



View From The BBG Chair

Dear Members,

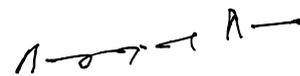
We are happy to bring you the first issue and the Winter Edition of BBG Buzz which is the Quarterly e-Newsletter of the British Business Group, Pune Chapter!

We had the first event of the financial year 2018-19 in April, when Vikram Bapat, Partner Grant Thornton gave us a glimpse of the Indian Economy with the run-up to 2019. This was followed by the BBG AGM in June where we had the honour of Crispin Simon CBE, Deputy High Commissioner addressing us.

August saw a very interesting Speaker, Prof Emeritus Dr Subhash Ranade describing how he has created a global footprint in Ayurveda and this was followed in October with a very futuristic talk on how Artificial Intelligence is changing marketing and communications in business by Kerman Kasad, Vice President, Nihilent Ltd and finally in November Tom Mottershead, Deputy Director Trade from the Department of International Trade, Mumbai sharing his insights into India – UK Trade.

We want the BBG Pune Chapter to be more participative and to enable this in addition to this e-Newsletter, we have also refreshed our Website which you can visit at www.bbgpune.org.

Bearing in mind the role of social media BBG Pune Chapter is now on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). I urge all our Members to visit these pages and to use it proactively so that BBG Pune Chapter is visible on social media.



Ramgopal Rao

Chairman
BBG, Pune Chapter

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Editorial

Please share your
valuable feedback on
bbgpune@gmail.com





Key Developments in Goods and Services Tax

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The government has been attempting to reduce the Indirect Tax legislation related complexities through its initiatives to achieve ease of doing business in India. It is a well-known story that India already witnessed a major legislative reform in the realm of indirect taxation over the last one year – GST.

However, the successful implementation/stability of GST now depends mainly on the simplified procedural compliances to minimise the transitional strain on operations of trade and aid public interests. This has resulted in various amendments to the new GST law.

Although the trade and industry are welcoming the amendments, it is becoming increasingly challenging to keep abreast of such changes in the normal course of business.

We have summarised some key developments that took place during the last few weeks and their impacts on the businesses in India to bring our readers up to speed on the changes.

Introduction of GST Annual Returns and Audit Forms

September 2018 witnessed the debut of two major compliance forms namely GST Annual return (GSTR-9) and GST Audit form (GSTR-9C). Both the forms are to be filed annually by 31 December from the end of the financial year to which they pertain. While Audit applies to registered assesses having an aggregate turnover of more than INR 2 crores, Annual returns apply to all the registered taxpayers.

The intention is to capture, certify and reconcile the accuracy of GST compliances and tax payments by the applicable registered taxpayers by the end of the year.

Last few weeks have been a rigmarole for the industry in deciphering the forms and arriving at the impact on their business such as no scope of payment of any additional liability through annual returns, GST Auditor's role in review of business for verifying contents of GSTR 9C, need for disclosure of HSN wise input tax credit availed, etc.

31 December 2018 would record first such compliance under GST, and it is expected to set a foundation to streamline the processes for the future. However, in the absence of clarifications to such issues, the trade and industry are unsure of achieving the objective to simplify the GST process.

Last Date to Claim Input Tax Credit

As per the GST law, a registered taxpayer shall not be entitled to take the input tax credit in respect of any invoice for FY 2017-18, after the due date of furnishing the GST returns for September 2018 or Annual returns for FY 2017-18 whichever is earlier.

Further, in this regard on 18 October 2018, the Ministry of Finance issued a press note stating that the last date for availing credit in accordance with the provisions of GST law shall indeed be the earlier of the above dates. However, this last date is only for availing credit on a self-assessment basis, and taxpayers need not reconcile this availment with GSTR 2A within such due date.

Introduction of GST TDS and TCS Provisions

The TDS & TCS provisions, which were in abeyance till date, have been made effective from 1 October 2018. This indicates that additional compliance will be required to be undertaken by applicable taxpayers regarding claiming Input Tax Credit, TDS certificates, disclosure in returns, etc.

Organisations doing businesses with notified PSUs/government agencies/departments/local authorities, etc., will see a deduction of 2% TDS under GST (apart from Income tax TDS) in the receipts towards supplies with effect from 1 October 2018.

Likewise, the organisations associated with e-commerce portals will see a deduction of up to 2% TCS by e-commerce operators on supplies made through such portals.



Key Developments in Goods and Services Tax

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Recent Advance Ruling

A recent AAR in case of Vserv Global Private Limited held that the back-office administrative and accounting support; and activities of liaising with buyers, sellers and other necessary parties for execution of purchase and sale of contracts entered into by its clients including generating order nos. in software, process payment request, troubleshooting, etc. provided by the applicant to a foreign customer would qualify as intermediary services in India. Consequently, such services would not export of service (i.e., treated as zero-rated) under GST.

This has created an exposure on back-office service providers (treating such services has export) in India for charging GST on their foreign customers. While the AAR is only binding in case of the applicant, it may have persuasive value in terms of deciding a particular matter with similar facts or could act as a trigger point for GST authorities to issue notices to taxpayers in a similar business for recovery of GST.

While trade and industry are of the view that the matter would be litigated further at various fora, a clarification from government in the interim would ease the pressure on such taxpayers.

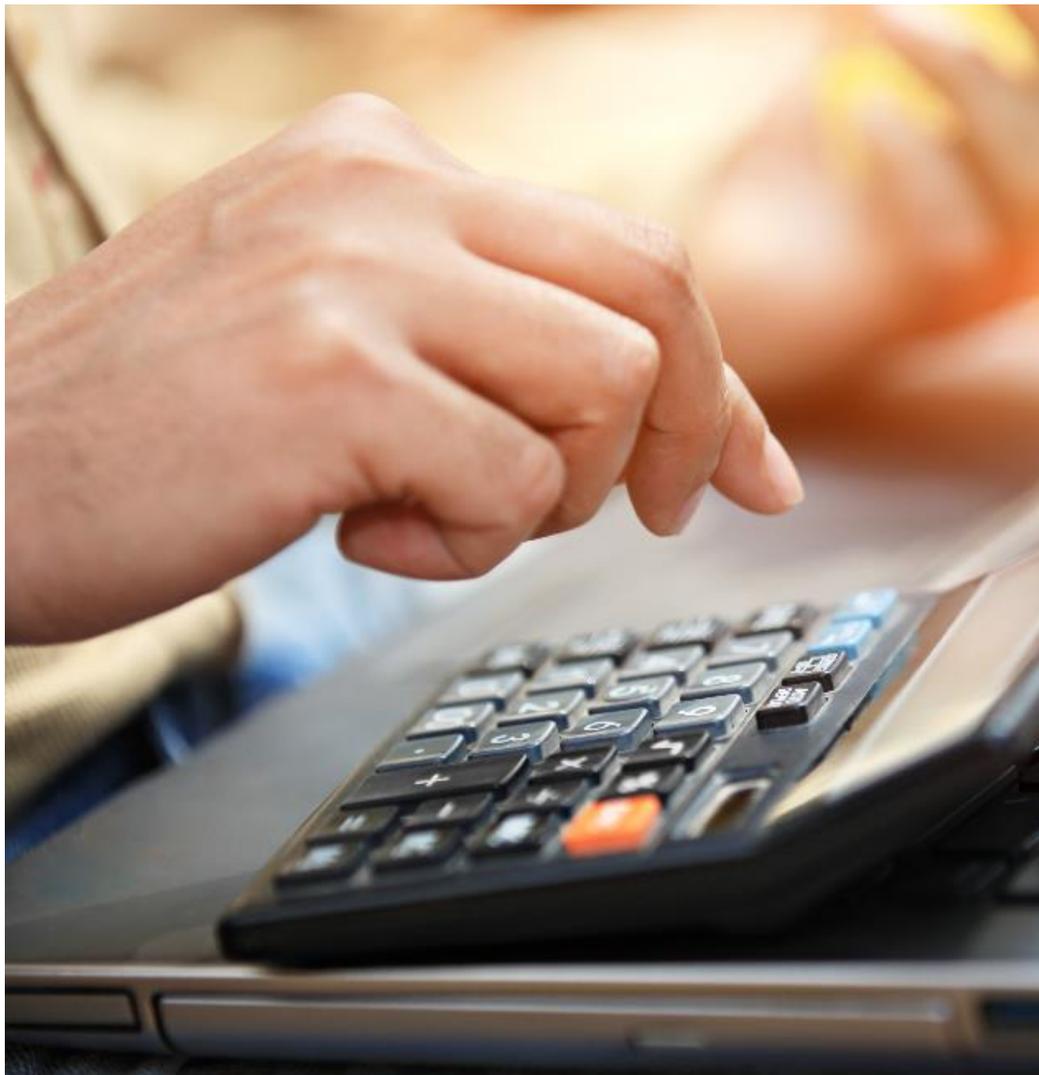
Contributed by:



Jigar Doshi
Executive Director – Indirect Tax
SKP Business Consulting LLP
E: jigar.doshi@skpgroup.com



Rebecca Pinto
Senior Manager – Indirect Tax
SKP Business Consulting LLP
E: Rebecca.pinto@skpgroup.com





Meet Our Management Committee for 2018-19



Ramgopal Rao

Chairman

Ramgopal Rao is the President / Country Head India of Steinbach & Partner Executive Consultants India Pvt. Ltd. a global Executive Search Company headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany.



Rujuta Jagtap

Vice Chairperson

Rujuta Jagtap is the Executive Director of Saj Test Plant Pvt Ltd. is into manufacturing of test equipment's like Dynamometers, Control Systems, Data Acquisition Software, Test Bed Accessories for Engines, Vehicle, Transmissions and other Customized Special Test Rigs for Automotive and other diverse applications.



Pradip Kopardekar

Treasurer

Pradip Kopardekar has vast experience in renowned Indian / multinational organizations in areas of finance, accounting, internal audit, risk management, administration, commercial, process reengineering, MIS and special assignments.



Ashok Jain

Secretary

Ashok Jain is an experienced Corporate Finance and Insurance Consultancy stalwart with over 20 years of experience. He founded the company in 2002 and has guided it to becoming one of the most preferred Insurance Broking firms in the Country.



Ramesh Sharma

EC Member

Ramesh Sharma is an Executive Director at Legasis Services Pvt. Ltd, pioneer in the field of providing Legal Support IT solutions, particularly compliance, contract and litigation management IT solutions.



Ajit Kene

EC Member

Ajit Kene is the Associate Vice President & Lead ITO of PPM core delivery. He started his career as an engineer and moved onto managing large cross-functional teams as well as key vendors in the IT infrastructure space.



Vandana Saxena

EC Member

Vandana Saxena Poria is a UK Chartered Accountant who was born and raised in London. She worked first with Ernst & Young and then for 8 years as the CEO of BPP Holdings Plc. She was also Vice-Chair of the British Chamber of Commerce in Hungary, and was also the past Chairman of BBG Pune.



Shekhar Agarkar

EC Member

Shekhar Agharkar is the Promoter Director of Arthtech Consultants Pvt. Ltd. a Management Consulting & Knowledge Process Outsourcing Company which was set up in 1998.



Sonali Jadhav

EC Member

Dr Sonali Jadhav is a Principal at AISSMS College of Hotel Management and Catering Technology since 2008. She is a double graduate, with a Science degree in Hotel Management and a degree in Arts with a French Major.



Poonam Kochhar

Executive Director



Past Events



19 November 2018

India-UK Trade

Tom Mottershead, Deputy Director, Trade office (India), from the British High Commission Mumbai who shared some insights on trade between India and UK.



16 October 2018

How AI is changing the Marketing and Communications

Artificial Intelligence and how it is changing the Marketing and Communications and our special invitee for the evening was Kerman Kasad, Vice President Nihilent Ltd.



20 August 2018

Creating Global Footprints for Ayurveda

Prof. Emeritus Dr Subhash Ranade who spoke about "Creating Global Footprints for Ayurveda".





blog**BUZZ**

British Business Group Pune

www.bbgpune.org

c/o Shah Khandelwal Jain & Associates

Level 3, Riverside, Business Bay, Plot No 84
Near Pune RTO, Wellesley Road, Sangamvadi
Pune – 411001, Maharashtra. India.

Mobile: +91 8600414555

E: bbgpune@gmail.com | W: www.bbgpune.org

Members who wish to contribute articles on latest developments and updates can write to us on bbgpune@gmail.com.

Editorial team reserves the right to publish any content through this newsletter.