicrafts Exporters Association. They requested the Hon'ble Deputy CM to consider exemption of stamp duty for mart owners of IEML. Both seminars saw a large gathering put forth their GST related queries to the distinguished speakers.



Karnataka - Channapatna : 27th July 2017 and Bidar : 17th August 2017

Govt. officials and experts coax exporters and artisans towards new tax regime

Initiated with a welcome address by Mr.K L Ramesh, Regional Convenor, Southern Region - EPCH, the sessions at Channapatna and Bidar had Mr.MV Sridhar, faculty from KGS Cestax Advisors LLP, Bangalore, detail about GST. He cleared several myths and misconceptions of the new tax regime by answering queries raised by the participants, highlighting the fact that the GST regime will entail no check posts, remove delay in transportation of goods and that a single window of services will need nil manual work. Consequently, there shall



Glimpses of the speakers at the GST seminar in Channapatna, Karnataka

be easy and quick movement of goods. Mr. Shafiuddin, Secretary, Sahayog, Bidar, urged the participants to make good use of the services of EPCH as well as produce internationally compliant bidriware (the traditional craft of Bidar).

The Channapatna seminar saw the presence of Ms. MS Sabeera, HPO, Handicrafts Marketing & Service Extension Centre, O/o. DC (Handicrafts), Mysore; Mr. Prashanth from Gour Technologies; and Mr. Lohith from Paytm, Bangalore. Considering the importance of the structural shift in the Tax Policy to GST model by the Government of India, this seminar was very important and useful to the handicrafts industry. This was attended by 64 participants.

Mr. Prashanth from Gour Technologies made a presentation on the new Tally software, useful for preparing the GSTR-1, 2, 3 & 3B and other formats. He explained how the 'simple' procedures can help one switch to the new system from the old. Mr. Lohith from Paytm, Bangalore, explained about the digital payment mode. Ms. MS Sabeera, HPO, O/o. DC (H), Mysore, touched upon the various govt. schemes for the benefit of the artisan community.

The Bidar seminar saw the presence of Mr. Vinod Kumar, HPO, Field Administration Cell, O/o. DC (Handicrafts), Dharwad; Mr. Shafiuddin, Secretary, Sahayog, Bidar; and Mr. Sachin Fatehpur from Paytm, Bidar. This was well attended with 57



Mr. K L Ramesh, Regional Convenor, Southern Region-EPCH; and Mr. M V Sridhar, faculty from KGS Cestax Advisors LLP, Bangalore, seen addressing the participants at the GST seminar in Bidar



participants. Mr. Sachin Fatehpur briefed about the digital payment mode and encouraged the participants to use the same and opt for cashless transactions. Mr. Vinod Kumar spoke about the various schemes of the DC's Office and urged the participants to benefit from them.

Kolkata - 30th August 2017

Expert faculty interacts with handicrafts fraternity, addresses anxieties, answers queries

Mr. O.P. Prahladka, Chairman, EPCH and Convener - Eastern Region, EPCH, while addressing the exporters during the meet shared, "the introduction of GST is a path-breaking reform that will only bear fruits in the long run. Initial hiccups will be there, though." He explained that the liquidity problem of the exporters, constraints in the job work, delays

Mr. O.P. Prahladka, Chairman, EPCH; and CA Rohit Surana, ICA Edu Skills Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata, addressing the participants at the GST seminar in Kolkata



in initial returns for exports in the months of July and August, procedural issues in LUT/ Bond are being flagged by EPCH.

Mr. Prahladka mentioned that he strongly highlighted some of these issues during his meetings with the concerned ministries. He also added that it is but natural that GST reforms will require some time for the exporting community to get familiar with, and the trade needs to take a positive approach towards this major transition.

Expert faculty at the seminar, CA, Mr. Rohit Surana from ICA Edu Skills Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata, said that GST is a great reform by the Government of India that will lead to greater transparency and transformation. GST will have a profound and positive effect on society, economy and tax regime and it will change the way the export community run their business. Mr. Surana interacted with the member exporters and encouraged them to raised issues faced by them related to GST. He also shared important tips with them.

Exporters seen addressing their queries to the expert faculty



A long question- answer session was held during the seminar. Mr. Prahladka insisted upon the role of CA's in successful transition to the GST regime and assured every cooperation from the Council to the member exporters.