

PAN a must for excise, service taxpayers for GST registration

- The tax department has made it mandatory for central excise duty and service taxpayers to obtain a valid PAN number before they can be migrated to the new goods and services tax (GST) set-up.
- "Every person registered under any of the earlier laws and having a valid PAN shall be issued a certificate of registration on a provisional basis," CBEC said in an order.
- CBEC has also asked its field offices to launch awareness campaign and outreach programmes to facilitate migration of all excise and service taxpayers to the GST network by January-end

Jurisdiction over Territorial Waters by the state Governments

- Certain central ministries and representatives from service sector- software, telecom, banking, insurance and railways- made presentations on their concerns, to the GST council.
- It is also reported that the demand for the states for jurisdiction over the Territorial waters and certain issues In IGST act was also discussed. The issue is the definition of "state" and how far into the territorial waters its jurisdiction extends.

- Sri Amit Mitra elaborated on the issues in the compensation for the revenue loss to the states already agreed upon and the post demonetization the quantum of compensation would be higher the projected earlier.
- He said that the central government should find the ways and means of meeting the commitment to compensate revenue loss for the first 5 years of the implementation of GST.

No decision Yet on Dual Control

- For those of you who were expecting decisions from the GST Council facilitating early implementation of GST, there is disappointment in that the impasse on Dual Control besides other issues like Jurisdiction over Territorial Waters, Split between SGST and CGST of the agreed rate structure continues.
- Administration of IGST is also an issue that is being deliberated upon.
- The GST Council meets next on 16th January, 2017 to decide on the issues and if there is consensus, the Central Legislations CGST, IGST and GST Compensation Law can be taken up in the Budget Session of the Parliament.

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