

Week of 26th November, 2018

A. CHANGES IN THE GST REGIME

Extension of due date to file GST Returns in Tamil Nadu

The government has via a press release dated 28th November, 2018 extended the due dates for filing of various GST Returns in the State of Tamil Nadu due to disturbances caused by Cyclone. The extended dates are detailed below:-

| Sr. No. | Form / Return | Extended due date | Eligible taxpayers |
|---------|--|--------------------|--|
| 1 | FORM GSTR-3B for the months of September and October, 2018 | 30th November 2018 | Taxpayers whose principal place of business is in the district of Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh |
| 2 | FORM GSTR-3B for the month of October, 2018 | 20th December 2018 | Taxpayers whose principal place of business is in the eleven specified districts of Tamil Nadu |
| 3 | FORM GSTR-1 for the months of September and October, 2018 | 30th November 2018 | Taxpayers having aggregate turnover of more than 1.5 crore rupees and whose principal place of business is in the district of Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh |
| 4 | FORM GSTR-1 for the month of October, 2018 | 20th December 2018 | Taxpayers having aggregate turnover of more than 1.5 crore rupees and whose principal place of business is in the eleven specified districts of Tamil Nadu |
| 5 | FORM GSTR-1 for the quarter July - September, 2018 | 30th November 2018 | Taxpayers having aggregate turnover of up to 1.5 crore rupees and whose principal place of business is in the district of Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh |
| 6 | FORM GSTR-4 for the quarter July to September, 2018 | 30th November 2018 | Taxpayers whose principal place of business is in the district of Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh |
| 7 | FORM GSTR-7 for the months October to December, 2018 | 31st January 2019 | All taxpayers |

B. PROPOSED CHANGES AND INDUSTRY ISSUES

GST on free services by banks

In the recent past, the GST department has issued notices to banks in order to levy GST on free services provided by the banks to its customers who maintain a minimum balance in their accounts. As per the media reports, most banks like SBI, ICICI and HDFC have agreed to charge GST at the rate of 18% on free services and considered to pass on the GST cost to their customers. The determination of value of free services on which GST will be charged may lead to complications.

GST on Telecom sector

As per the media reports, the Cellular Operators Association of India proposes to write to the department of telecommunications and seek exemption from payment of GST on payment towards spectrum and licence fees in order to ease their burden of debt and competition in the market. Alternatively, the telecom sector is seeking a refund of input tax credit as they are unable to set off the credit by charging their customers due to strong competition.

GST on petrol and diesel

Presently, petrol and diesel are not within the ambit of GST. The issue of bringing it under the GST ambit is pending for discussion with the GST Council. As per the media reports, Telangana government presently charges a VAT of 33.2% on petrol and 25.85% on diesel. As it is major revenue for the state government, most states dispute on bringing these products under the uniform tax regime.

Glossary

GST – Goods and Services Tax GSTR – Goods and Services Tax Return VAT – Value Added Tax

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