

Forum hosts interactive session with Mr. Vivek Johri, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), and Mr. D.P. Nagendra Kumar, Member (GST& Tax Policy, CBIC)

In celebration of the recent 5-year milestone of the GST regime, the US-India Tax Forum hosted Mr. Vivek Johri, Chairman, CBIC, and Mr. D.P. Nagendra Kumar, Member (GST& Tax Policy, CBIC) on July 20, 2022 for an in-person interactive session with members. The speakers reflected on the Government's key focus areas for GST 2.0 and emphasised the role of technology in ensuring an efficient and transparent regime.

Forum makes representation on challenges in implementation of TDS under Section 194R of the Income Tax Act

Section 194R of the Income Tax Act mandates TDS on any benefit or perquisite provided to a resident in the course of business or profession. In response to numerous concerns and requests for clarification from the industry regarding the applicability of these provisions, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) issued guidelines in Q&A form vide Circular No. 12, 2022 dated June 16, 2022. However, these guidelines resulted in further ambiguities on several practical and legal aspects. In continuation of its advocacy efforts, the Forum had collated details of these issues from its members and submitted a representation to CBDT earlier this week. We are now in the process of organising a consultation with concerned officials at CBDT to take the matter forward and seek necessary clarifications.

Inputs invited on proposed changes in Form GSTR-3B

Pursuant to the recommendations made in the 47th Meeting of the GST Council held last month, the GST Policy Wing of Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs has released a Concept Paper detailing the changes, including a draft Form GSTR-3B and explanatory instructions thereto, seeking comments and suggestions from the industry to finalise the same. The proposed changes aim to incorporate long-standing industry requests in view of challenges faced in undertaking compliances. A copy of the Concept Paper can be accessed [here](#). The Forum invites inputs and recommendations, if any, on the Concept Paper and the changes detailed therein.

CBIC issues notifications giving effect to GST rate changes recommended in 47th Meeting of GST Council

CBIC issued a series of notifications giving effect to the GST rate related decisions taken in the 47th Meeting of the GST council held last month. The relevant notifications No. 03/2022 to 11/2022-Central Tax (Rate) dated July 13, 2022 can be accessed [here](#). A summary of these rate changes, effective July 18, 2022, is also available on the Tax Forum [website](#).

CBIC issues FAQs on applicability of GST on pre-packaged and labelled goods

The GST Council in its 47th meeting held last month had imposed GST on specified goods when they are 'pre-packaged and labelled'. Prior to this, GST was applicable on goods when bearing a registered brand or brand in respect of which an actionable claim

or enforceable right in a court of law. CBIC has now issued clarifications in the form of FAQs to address requests from the industry for clarity regarding the scope of this change. The FAQs dated July 17, 2022 can be accessed [here](#).

Government of India reduces additional duties imposed by way of 'windfall tax' on oil and gas companies

The additional duties levied earlier this month by the Indian Government on exports of petroleum products have now been reduced in view of falling global crude oil prices. The relevant Notification Nos. 17/2022-20/2022 dated July 19, 2022 issued by CBIC to give effect to reductions in these levies can be accessed [here](#).

CBDT specifies 'Prescribed Authority' for e-Verification Scheme, 2021

CBDT has authorised officers of the Directorate of Income-tax (Intelligence and Criminal Investigation) as 'Prescribed Authority' for the purpose of e-Verification Scheme, 2021. The prescribed officers are Director General of Income-tax, Directors of Income-tax, Additional Directors of Income-tax, Joint Directors of Income-tax, Deputy Directors of Income-tax, Assistant Directors of Income-tax, Income Tax Officers and Inspectors of Income-tax.

OECD invites public comments on the Progress Report on Amount A of Pillar One

The OECD is seeking comments from stakeholders on the Progress Report on Amount A, which represents the taxing right for market jurisdictions under Pillar One of the Two-Pillar Solution conceptualised by the OECD/ G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS. Comments are sought (by August 19, 2022) with respect to the rules in the Progress Report document, which can be accessed [here](#).