



ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

GOODS & SERVICES TAX (GST)

ECONOMIC, LEGAL & TECHNOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS

9 SEPTEMBER, 2017

**ICFAI UNIVERSITY SIKKIM,
LOWER SICHEY,
GANGTOK-01.**

Goods & Services Tax (GST):

Economic, Legal & Technological Dimensions

Considered as the most significant tax reform since independence, GST has ushered in an era of unified indirect tax regime on 1 July, 2017. The special midnight session of the joint session of parliament for inaugurating the fateful reform is a succinct narration of its significance. The midnight session was the 4th such session in the history of independent India. Needless to say, a lot of expectations are astride this reform. So what is GST? It is a tax to replace all the other indirect taxes (almost). It aims to integrate the country economically and convert it into a single unified market. It also changes the orientation of the tax base; from an origin-based taxation to a destination-based one. It is hoped that this would solve the scourge of unbalanced regional development as GST will effectively make all the regions tax-neutral from a business perspective. Moreover, being a destination-based tax it would benefit the consumer states vis a vis producer states. And since most of the poorer states are net-consumers GST would promote income convergence in the economy. So, how did the idea develop? Let's take a brief historical journey to understand its origin in the Indian context. A single tax in the form of Goods and Services Tax was first proposed to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee by his economic advisory panel in 1999. Subsequently, a GST committee was set up under the chairmanship of the then finance minister of West Bengal, Mr. Asim Dasgupta, in 2000. Even though a lot political churning transpired around the time the thrust towards this reform continued. And it was for the first time officially mooted in the Union Budget speech by P Chidambaram in 2005-2006. In the speech it was proposed to be implemented by 1 April, 2010. But because it entailed a constitution amendment to create an enabling environment, the deadline lapsed. But with the election of a new government in 2014, the task assumed pace and the 101st Constitution Amendment act and GST Bill cleared the legislative passage in 2016. Subsequently, GST was implemented from the maiden hour of 1 July 2017. Although touted as a promise-laden reform, it has its fair share of critics. At political level, almost the entire opposition block boycotted the launch event as a mark of their dissent. At the ground level, it is far from being a smooth ride as reflected in the strikes of bullion traders across the country and the protests of textile merchants of Surat. In the academic circle too, there is a palpable disquiet at the amount of haste exhibited by the government in pushing it through; a good number of analysts are dissatisfied with the dilution of the structure and multiple rates. How much of these dissents are meritorious and how much are emanating from neophobia? There is a serious need for investigations into the complexities and taking the bull by the horns, so to speak.

What is the economic logic behind it? Is it a well-thought out and minutely conceived initiative? How have the pioneers fared in their experiments with GST? What does jurisprudence have to say? Notwithstanding riding on a constitution amendment act, will it not generate stress in the power relations of the federal structure? And since it is considered to be a self-policing tax system on the strength of information & communication technology, is it a wise thing to trust the entire revenue generation of the governments at various levels to technology alone? Pursuant of these pertinent questions, following are the sub themes of the seminar:

- GST and Economy: Efficiency versus Effectiveness
- GST and Commerce: Challenges of Unlearning
- GST and Services: Impetus & Impediments
- GST and Law: Power Relations of Centre and Periphery
- GST and Technology: GSTN and its Challenges

Guidelines on the Submission of Papers

Researchers, professionals and other experts including those from outside India, are invited to contribute conceptual and /or empirical papers on any of the sub-themes mentioned above. Apart from papers focussed on India, submissions in the nature of comparative study to other regions and countries are welcome. The papers should be sent to ICF AI University Sikkim Research Group (IUSRG) at iuseresearchgroup@gmail.com. Authors of the selected papers will be invited by the Seminar Convener to present their papers in the Thematic Technical Sessions. Papers submitted should not exceed 8000 words (including tables and appendices) and should adhere to the current style of APA (American Psychological Association). All papers should include a summary of 350-500 words. The summaries of all accepted papers will be compiled into a publication which will be distributed among the seminar participants, along with the seminar kit. These summaries will also be put up on the ICF AI University Sikkim website. Selected papers after peer-review and revision may be considered for publication in relevant journals of ICF AI University Press (IUP). Those who would like their papers to be published in the journal may be asked to revise their papers according to the concerned editors' considered judgement. Authors must ensure that their submissions are original. Please note that all papers will be screened for plagiarism and accordingly accepted or rejected. Further, authors are solely responsible for violation with respect to plagiarism.

Dates to Remember

- Date of the Seminar: 09 September 2017
- Last Date for Submission of Abstract: 18 August 2017
- Communication from IUSRG about Acceptance of Abstract: 21 August 2017

* **Last Date for Submission of Full Paper: 06 September 2017**

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The ICFAI University, Sikkim



The ICFAI University, Sikkim has been established under Section 4 (2) of the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India University, Sikkim Act 2004 (Act 9 of 2004) passed by Legislative Assembly of Sikkim. The University has been notified under Notification No.9/LD/2004 Dated, 15-10-2004. The University believes in creating and disseminating knowledge and skills in core and frontier areas through innovative educational programs, research, consulting and publishing, and developing a new cadre of citizens with a high level of competence and deep sense of ethics and commitment to the code of professional conduct.

The Visitor of the University is H.E. The Governor of Sikkim. The University is administered as per the Act, Statutes and Rules. The Board of Governors is headed by the Chancellor and has the Vice-Chancellor and others as members. The Board of Management is headed by the Vice-Chancellor. The Academic Council is responsible for all academic matters.

University Grants Commission (UGC): The University is empowered to award degrees under Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956.

Bar Council of India (BCI): The Bar Council of India has granted approval for offering 5 year BBA-LLB (Hons.), BA-LLB (Hons.) and 3 year LLB Programs at the University.

The University offers Graduate and Post Graduate Programs in management, information technology, law and other areas.

For more detail we invite you to visit <http://iusikkim.edu.in/>

Places to visit in Sikkim

Tsomgo Lake –



Tsomgo Lake or Changu Lake is a glacial lake in the East Sikkim, India, approximately 40 kilometers / 25 miles away from Gangtok at an altitude of nearly 3780 meters / 12400 feet. The road to Nathu La passes the lake on north side. In Bhutia language it literally means source of the lake and is situated 2 hours drive from Gangtok, the capital of the state. The lake is about a kilometre in length and oval in shape. It is considered sacred by the local people.

It's cool, placid water harmonizes with the scenic beauty around. A small temple of lord Shiva is constructed on the lake side. The lake remains frozen throughout the winter up to April end. Snowfall is also common in this area even during the summer months. The Tsomgo lake derives its water from the melting snow on the mountains around. It is a place of tourist interest.



Namchi is 78 kms from Gangtok. Namchi, literally translating as 'top of the sky' is the South district headquarters and fast emerging as a tourist destination. Set in a picturesque location, Namchi offers an unmatched view of the Khangchendzonga range and the Rangit valley. Here you can visit old monasteries and the very attractive Rock Garden, which is full of rare flowers and plants and also offers breathtakingly beautiful views.

A unique, awe inspiring and gigantic 135 feet high statue of Guru Padamasambhava is present at Samdruptse near Namchi at a distance of 75 kms from Gangtok. Samdruptse literally means 'wish fulfilling hill' in the Bhutia language. It is the highest statue of Guru Padamasambhava in the world. His Holiness the Dalai Lama laid the foundation stone of the statue in October 1997. It took nearly three years to complete the statue.



Solophok- This unique Pilgrim Centre has a main temple of 108 feet height on which is based the 87 feet high statue of Lord Shiva on the sitting posture. Apart from Shiva statue, this Pilgrim Centre also has replicas of the twelve Jyotirlingas, to offer one platform for Shiva devotees.



The pilgrim centre is constructed on top of the Solophok Hill in South Sikkim which is about 5 kilometers from Namchi town over an area of 28.958 Ha of land. The built up complex covers an area of approximately 7 acres and is accessible by a smooth road.



The Buddha Park of Ravangla, also known as Tathagata Tsal, is situated near Rabong in South district. It was constructed between 2006 and 2013 and features a 130-foot high statue of the Buddha as its centerpiece



How to reach Gangtok.

By Air

The airport nearest to Gangtok is about 124 kilometres away at Bagdogra, West Bengal. From the airport, you can hire a shared taxi or a private vehicle that will reach you to Gangtok in a matter of three to four hours. The drive from Bagdogra to Gangtok is absolutely stunning with gorgeous mountains and River Teesta as your backdrop.

From Bagdogra, you can also take a TSA helicopter to get to Gangtok in just 20 minutes. However, their services depend on the weather conditions. Chopper flights also get cancelled in the event of insufficient bookings.

By Train

The nearest railway station to Gangtok is about 148 kilometres away in New Jalpaiguri in Siliguri. The station is well-connected to major cities like Kolkata and New Delhi. From New Jalpaiguri you can take a taxi to Gangtok or go to Siliguri Bus Station and catch a state-run bus to Gangtok, which will take you about four hours.

For travel related queries kindly contact: Mr. Rohit Rathi (Mobile No.: 9002111111)