GST- Indirect Tax Reform

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Abstract: With effect from 01 Jul 2017, Indirect Tax reform in the form of GST has been rolled out by the government of India after a long discussion held to reach at consensus in several round of meets between representative of Centre and States. The objective of this paper is to study the concept of GST and its impact on business and household. An attempt is being done through this paper to study concept and broad impact of this transformation of Indirect tax. It is apparent, that the GST is destination based tax hence the end customer has to bear the complete value addition and tax on the goods and services as liability shifts to end user. Further, there is uniformity in GST rates at national level and its digitalization would make it more transparent and business friendly. It is well known that India is fast growing economy in the world and now due to inflow for various foreign direct investment and ease to business policy of the present Government has further enhanced growth rate. The policy ‘One Tax, One Market, One Nation’ will speed up the wheel of growth of Indian economy. With the inception of GST, inflation will come down, tax avoidance will be difficult, generate extra resources to boost welfare, pro-poor and weaker section programmes. This study being descriptive, secondary data will be taken into consideration to support the conclusion. The GST is at beginning stage, its broad impact on business and general people will be a limitation imposing factor on the study due to time constraints.

Keywords: VAT, GST, Economic Growth, Ease to Business, End User.

I. INTRODUCTION

The taxation was born and shaped with civilization. The structure and complexity of the tax system have been developed along with the development of civil society. The sovereign authority of the government to extract tax is the life of taxation, Government’s need for resources is its bargaining power and human instinct of reluctance to sacrifice money is the reason for its mandatory imposition. The taxation policy in ancient India was highly logical and based on the principles of economic theory and equity in comparison with the current taxation policies of the government. The tax system of our ancients was quite reasonable, rational, convenient, elastic, appealing and based on the principles of maximum welfare with some exceptions. Over the centuries system of taxation has been shaped and reshaped to make it acceptable, effective and efficient. The journey of restructuring the tax system has been going on to make it more and more meaningful. While the innovations and development in information and communication technology have made the tax system more objective, transparent and effective, the innovations and developments in finance and business models, globalization and liberalization policies, emergence of MNEs (Multinational Enterprises) as lead players and increase in the international trade have contributed in making the tax system a complex one.

Tax is order of the day and one of the important components of cost of a product or service. The cost of product or service influences, directly or indirectly, profitability of the organization. Hence, the tax aspects play a crucial role in business decisions. In developing countries, positive tax parameters like an efficient and long term fiscal policy, simplified tax structure, reduced tax rates etc. are the key players in attracting the foreign direct investment too. India’s economy has been among the fastest growing economies in recent years. This growth has been supported by several factors like market reforms, large inflow of foreign direct investment, raising foreign exchange reserves, a blooming information technology and real estate sector and flourishing capital market.

In recent years India has been viewed as an attractive and dynamic investment destination, and has witnessed an increased presence of multination enterprises (MNEs) and a consequential increase in cross border trade. This has created many opportunities to the Government for improving tax system of the country. In India, since the inception of New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1991, many economic reforms have been announced and introduced. One major reform undertaken is “Taxation Reforms”. The effect of taxation reforms on business community, in making the Indian Products and services competitive at global level. The GST is a unified Indirect tax system. It is considered as biggest tax reform since 1947. Currently, in India complicated indirect tax system is followed with imbrications of taxes imposed by union and states separately. GST unify all the indirect taxes under an umbrella and will create a smooth national market. Experts say that GST will help the economy to grow in more efficient manner by...
improving the tax collection as it will disrupt all the tax barriers between states and integrate country via single tax rate. GST was first introduced by France in 1954 and now it is followed by 160 countries. Most of the countries followed unified GST while some countries like Brazil, Canada follow a dual GST system where tax is imposed by central and state both. In India also dual system of GST is proposed including CGST and SGST.

A. Supplementary Bills of GST in Lok Sabha
At the last, the Lok sabha cleared the much-anticipated bills after lasting 8 hours long debate to ensure to layout road map for smooth GST. In the earliest session lasted 7 hours it was assured that the goods may become slightly cheaper on implementation of the GST as a lot of entry taxes prevailed currently will automatically be removed. The finance Minister Arun Jaitly made the sensitized statement in media that “Lok Sabha having approved all 4 laws that Centre is supposed to legislate through Parliament, I think significant step forward has been taken. We are virtually seeing history in the making because we are now going to be transforming into a new system of indirect taxation.” The minister added that “India remained a different economic entity. Trucks could be seen waiting outside state border, there was no free flow of goods.” The goods and service tax is highly clarified tax regime and has the potential to take the GDP of the country to a plus 2 after its roll out. The following four supplementary bills to roll out the GST were taken in the Lok Sabha:-

1) Central Goods and Service Tax
2) Compensation GST bill
3) Integrated GST bill
4) UTGST

II. OBJECTIVE OF STUDY
A. The study has following objectives:
1) To study the concept of Goods and Services Tax (GST)
2) To study the impact of GST on businesses
3) To study the impact of Goods and Services Tax (GST) transparency to tax burden

III. LITERATURE REVIEW
Garg (2014) mentioned in his study that GST is the only indirect tax that directly affects all sectors and sections of our economy. The goods and services tax (GST) is aimed at creating a single, unified market that will benefit both corporate and the economy.
Shaik, Sameera and Firoz (2015) mentioned in their study the implementation of GST would help to maintain simplicity and transparency by treating all the goods and services as equal. GST would possibly be a collective gain for industry, trade, agriculture and common households as well as for the Central and the State Government.
Sehrawat and Dhanda (2015) evaluated the advantages and challenges of GST. The study concluded that apart from establishing an effective and transparent tax administration and removing the cascading effects of taxes, GST has advantages like single base computing system; export will be zero rate, simple tax structure.
Dani (2016) studied the impact of Goods and Service Tax on Indian Economy. The conclusion drawn was that there are certain loopholes in the proposed GST. If there is general agreement over issues like threshold limit, revenue rate, electricity and liquor etc, GST would simplify the existing tax system.
Kawle, and Aher (2017) studied the impact of GST on Indian Economy. The study concluded that as GST is single tax system, it would record a significant economic development and economic growth of the country by removing the biggest hurdle like multiple tax and complex taxation system from the economy.
Lourdunathan and Xavier (2017) studied the implementation of Goods and Service Tax(GST in INDIA). The study concluded that by including all the several taxes together will provide relief to producers and the end consumer.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
Basically, the study focuses on extensive study of secondary data, collated from various books, newspapers, respective Govt. portal, news articles through internet has been put into use being an explanatory nature.

V. CONCEPT OF GST (GOODS AND SERVICES)
Tax policies play an important role on the economy through their impact on both efficiency and equity.
By Introduction of GST on 1st July, 2017 all indirect taxes are subsumed in GST. Total 17 different taxes and 22 cesses are abolished by introduction of single tax GST (Goods and Service Tax). Taxes removed by introduction of GST are Central Excise Duty, Service Tax, Value Added Tax, Countervailing duty, Custom Duty, Entertainment Tax, Luxury Tax, Lottery Tax, State Surcharge, Sales Tax, Antidumping duty, Swachh Bharat Cess, Krishi Kalyan Cess, Infrastructure Cess & Education Cess.

Goods & Services Tax Law in India: Goods & Services Tax Law in India is a comprehensive, multi-stage, destination-based tax that will be levied on every value addition. In simple words, GST is an indirect tax levied on the supply of goods and services. GST Law has replaced many indirect tax laws that previously existed in India. So, before GST, the pattern of tax levy was as follows:

1. **Buying raw materials**
2. **Manufacture**
3. **Sale to wholesaler/Warehousing**
4. **Final sale to consumer**

**Flow Chart 1 - Pattern of Tax Levy (Before GST)**

Under the GST regime, tax will be levied at every point of sale. Now, “GST is a comprehensive, multi-stage tax that will be levied on every value addition.”

There are multiple change-of-hands an item goes through along its supply chain: from manufacture to final sale to consumers.

1. **Buying raw materials**
2. **Manufacture**
3. **Sale to wholesaler/Warehousing**
4. **Final sale to consumer**

**Flow Chart 2 - Supply Chain (Final Sale to Consumer)**
Sale to the end consumer Goods and Services Tax will be levied on each of these stages, which makes it a multi-stage tax.

A. Value Addition
The manufacturer who makes shirts buys yarn. The value of yarn gets increased when the yarn is woven into a shirt. The manufacturer then sells the shirt to the warehousing agent who attaches labels and tags to each shirt. That is another addition of value after which the warehouse sells it to the retailer. The retailer packages each shirt separately and invests in the marketing of the shirt thus increasing its value. GST will be levied on these value additions i.e. the monetary worth added at each stage to achieve the final sale to the end customer.

B. Components of GST
Under the theory one nation one tax, The Goods and Service Tax (GST) is a comprehensive value added Tax on the supply of Goods and Services. GST replaced all the indirect taxes (like Excise duty, VAT, CST etc.) levied on goods and services by Government on its implementation. The main motive of GST is to reduce the cascading effect of tax on the cost of goods and services and create a common, cooperative and undivided Indian market to make economy stronger and powerful. So the GST system has combined Central excise duty, additional excise duty, service tax, State VAT entertainment tax etc. under one banner. It will impact tax structure, tax incidence, tax computation, credit utilization and reporting, leading to a complete overhaul of the current indirect tax system. This is one of the biggest taxation reforms that took place in India on its officially passing by the Government. Many countries across the world have single unified GST system but due to non-consensus between central and state government of India, India adopted a Dual GST model, meaning that the GST would be administered both by the Central and the State Governments. A Dual GST will be levied on the taxable value of every transaction of supply of goods and services.

1) State Goods and Services Tax (SGST), collected by the state government
2) Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST), collected by the central government
3) Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST), collected by the central government on inter-State supply of goods and services.

C. Model (Explanation)
1) Centre GST: Under CGST, a single National Tax is levied on goods and services exchanged and revenue so generated is shared by the state and central govt. In this model of taxation, the Centre collects total tax revenue leaving little for state government.
2) State GST: Under this model of taxation, the State levy GST and the Centre withdraws from the field of GST or VAT completely. Thus the revenue collection of the state increased and dependence on the centre is lesser. The compensation of revenue to the center is done by reduction in fiscal transfer to the states.

C. Dual GST Model
1) Concurrent Duel GST: Under this system, GST is levied both Governments concurrently whereas under existing system centre can levy tax on goods and services such excise duty on manufacture of goods and services and state has no power to levy tax on manufactured goods. The Central GST is administered by the Central Government and State GST is administered by State Governments. Kelkar Committee in 2002, recommended this type of model.
2) Advantages
   a) Cascading effect of tax removed
   b) A single and unified taxation will be beneficial for corporate and economy in country.
   c) Make in India brand will be benefited.
   d) No big changes need in existing structure of taxation.
   e) Maintains balance fiscal autonomy between centre and state.
3) Disadvantages
   a) Maintaining uniform rate of taxation on goods and services among the state will be challenging.
   b) Non-concurrent Dual GST
Under the concurrent dual GSTs, the Centre and State levy taxes concurrently on goods and services made. To avoid taxation by both, GST would be levied on goods by States and on services by centre only and no extra efforts were needed for unified taxation. Centre would monitor and coordinate taxation on inter-state services. Revenue so collected by the centre would be transferred back to the state partially or fully. The state would allow input credit for the tax on services levied by the centre and vis-à-vis the centre
will allow an input credit for the tax on goods levied by the States. This model has not been accepted either by Centre or State. The Govt. has already rolled out the concurrent Dual GST on goods and services to take place in interstate trade.

D. Significance of GST

**Flow Chart 3-Significance of GST**

Goods & Service Tax (GST) or VAT serves the purpose to impose a broad-based tax on final consumption by households. Hence, GST is a comprehensive tax levy on supply of goods and services.

1) Both Government and Industry are keen to implement GST
2) Governments are looking at increasing the tax base and tax collections (i.e. increase revenue buoyancy) through GST
3) State is looking at GST as a window for taxing services
4) Centre is looking at GST to go beyond the point of manufacture
5) Industry wants GST to eliminate the cascading effect of taxes

GST would also address issues of development through greater interaction between VAT/GST systems, along with growing risks of double taxation and unintended non-taxation in the absence of international VAT/GST coordination. Basic principles of VAT/GST are generally same across the tax jurisdictions in so far as they are designed to tax final consumption in the jurisdiction where it occurs according to the destination principle. The fundamental proposition is that GST/VAT is a tax on final consumption and hence the burden should not rest on the business.

**VI. IMPACT OF GST ON BUSINESSES**

GST is purported to bring in the ‘one nation one tax’ system, but its effect on various industries will be slightly different. The first level of differentiation will come in depending on whether the industry deals with manufacturing, distributing and retailing or is providing a service.

1) *Ease of Beginning a New Business:* Any new business needs a VAT registration from State’s sales tax department. GST will achieve a consistency in procedure and centralized registration that will help to start business and its expansion in various States without any hassle.

2) *Exemption for New Startups and Small Businesses:* GST will increase the limit, upto Rs 10 lakhs and further, organizations with turnover between Rs 10 and 50 lakhs will pay tax at a lower rate. This will bring relief from taxation rates to recently settled business.

3) *Easy Taxation System:* With the introduction of GST, the complexity of the procedure will be reduced by incorporating all the expenses and by making the taxpaying way less difficult

4) *Relief for Business in Both Sales and Services:* GST won’t make difference between services and sales, and in this way the expense computation will be done on aggregate amount

5) *Decrease in Transportation Cost across the Country:* GST will cut down expenses related to keeping high stocks, as there will now be no disorder in the movement of goods across states. According to a CRISIL investigation, GST can decrease logistics
expenses of organizations delivering non-mass products (including all goods like steel, nourishment grains, manures, transported by railroads) by as much as 20%.

6) **Impact of GST on Manufacturers, Distributors and Retailers:** Multiple indirect taxes have increased the administrative costs for manufacturers and distributors and it is being hoped that with GST in place, the compliance burden will ease and this sector will grow more strongly.

### VII. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 presents the impact of GST after completion, which shows the changes in rate of goods increasing and decreasing and also presents some goods on which there is no tax after implementation of GST. According to table 1, the first row presents the goods whose rates has been decreased and third row presents increasing rates of goods after GST. But there are some of the items in which GST is not implemented, second row shows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Tax Decreased</th>
<th>Not Taxed</th>
<th>Tax Increased</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Television</td>
<td>Bread, white &amp; whole meal</td>
<td>Mobile phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Refrigerator</td>
<td>Cooking oil(palm oil, coconut oil &amp; groundnut oil)</td>
<td>Computer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Air-conditioner</td>
<td>Beef, mutton, lamb, chicken &amp; pork</td>
<td>Eye-pad &amp; tablet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Spark plug, brake pad &amp; car battery</td>
<td>Local fruits</td>
<td>Photocopy machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Home theater system</td>
<td>Diesel</td>
<td>Digital photo printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hair dryer</td>
<td>Petrol unleaded 95</td>
<td>Transportation of goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Electric fan &amp; toaster</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>Drinking water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Gas cooker- double burner</td>
<td>Fresh vegetables</td>
<td>Magazines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Electric Iron</td>
<td>Fresh fish &amp; prawns</td>
<td>Fish balls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Cotton bath towel</td>
<td>Powdered milk</td>
<td>Canned sardine &amp; tuna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Colour pencil</td>
<td>Chicken &amp; duck eggs</td>
<td>Lipstick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Toothbrush</td>
<td>Public transport</td>
<td>Nail colour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Dettol, antiseptic</td>
<td>Motor oil</td>
<td>Motorcycle, 110cc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Dinning set (6 chairs)</td>
<td>Engine oil</td>
<td>Watches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Diapers</td>
<td>Private clinic x-ray</td>
<td>Ice cream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Car 850cc</td>
<td>Toll</td>
<td>Cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Toothpaste</td>
<td>Chilli</td>
<td>Oats &amp; cereals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Plastic mat</td>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>Chilli sauce, oyster sauce etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Imported fruits</td>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Soft drink</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [http://www.gstindia.com](http://www.gstindia.com)

Table 2, presents six-slab tax rate structure of 0%, 3%, 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28% has been adopted for the GST. A cess have been levied on certain goods such as luxury cars, aerated drinks, pan masala and tobacco produce, over and above the GST rate of 28% for payment of compensation to the states.
Table Six-Slab Tax Rate Structure Adopted for the GST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zero % (No Tax)</th>
<th>3%</th>
<th>5%</th>
<th>12%</th>
<th>18%</th>
<th>28%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresh Vegetables root and tubers</td>
<td>Gold, Silver and processed diamond</td>
<td>Ivory</td>
<td>Live Horses</td>
<td>Condensed Milk</td>
<td>Molasses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>Jewelry</td>
<td>Coffee and Tea</td>
<td>Butter and Other Fats</td>
<td>Malt</td>
<td>Chocolates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puffed rice</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Cereal</td>
<td>Dry Fruits</td>
<td>Refined Sugar</td>
<td>Pan Masala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Salt</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Cocoa Beans</td>
<td>Starches</td>
<td>Jams and Jellies</td>
<td>Paints and Varnishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic manure</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bakery Dough</td>
<td>Sausages, Fish etc.</td>
<td>Ice-creams</td>
<td>Make-up Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Waste</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Sweet Meats</td>
<td>Bio-gas</td>
<td>Slag, Dross, Ash and Residue</td>
<td>Toothpaste</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: http://www.gstindia.com

A. GST- ‘Destination-based’ instead of ‘Origin-based’
There is a common saying that GST in India is a ‘destination-based consumption tax’. To justify the features and related advantages of destination based consumption tax, we shall have to understand the ‘origin-based GST’ and its relevance in comparison.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESTINATION BASED– GST</th>
<th>ORIGIN-BASED GST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is imposed on the value added of all taxable products that are consumed domestically.</td>
<td>It is imposed on the value added of all taxable products that are produced domestically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of Production</td>
<td>Location of Consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports are not taxed but Exports are taxed under origin principle in an open economy</td>
<td>Exports are not taxes but imports are taxed under destination principle in an open economy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: In closed economy, both are same; the question of taxation of either imports or exports does not arise at all.

OECD VAT guidelines support the adoption of the "Destination Principle" for supplies of services and intangibles. This guideline support the universal adoption of the 'destination principle' as a means of reducing both potential double taxation (i.e. supplies being taxed in both the source and destination) and potential under taxation (i.e. supplies not being taxed in either the source or the destination).

B. Illustration
AnX manufactures goods. He bought goods for Rs. 1, 40,000 and incurred expenses of Rs. 10,000. These manufactured goods were sold for Rs. 1, 65,000. Say, CGST rate 10% & SGST rate 10%. Compute Sale Price.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intra-state sale</th>
<th>Inter-state sale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Particulars</td>
<td>Amount (Rs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Goods</td>
<td>1,40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add: Expenses</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add: Profit (= SP - TC)</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>1,65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGST @ 10%</td>
<td>16,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGST @ 10%</td>
<td>16,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales Price</td>
<td>1,98,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C. Tax Burden

Total 17 Taxes and 22 Cesses has been brought into one tax (GST) by subsuming centre and state imposed taxes from the midnight of Jun 30, 2017. This was felt as burden of having so much of taxes and cess thereon.

1) Transparency - The GST is expected to bring down the rates of products by eliminating cascading tax. Now with the inception of GST, the end user is able to know the rate of Tax he has paid for the utilized goods and services. The consumer very occasionally gets invoice of the goods which he intends to purchase where mention of taxes charged are never mentioned except VAT. There was complete lack of transparency in the system.

2) Realistic tax burden- The rates of GST has been kept realistic keeping in view the old rate of tax and these rates are being discussed where needed by the GST Council.

3) Business friendly- The faster growth in business and trade is result of efficient taxation and its procedure, which the country is going to see in near future. The reform in taxation is revolutionary in the current tax structure with uniformity, simplification and transparency in processes. It is paving the path for business friendly nation in the world. Reduction in tax burden, logistics and inventory costs, and hassle free movement of goods have a positive and lasting impact on business activity of companies. The reform impacts will be seen on all sections of the business society ranging from small time businessmen to huge conglomerates and from a developing to developed state in India.

4) Hard Pricing: Companies has to pass on the effective reduced tax burden to the consumer failing which anti profiteering body may catch defaulters.

5) Hassle free Movement of Goods: The GST helped hassle-free movement of goods and increased profit margins of companies by boosting supply chain in logistic sector. Country’s logistics supply has been transformed with inception of GST, cost has reduced significantly and Inter-state transportation of goods has become more efficient and faster.

6) Increased revenue collection: The GST is likely to increase the government tax revenue ‘over time’ believes the Niti Aayog. In its three year action plan (2017-18 to 20), the government think-tank believes due to an efficient tax system post-GST, tax revenue of the government is expected to grow (in a baseline scenario) to Rs 26.48 lakh crore by 2019-20 from Rs 17.03 lakh crore in 2016-17. The indirect tax to GDP ratio is likely to rise to 5.7 per cent, 5.8 per cent and 5.9 per cent in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, respectively, compared to in 2016-17 is 5.6 per cent. Tax buoyancy ratio of growth rate in tax collection to growth rate in the Gross Value Addition (GVA). A tax buoyancy of greater than 1 means that the tax revenues increase at a faster rate than the nominal GVA.

D. GST (India VS Other Countries)

Table 3 presents a comparison state among countries where GST prevails in various forms showing Tax slabs, name, Threshold exemption Limit, Liability arises on, Returns and payments, Reverse charge Mechanism, Exempt services -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. N</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Singapore</th>
<th>Malaysia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Name of GST in the country</td>
<td>Goods and Service tax</td>
<td>Federal Goods and Service Tax &amp; Harmonized Sales Tax</td>
<td>Value Added Tax</td>
<td>Goods and Service Tax</td>
<td>Goods And Services Tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Standard Rate</td>
<td>0% (for food staples) 3%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%(+cess for luxury items)</td>
<td>GST 5% and HST varies from 0% to 15%</td>
<td>20% Reduced rates 5%, exempt, zero rated</td>
<td>7% Reduced rates- Zero rated, exempt</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Threshold exemption Limit</td>
<td>20 lakhs (10 lakhs for NE states)</td>
<td>Canadian $ 30,000 (Approx Rs. 15.6 lakhs in INR)</td>
<td>£ 73,000 (Approx Rs. 61.32 lakhs)</td>
<td>Singapore $ 1 million (Approx Rs. 4.8 crore)</td>
<td>MYR 500,000 (Approx Rs. 75 lakhs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Liability arises on</td>
<td>Accrual basis: Issue of invoice OR Receipt of payment</td>
<td>Accrual basis: The date of issue of invoice OR the date of receipt</td>
<td>Accrual Basis: Invoice OR Payment</td>
<td>Accrual Basis: Issue of invoice OR Receipt of payment</td>
<td>Accrual Basis: Delivery of goods OR Issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Returns and payments</td>
<td>Monthly and 1 annual return</td>
<td>Monthly, quarterly or annually based on turnover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
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<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Reverse charge</td>
<td>Apply on goods (new) as well as services (currently under Service tax)</td>
<td>Reverse charge applies to importation of services and intangible properties.</td>
<td>Applicable</td>
<td>Reverse charge applies to supply of services</td>
<td>Reverse charge applies to imported services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Exempt services</td>
<td>Manufacture of exempted goods or Provision of exempted services (to be notified)</td>
<td>Real estate, Financial Services, Rent (Residence), Charities, Health, Education</td>
<td>Medical, Education, Finance, Insurance, Postal services</td>
<td>Real estate, Financial services, Residential rental</td>
<td>Basic food, Health Transportation, Residential property, Agricultural land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: https://cleartax.in/s/gst-india-and-other-countries-comparison

Besides the countries tabulated above, there are some other countries which can be referred to while study of imposition of tax is done. In New Zealand, there is no GST on financial services and rental income. Business can recover the amount of tax through input tax. In China, there are 0% 5% and 9% Tax slabs against India’s 0% 5% 12% 18% and 28% GST slabs. While in Indonesia, exporting goods, restaurants and hotel business are exempted from tax. In USA tax are collected at federal level, state level and at local government level at the rate of 10% and 39%. Tax is not imposed on medical equipment and medicine and its export. In India, for efficient tax collection, corruption free taxation, easy movement of goods from one state of other state the GST has been so structured. In our country dues system of GST is imposed which differentiate from other countries. Some countries have VAT system while some has GST system.

Table at fig 2 indicates rate of VAT/GST in various countries:-  
**Fig. 2. Standard GST/VAT Rate in Different counties**

![Standard GST/VAT Rate](image-url)
VIII. CONCLUSION

GST is a unified indirect tax system which has eliminated cascading effect of taxes thus finally reduced end cost of the product. The main advantage of GST is reduction in manufacturing cost and simultaneously generating higher revenue by curbing tax evasion for the development and boost economy. GST has facilitated trading by replacing 17 indirect taxes and 22 cess like VAT, CST, Service tax, Excise tax, educes etc. This unified tax regime will lead to a corruption free trade practices directly and will affect the common men indirectly by passing on the benefits of GST to the end consumers. In detailed study, it is also concluded that GST alone does not determine the final price of goods; there are other factor like the producer/sellers/Traders/consumers and Profit Margin which determines final price of goods. The GST will also be a factor promoting make in India brand as the cost of Indian origin product will be lesser then that of imported article due GST impact. In the long run GST will play a crucial and dynamic role in deciding economic growth of the nation and common man/ business decisions. Indeed the simplicity and transparency and uniformity in taxation will generate higher revenue and move the trade towards digitations, a step forward.

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