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THE FEDERATION OF TELANGANA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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FTCCI Excellence Awards 2025

8th July, 2025 at Taj Deccan, Hyderabad





108th Annual General Meeting

15th July, 2025 at Federation House, FTCCI, Hyderabad

Congratulations



Outgoing President Dr. Suresh Kumar Singhal welcoming the Incoming President Sri R. Ravi Kumar by pinning the lapel pin



Incoming President Sri R. Ravi Kumar welcoming the Incoming Sr Vice President Sri K K Maheshwari by pinning the lapel pin



President and Sr.Vice President along with Past Presidents and Managing Committee Members of FTCCI



FTCCI Review

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■ July 23, 2025

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Dear Member,

Having assumed the responsibilities as President of FTCCI, I express my heartfelt thanks with true feeling of gratitude to all the members of Federation for reposing trust for the position of the President. While this is a matter of pride and prestige for me, I fully well understand that this also brings lots of responsibility for me. I am sure and confident that I will be able to do justice to the chair with whole hearted support from all the members.

To begin with, it is of utmost importance to outline the tasks at hand and set the priorities so that we head in the right direction for the benefit of our industry and trade fraternity.

As we aim to scale-up our activities, there is a big agenda to be addressed and fulfilled. We cannot expect to achieve everything to happen in one year. Hence, this is a long-term vision for me and I am sure, with all your co-operation and support, we will be able to achieve it.

FTCCI is the largest representative association of MSMEs in Telangana. Though the sector is playing a key role in employment generation, MSMEs have not been given priority in the agenda of the government.

We need to continue working in the direction to stress upon the government to support MSMEs by reducing the 'Cost of Doing Business' in the state and also to improve 'Ease of Doing Business' as Telangana's Rank is slipped from one among top 3 states.

We are thankful to the Government of Telangana for interacting with industry members in the last one year, and I express my sincere gratitude to Sridhar Babu garu, Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Commerce for gracing the programs – GrowthX and FTCCI-IITEX Expo. The State has achieved considerable progress in all the indices of growth – Industrial Production, Per Capita Income growth, GSDP growth, Energy consumption, GST collections etc. I am sure we can achieve more by using this as a foundation in achieving – decentralization of industries, development of rural economy, social and economic infrastructure development in semi-urban and urban areas.

Industry never look for any unreasonable subsidies and sops since these end up to be counter-productive in the long run, but we definitely look forward to an industry-friendly atmosphere with timely disbursement of incentives given. Today, MSMEs are not only facing Global competition but also cut-throat competition from neighbouring states and hence state government should proactively support the industries to remain competitive.

The major flagship programs of FTCCI viz. Industrial Innovation and Technology Expo (IITEX) 2025 held for three days and the FTCCI Excellence Awards were held successfully and

I thank Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Spl Chief Secretary, Govt. of Telangana and D. Sridhar Babu, Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Commerce for gracing the IITEX Expo at Inaugural and Valedictory sessions. They expressed their happiness over the expo and suggested to conduct programs in Tier 2 and 3 cities also and take the activities to the local entrepreneurs too.

FTCCI is the largest representative association of MSMEs in Telangana. Though the sector is playing a key role in employment generation, MSMEs have not been given priority in the agenda of the government.

FTCCI will plan outreach programs with the District Chambers and also interact with the local entrepreneurs to understand their challenges in conducting the business.

The Excellence Awards were presented by Sri Jishnu Dev Varma, Hon'ble Governor of Telangana and we are deeply honored by the presence of first citizen of the State.

As the President of this 108-year-old organization, my appeal to all the members is - let us work together, support each other and voice collectively the challenges / difficulties faced by us before the government.

"Unity is Strength"




R. Ravi Kumar
President

India Achieves 50% Clean Energy Milestone Five Years Ahead Of 2030 Target: MNRE



India has achieved its 2030 Paris Agreement target five years ahead of schedule, with 50 percent of its total installed energy capacity now sourced from non-fossil fuels, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) announced on 15th July 2025.

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi, in a post on social media platform X, stated that the country's total installed energy capacity stands at 484.8 gigawatts (GW), of which 242.8 GW is derived from clean energy sources, including solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear power. Solar energy has emerged as the leading contributor to India's renewable energy portfolio. According to NITI Aayog data, solar energy accounts for nearly half of the country's renewable capacity, with 111 GW installed as of May 2025. Wind and hydro power follow with 51 GW and 48 GW respectively.

In addition to the current capacity, India has another 130 GW of renewable

energy projects in the pipeline, with solar power expected to account for approximately 60 percent of this upcoming capacity.

The rapid expansion in renewable energy has attracted significant interest from both domestic and international investors. Waaree Energies, one of India's largest solar photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturers, recently secured substantial orders including a 410 MW contract from Aditya Birla Renewables and a 362 MW order from Engie India.

Adani Energy, another key player in the sector, reported a 59 percent increase in module sales in FY25, totaling 4.3 GW, including 1.72 GW in exports.

On the generation side, NTPC Green has already commissioned 1.6 GW of renewable energy projects and has 9.1 GW under execution. An additional 9.9 GW remains in the development pipeline.

<https://knnindia.co.in>

Govt eases exhaust gas rules for thermal power plants, may lower power prices

The government has relaxed the universal implementation of the flue-gas desulphurization (FGD) systems at coal-based power plants across the country, in a move that is likely to lower electricity prices.

A 12 July notification from

the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEF&CC) said thermal power plants outside a 10km radius of cities with a population of 1 million people or more will be excluded from the requirement to install the system. Flue gas is a residue from thermal power plants, emits sulphur dioxide (SO₂), which can mix in the atmosphere and create secondary particulate matter, an air pollutant.

While plants in the National Capital Region (NCR) and other cities with at least 1 million population will have to comply with the norm, for those within 10km radius of critically polluted areas or non-attainment cities, the need for FGD installation will be decided on a case-by-case basis by the Centre based on recommendations of the expert appraisal committee in charge of thermal power projects.

"The sulphur dioxide emission standards shall not be applicable to all Category C thermal power plants subject to ensuring compliance of stack height criteria notified vide notification number GSR 742 (E), dated the 30th August, 1990," said the notification referring to the plants outside the radius of 10km of cities with 1 million population.

These plants, which are exempted from the requirement to install FGD systems, account for nearly 79% of the overall 180 operational power plants in the country.

<https://www.livemint.com>

Share of clean energy in India's electricity less than 30% despite 50% of installed capacity



India may have achieved an important milestone of sourcing 50% of its total electric power capacity of about 484 gigawatts, from non fossil-fuel sources, though publicly available data show that the share of clean energy in the electricity actually supplied is below 30%.

"India has achieved a landmark in its energy transition journey by reaching 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources — five years ahead of the targetset under its Nationally Determined Contributions [NDCs] to the Paris Agreement," Pralhad Joshi, Minister for New and Renewable Energy, said earlier this week.

"This significant milestone underscores the country's steadfast commitment to climate action and sustainable development, and signals that India's clean energy transition is not only real but also

accelerating under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi." In 2014, the share of renewable energy sources – solar, wind, biomass, hydropower (small and large) and nuclear power – constituted about 30% of India's installed electricity capacity. As on June 30, 2025 – as per the Centre – it rose to 50%. However, the share of electricity generated from these sources rose from 17% in 2014-15 to 28% in the April 2024 to May 2025 period. To be sure, the quantum of clean energy (non-fossil) produced annually has risen quite significantly from 190 billion units in 2014-15 to 460 billion units in 2024-25. Experts say that despite the rise in clean energy, the slower increase in utilising clean energy was due to the "capacity utilisation factor" (CUF), a measure of how much available energy was usable. CUF values for clean energy have been lower than that of coal or nuclear sources. "While solar and wind now make up a large share of installed capacity, their CUFs are much lower. Solar has CUF of approximately 20% and wind around 25-30%, compared to coal's 60% or nuclear's 80%.

This means their contribution to actual generation remains limited despite high installed capacity," said Arunendra Kumar Tiwari, Fellow, The Energy Resources Institute.

<https://www.thehindu.com>

India To Add 8,500 MWh Battery Storage Capacity By End Of 2027: CEA

India is set to add 8,500 megawatt hours (MWh) of battery energy storage capacity by the end of 2027, with plans to scale up to 74,000 MWh by 2031–32, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) Chairperson Ghanshyam Prasad announced on July 9.

"Currently, India's commissioned battery energy storage capacity is meagre at 506 MWh. But, the good thing is that we have a solid number of projects under pipeline and in the tendering stage," Prasad said at the India Energy Storage Week organised by India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) in New Delhi.

One of the key challenges with renewable energy is its intermittency. Unlike thermal and other conventional power generation sources, renewables often produce an inconsistent output—solar power, for instance, cannot be generated at night, while wind power depends heavily on weather conditions.

"At least 8,500 MWh capacity is under pipeline which is expected to be operationalised in the next 2 years. Further, 42,000 MWh is under tendering stage. We may not feel the necessity of energy storage now, but from 2026-27, battery energy storage systems will be needed in a phased manner as the

ongoing renewable energy projects will be ready by then," he added.

To address this intermittency and ensure round-the-clock clean power, the Indian government is also diversifying its storage mix by scaling up pumped hydro energy storage (PHES) projects.

This year alone, the government is set to commission 3,000 MW of pumped storage capacity, with some units at Tehri (Uttarakhand) and Pinnapuram (Andhra Pradesh) already operational.

Prasad outlined an ambitious plan to expand India's pumped hydro capacity from the current 5 GW to over 50 GW by 2031–32.

<https://knnindia.co.in>

India's Renewable Energy Capacity Hits 227 GW; Solar PV Manufacturing Grows 38-Fold: Piyush Goyal



India's renewable energy capacity has reached 227 gigawatts (GW), Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

Speaking at the 11th edition of India Energy

Storage Week (IESW) 2025 in New Delhi, Goyal highlighted that the country has witnessed a 4,000 percent increase in installed solar capacity over the past decade and is potentially the first G20 nation to have achieved its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

He noted that solar photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturing capacity has grown nearly 38-fold, while PV cell production has expanded by 21 times over the last ten years.

The minister cited examples of rural progress, including Palli village in Jammu and Kashmir, which has become India's first carbon-neutral panchayat through the use of solar energy and energy-efficient systems.

He also pointed to Yashobhoomi, the venue for the event, as a model of green infrastructure, featuring rooftop solar panels, wastewater recycling, and energy-efficient design.

Highlighting government initiatives aimed at deepening the renewable energy base, Goyal referenced the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, which aims to install rooftop solar systems in one crore households, and the PM Kusum Yojana, which promotes solar-powered irrigation for farmers.

He said that domestic energy storage capabilities will be key to achieving India's target of 500 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030.

<https://knnindia.co.in>

ECONOMY WATCH

BRICS set up to 'hurt us', 'degenerate' U.S. dollar: Trump



President Donald Trump on July 8, 2025 claimed that BRICS was established to "hurt" the U.S. and "degenerate" the dollar as he warned that the member countries of the bloc would face a 10% tariff.

Mr. Trump made the remarks while talking to reporters at the sixth Cabinet meeting at the White House. "They have to pay 10% if they are in BRICS," he said.

Mr. Trump said BRICS was set up to "hurt us" and "degenerate our dollar" and take the dollar off as the standard.

"And that's okay if they want to play that game, but I can play that game too. So anybody that's in BRICS is getting a 10% charge," he said, adding that this will be happening "pretty soon".

"Well, if they're a member of BRICS, they're gonna have to pay a 10% tariff. Just for that one thing," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump claimed that BRICS "largely broke up" but "there are a couple that hang around".

"BRICS is not, in my opinion, a serious threat. But what they're trying to do is destroy the dollar so that another country can take over and be the standard, and we're not going to lose the standard at any time," he said, adding, "If you have a smart president, you will never lose the standard." "If we lost the world standard dollar, that would be like losing a war, a major world war; we would not be the same country any longer. We're not going to let that happen...dollar is king, we're going to keep it that way.

"If people want to challenge it, they can, but they're going to have to pay a big price, and I don't think any of them are willing to pay that price," Mr. Trump said.

Leaders of the BRICS nations -- Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Iran -- met in Brazil for the 17th BRICS Summit on July 6-7. Mr. Trump on July 6, 2025 threatened to impose an additional 10% tariff on countries aligning themselves with the "anti-American" policies of the BRICS grouping.

<https://www.thehindu.com>

India eyes \$1 trillion chemical output by 2040, says NITI

The global chemical industry is undergoing a major transformation, driven by shifting supply chains, demand for specialty and green chemicals, and heightened focus on innovation and sustainability. (Representational Image/ Canva)

Targeted reforms encompassing a comprehensive range of fiscal and non-fiscal interventions will enable India to have a \$1 trillion chemical sector and achieve a 12% global value chain (GVC) share by 2040 to become an international chemical powerhouse, NITI Aayog said in a report.

NITI Aayog has proposed a range of measures to boost the chemical sector, including an operational expenditure subsidy scheme, expedited environmental clearances, more free trade agreements, development of world-class chemical hubs, and improved access to technologies to promote self-sufficiency and innovation.

India's 3.5% share in global chemical value chains and its chemical trade deficit at \$31 billion in 2023, underscore its high dependence on imported feedstock and specialty chemicals.

The domestic chemicals market was valued at \$220 billion in 2023 and is expected to grow to around \$400 to 450 billion by 2030, with aspirations to reach about \$850 to 1,000 billion by 2040, complemented by

government support.

The global chemical industry is undergoing a major transformation, driven by shifting supply chains, demand for specialty and green chemicals, and heightened focus on innovation and sustainability. India's chemical sector, while significant in size and GDP contribution, remains fragmented and constrained by infrastructure gaps, regulatory inefficiencies, and low R&D intensity.

India's low investment in R&D, with only 0.7% of investment against the global average of 2.3%, hampers indigenous innovation in high-value chemicals, NITI Aayog said in a report titled "Chemical Industry: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains".

<https://www.financialexpress.com>

India now makes faster payments than any other country, courtesy UPI: IMF note



India now makes faster payments than any other country with the quick growth of UPI, and the usage of other instruments, including debit and credit cards, is on the decline, according to an IMF note. Unied Payments Interface is

an instant and real-time payment system developed by NPCI to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phones. IMF's Fintech Note titled 'Growing Retail Digital Payments: The Value of Interoperability' said that since its launch in 2016, UPI has grown quickly, while some proxies for cash usage have begun to decline.

UPI now processes more than 18 billion transactions per month and dominates other electronic retail payments in India. "India now makes faster payments than any other country. At the same time, proxies for cash usage have fallen," the note said.

The note presents evidence consistent with this framework using granular data covering the universe of transactions on India's UPI, an interoperable platform that has become the world's largest retail fast payment system by volume.

"Since its launch in 2016, UPI has grown quickly, while some proxies for cash usage have begun to decline. UPI now processes more than 18 billion transactions per month and dominates other electronic retail payments in India," the fintech note said. Fintech Notes offer practical advice from IMF staff members to policymakers on important issues.

It said that interoperable payment systems, such as UPI, are alternatives to closed-loop systems that could also foster the adoption of digital payments. Such systems

allow for seamless payments between users of different payment providers. "Importantly, total digital payments also rise relative to a proxy for cash usage," it said.

The note further said that estimating cash usage is difficult because cash transactions can occur anonymously and may not be recorded in any ledger, especially in the informal sector. "However, we can approximate cash usage with the value of automated teller machine (ATM) withdrawals in each district. When we measure the impact of integration on transaction values relative to cash withdrawals, we find a very similar picture," it said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com>

Dairy certificate rules face fresh heat from US at WTO



The US has again raised concerns at the World Trade Organization (WTO) at India's dairy certificate requirements terming them "unnecessary trade barriers" for American exports. India mandates an integrated veterinary health certificate for the import of milk and milk products, confirming that

it does not contain drugs, antibiotics, pesticides or heavy metal residues. Washington told the WTO that such measures should be based on science and be least trade-restrictive. It had raised the concern in April this year.

The US said India's new dairy certificate which came into force on November 2024, did not address its concerns. "As a result, we remain concerned that India's certificate requirements present unnecessary trade barriers for US dairy exports to India's market," the US said. The integrated certificate needs to be certified by the exporting country's authority for consignments being exported to India.

Washington added that such measures should be based on science and risk to achieve the appropriate level of public health protection. The concerns come amid the two sides negotiating a trade deal and New Delhi stating firm on its red lines on not opening dairy and agriculture.

The issue could be taken up during India's eighth trade policy review at the WTO which is scheduled this year. The last review took place in 2021.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com>

'India never negotiates trade deals on deadlines': Piyush Goyal tells US, says 'national interest always

supreme'

"India never negotiates trade deals on deadlines," commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on 4th July 2025 in what's seen to convey a stern message to Washington that strong-arm tactics won't help in concluding the high-stakes bilateral trade deal between the two nations.

"Trade agreements are possible only when both sides get benefits. It should be a win-win agreement, and national interest should always be supreme," the minister said here.

Earlier in the day, a team of Indian negotiators led by additional secretary Rajesh Agarwal returned from Washington after seven days of intensive engagements with their US counterparts. The intent was to hammer out a mutually beneficial interim trade deal. Asked whether he would be going to the US in near future, Goyal replied in negative.

The US had earlier set a deadline for most of its trading partners to strike trade deals involving tariff cuts during a 90-day pause from the so-called steep reciprocal tariffs announced earlier by it. In India's case, the extra tariff proposed was 26%.

Sources indicated that differences remain on the liberalisation of trade in agriculture and automobiles for the US, for the proposed interim deal, which is seen a prelude to a broader bilateral trade agreement (BTA).

<https://www.financialexpress.com>



Case Law Alert

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As the GST law continues to evolve, we are witnessing increased enforcement efforts by the Department to identify and address non-compliance within the ecosystem. This has inevitably led to a rise in litigation. To support stakeholders in navigating these developments, RSM Astute Consulting Pvt Ltd is sharing timely and relevant updates on GST for the benefit of stakeholders.

		RSM	
01 PETITIONER / RESPONDENT Petitioner: Kuehne Plus Nagel Private Limited Respondents Union of India & Ors	03 GROUND OF WRIT The Petitioner, aggrieved by the rejection of refund for export of services without payment of tax, on the grounds that Foreign Inward Remittance Certificates (FIRCs) were not submitted, has filed the present Writ Petition. The Petitioner contended that they had received net foreign exchange through a Reserve Bank of India-approved clearing mechanism and had submitted Chartered Accountant certificates as proof thereof, thereby satisfying the substantive conditions for refund under the GST laws. The Petitioner further asserts that the tax authorities have mechanically applied Circular No. 125/44/2019-GST, leading to the arbitrary rejection of the refund claim.	04 ORDER The Court ruled in favour of the Petitioner, thereby setting aside the impugned order rejecting the refund claim, and directed the Respondents to release the refund within 12 weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of the order. The Court held that the Respondent Authorities were not justified in denying the refund solely on the basis of Circular for non-submission of FIRCs. It was further directed that the Respondents shall process the refund claim in accordance with law, without insisting on FIRCs, and by accepting the Chartered Accountant's certificate evidencing receipt of net foreign exchange, as per the in-principle approval granted by the RBI for the realisation of foreign exchange against export of services.	
02 COURT/ FORUM High Court : Gujarat High Court R/Special Civil Application No. 13427 of 2024			

		RSM	
01 PETITIONER / RESPONDENT Petitioner: Mathai M V Respondent : The Senior Enforcement Officer	03 GROUND OF WRIT The Petitioner challenged the order passed by the learned Single Judge under Section 130 of the CGST Act, 2017, concerning the confiscation of his vehicle. The Petitioner contended that he had no involvement in any tax evasion and further contended that a valid notice was not served in accordance with Section 169 of the said Act. It was further argued that the seizure of the vehicle was carried out without adherence to the due legal process prescribed under Section 130(4) of the CGST Act, 2017, and that the notice was served via WhatsApp, which is not a mode of service permitted under the GST provisions.	04 ORDER The Court ruled in favour of the Petitioner by quashing and setting aside the order passed by the learned Single Judge, as well as the order of confiscation/detention of the Petitioner's vehicle. The Court further directed the Respondent to issue a fresh notice in compliance with the provisions of Section 130 of the CGST Act, 2017, and to pass a reasoned order in accordance with law after affording the Petitioner an opportunity of hearing. The said exercise is to be completed within three weeks from the date the Petitioner appears before the Authority, which shall be within one week from the date of this order.	
02 COURT/ FORUM High Court : Kerala High Court WA No. 973 of 2025			

01

PETITIONER / RESPONDENT

Petitioner: Bharat Mint & Allied Chemicals

Respondent : State of U.P. & Anr

02

COURT/ FORUM

High Court : Allahabad High Court

Writ Tax No. - 2527 of 2025

03

GROUND'S OF WRIT

The Petitioner, being gravely aggrieved by the issuance of the impugned notice under Section 74 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, has preferred the present Writ Petition. It is the Petitioner's categorical contention that a prior notice under Section 73 had already been served, to which a detailed reply was duly submitted. A substantial portion of the allegations therein stood accepted and consequently dropped by the Department. Despite such closure, a subsequent notice was issued under Section 74, bereft of any allegation of fraud, wilful misstatement, or suppression of facts—all of which are statutorily mandated preconditions for the lawful invocation of Section 74. The absence of these essential elements renders the issuance of the notice under Section 74 as ultra vires and devoid of jurisdiction.

04

RSM**ORDER**

The Court has ruled in favour of the Petitioner, thereby quashing the impugned notice and setting it aside in its entirety. The Court categorically held that the essential statutory preconditions for invoking Section 74 of the CGST Act—namely, fraud, wilful misstatement, or suppression of facts—were conspicuously absent in the impugned notice, rendering the proceedings procedurally flawed and legally unsustainable. However, the Court has granted liberty to the Respondents to initiate fresh proceedings strictly in accordance with law, should the factual and legal circumstances so warrant.

01

PETITIONER / RESPONDENT

Petitioner: Akash Parshottambhai Patel

Respondent : State of Gujarat

02

COURT/ FORUM

High Court : High Court of Gujarat

R/Criminal Misc. Application - 10733 of 2025

03

GROUND'S OF WRIT

The Petitioner, aggrieved by the arrest prior to the filing of a regular complaint, had filed an application for regular bail under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, in connection with an alleged offence under Section 132 of the CGST Act. It was further contended by the Petitioner that he had appeared twice before the authorities and made voluntary statements; that crucial digital evidence had already been seized, and he had voluntarily deposited ₹1.73 crores. The Petitioner also submitted that he has no prior criminal antecedents.

04

RSM**ORDER**

The Court, having considered the submissions, disposed of the Writ Petition and grantee bail to the Petitioner, subject to conditions including execution of a personal bond of ₹15,000 with one surety of like amount, surrender of passport within one week, restriction on travel outside the State of Gujarat without prior permission, mandatory fortnightly appearance before the concerned police station for a period of three months, and disclosure of any change in residence with prior approval from the Investigating Officer or the Trial Court. The Court further directed that the bail bond shall be executed before the jurisdictional lower Court, which shall have the discretion to delete, modify, or relax any of the aforesaid conditions in accordance with law.

01

PETITIONER / RESPONDENT

Petitioner: Paper Trade Link

Respondent : Union of India & Ors

02

COURT/ FORUM

High Court : High Court of Madhya Pradesh

Writ Petition No. 6061 of 2023

03

GROUND'S OF WRIT

The Petitioner, aggrieved by the impugned order, passed by Respondent No. 3, challenged the imposition of tax liability, interest, and penalty under the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act. The primary contention was that the impugned order was vitiated by a procedural infirmity, as the petitioner was denied the opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses whose statements were relied upon by the authority. The Petitioner asserted that this refusal to permit cross-examination constituted a gross violation of the principles of natural justice, rendering the order procedurally flawed, unjust, and legally unsustainable.

04

RSM**ORDER**

The High Court has pronounced the decision in favor of the petitioner, setting aside the impugned order and remanding the matter to the Adjudicating Authority for fresh proceedings. The Court explicitly directed that the Petitioner be afforded a fair opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses prior to any final adjudication. The Court further held that a Writ Petition is maintainable when an order is vitiated by a breach of natural justice, irrespective of the availability of an appellate remedy. This judgment underscores the paramount importance of procedural fairness in ensuring compliance with the principles of natural justice.

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FTCCI EVENTS



2nd Edition of IITEX 2025 Industrial Innovation & Technology Expo 2025

June 27-29, 2025,
HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad



DAY -1

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) successfully organized the 2nd Edition of IITEX 2025 from June 27-29, 2025, at HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad. The three-day expo has established itself as Telangana's premier platform for industrial innovation and MSME empowerment, coinciding strategically with World MSME Day to reinforce FTCCI's commitment to micro and small enterprises.

The expo delivered exceptional results with 110 exhibitors including 52 Micro & Small Enterprises and 31 Medium Enterprises, attracting over 10,000 visitors comprising industry professionals, buyers, policymakers, and innovators. Most significantly, the event generated over Rs.70 crore in business potential through direct buyer-seller interactions and B2B meetings, demonstrating tangible economic impact for participating MSMEs.



The event received distinguished support with Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Government of Telangana, as Chief Guest for inauguration, and Hon'ble Mr. D. Sridhar Babu, Minister for IT & Industries, Government of Telangana, gracing the valedictory session. The expo was supported under the Ministry of MSME's Procurement and Marketing Scheme, ensuring alignment with national industrial policy objectives.

IITEX 2025 benefited from comprehensive ecosystem support including NITI Aayog's Invest India, NASSCOM, T-Hub, T-Works, NSIC, TGREDCO, and the Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence. Dedicated pavilions by NASSCOM and T-Hub featured over 30 curated startups, creating a vibrant innovation-to-market pipeline that connected emerging technologies with established industry players.

The expo served as a crucial platform for translating Telangana's MSME Policy into actionable initiatives. Government leadership emphasized FTCCI's pivotal role in policy implementation, with particular focus on empowering MSMEs through market access, technology adoption, and capacity building. The event showcased cutting-edge



solutions across clean energy, smart manufacturing, e-mobility, digital transformation, and sustainability sectors.

Participating MSMEs gained direct access to new markets, buyers, and technology partnerships, with many securing immediate orders and

dealership opportunities. The expo facilitated technology adoption through exposure to IoT-enabled automation, renewable energy solutions, and digital transformation tools. Key partners including Truzon Solar and Margadarsi Chit Fund announced significant expansion

plans, demonstrating confidence in the platform's business development capabilities.

FTCCI is committed to transforming IITEX from a bi-annual to an annual flagship industrial expo. This strategic evolution will position IITEX as a year-round catalyst for MSME growth and industrial innovation in alignment with Atmanirbhar

Bharat objectives. IITEX 2025 has successfully demonstrated FTCCI's leadership in creating meaningful platforms that translate policy vision into market reality. The event's exceptional performance metrics, strong government endorsement, and tangible business outcomes validate the approach and reinforce the commitment to empower

India's industrial ecosystem through innovation-driven growth initiatives.

Some of the other key partners includes Union Bank of India; LIC; Neovatic; Kotak Bank; SIDBI; IPOG Technologies Pvt. Ltd.; Bondada Group; Ampleton Solar & Asset Integrated Solution by Tally

DAY -2







FTCCI Excellence Awards 2025

July 8, 2025,
Taj Deccan, Hyderabad



CHIEF GUEST

Shri Jishnu Dev Varma

Hon'ble Governor of Telangana

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) hosted the prestigious FTCCI Excellence Awards 2025 on 8th July, 2025 (Tuesday) at Taj Deccan, Hyderabad, celebrating trailblazers across business, entrepreneurship, social innovation, and industrial performance. The event recognised outstanding achievements in 19 categories, including large industries, MSMEs, startups, CSR, digital transformation, research, and individual contributions.



Felicitation to Eminent Jury



Sri B.P. Acharya, IAS (Retd), Sri Ajay Mishra, IAS (Retd), and Prof. Uday B. Desai, Founding Director, IIT Hyderabad.

The event was graced by the presence of the Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, as the Chief Guest, and Mr. Nikhil Chakravarthi, Director of Industries, Government of Telangana, as the Guest of Honour. They were accompanied on the dais by the

FTCCI Senior Officials, President Dr. Suresh Kumar Singhal, Senior Vice President Mr. R. Ravi Kumar, Vice President Mr. K.K. Maheshwari, Chair of Excellence Awards Mr. Ramakanth Inani, and Secretary Ms. Veena. Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, Hon'ble

Governor of Telangana, in his keynote address, applauded the awardees for their remarkable achievements and reflected on the deeper responsibilities of the business community in shaping a sustainable and inclusive future. "Excellence is not merely a destination. It

is a continuous journey driven by creativity, hard work, and a commitment to quality. Likewise, these awards are not merely trophies. They are symbols of hard work, innovation, integrity, and meaningful contributions to society". Telangana stands tall today as a progressive and dynamic industrial state, he remarked, while urging the next generation of entrepreneurs to "Think big, think fast, and think ahead".

The Hon'ble Governor also emphasised the pivotal role of industries not just as engines of economic growth but as essential contributors to the social and ethical fabric of the state. He lauded Telangana's industrial ecosystem, commending the robust infrastructure, progressive industrial corridors, and dynamic public-private partnerships that have made the state a beacon of business-friendly innovation in India. Initiatives such as cluster-based development models and Common Facility Centres were highlighted as tools that are not just promoting productivity but also democratising innovation, especially for micro and small enterprises.

The governor also reminded the gathering of FTCCI's vital role as a bridge between industry and government, ensuring that enterprises remain agile and competitive in a constantly evolving economic landscape.

The Hon'ble Governor felicitated the distinguished jury panel for their thoughtful evaluation and valuable contribution: Shri Ajay Mishra, IAS (Retd), Shri B.P. Acharya, IAS (Retd) and Prof. Uday B. Desai, Founding Director, IIT Hyderabad.

The Hon'ble Governor also presented mementoes to the esteemed sponsors in appreciation of their generous support:

Gold Partners: Devashree Ispat Pvt. Limited, Venkateswara Group, Blend Colours and Godrej Properties Limited

Silver Partners: Inani Securities, PMJ Jewellers, Sudhakar Pipe & Fittings

and NMDC

Associate Partners: Jeevaka Industries, Mahalakshmi Profiles Limited

Media Partner - Times of India

The Hon'ble Governor felicitated Mr. Meela Jayadev, Immediate Past President, in recognition of his impactful leadership and contributions during his tenure.

Shri Nikhil Chakravarthi J, IAAS, Director of Industries, Government of Telangana, graced the FTCCI Excellence Awards 2025 as the Guest of Honour. In his address, he highlighted the significant strides made by Telangana in the IT sector, which has been steadily growing since the early 2000s and is now a major employment provider for the educated youth of the state. He noted that Telangana holds a distinct advantage in emerging as a leader in the IT domain, owing to its skilled youth, English-speaking workforce, a large number of engineering colleges, and globally recognized institutions such as the Indian School of Business (ISB). The availability of good infrastructure and favourable weather conditions further strengthen the state's position as a preferred IT destination. However, Shri Chakravarthi also pointed out a key area that needs focused attention – the manufacturing sector. Despite the progress in IT and ITES, the contribution of the manufacturing sector remains low at around 10–11%. He emphasized the need to increase this share to at least 20% over the next decade to ensure balanced economic development. He further stated that the MSME manufacturing sector plays a vital role as the largest employment generator and that the Government of Telangana is giving high priority to enhancing the rural economy. This is being done by promoting the establishment of processing units in the agriculture and food processing sectors, with a vision to create sustainable livelihoods and inclusive growth.

Awardees:

1. Ravi Foods Pvt. Ltd. – Industrial All-Round Performance (Large Industries)
2. Macro Media Digital Imaging Pvt. Ltd. – Industrial All-Round Performance (SMEs)
3. Som Phytopharma India Ltd. – Agri-Based Industry
4. Shrinath Rotopack Pvt. Ltd. – Export Performance (Large Industries)
5. Hariom Pipe Industries Ltd. – CSR Excellence
6. Unistring Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd. – Aerospace & Defence
7. Biocon Ltd. – Pharma Sector
8. Pragati Green Meadows & Resorts Ltd. – Tourism & Hospitality
9. Mahalakshmi Profiles Pvt. Ltd. – Marketing Innovation
10. Blend Colours Pvt. Ltd. – Product Innovation (Large Industries)
11. MQS Technologies Pvt. Ltd. – Product Innovation (SMEs)
12. Hyderabad Eye Institute (LVPEI) – Healthcare Innovation
13. NMDC Ltd. – Research & Development (Large Industries)
14. NMDC Ltd. – Digital Transformation
15. Thermoflyde Industries Pvt. Ltd. – Start-Up Excellence
16. Dr. P. Rajalakshmi, IIT Hyderabad – Science & Engineering (Individual)
17. Dr. Hima Bindu Nalluri, Easylife Mobility Innovations Pvt. Ltd. – Women Entrepreneur
18. Mr. Ravindra Singh, Tekra Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (MyUdaan) – Differently-Abled Entrepreneurship
19. Dr. Hima Bindu Nalluri – Social Entrepreneurship







Felicitation to Sri Meela Jayadev, President (2023-24)



Managing Committee Members & Past Presidents of FTCCI

Dr. Suresh Kumar Singhal, President, FTCCI has welcomed all the distinguished guests and emphasised FTCCI's rich 108-year legacy in fostering industrial growth, trade promotion, and policy advocacy. He highlighted that since 1974, the FTCCI Excellence Awards have been a hallmark of industrial recognition—motivating enterprises to strive for excellence, inclusion, and sustainable development. FTCCI, through its 21 expert committees, continues to support members and the broader industry through learning programs, policy initiatives, stakeholder engagements, and skill development. These awards highlight the organisations and individuals who are not just contributing to Telangana's GDP but also shaping its future through innovation and ethical enterprise.

Mr. Ramakanth Inani, Chair of the Awards Committee, stated that the FTCCI Excellence Awards underscore the exceptional contributions made by businesses to the economy, their communities, and society at

large. He emphasized that these awards serve as a validation of the strategic planning, vision, discipline, grit, innovation, and leadership demonstrated by the awardees. He further highlighted that the evaluation process, carried out by the eminent jury, was based on sector-specific criteria within a qualified metrics framework. The scrutiny was extremely meticulous, with the jury members devoting significant time from their demanding schedules to carefully assess each nomination and provide well-considered recommendations. Mr. Inani affirmed that all necessary steps were taken to ensure the process remained fair, transparent, and unbiased. He extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Jury members for their dedicated efforts, the Co-Chair Mr. Bhaskar Reddy, and all the panel convenors & members for their valuable contributions. Being the best among competitors and winning an award is a great feat and I congratulate all the Award winners for their unshakeable and persistent efforts

to achieve success. He also said that the recognitions reflect the spirit of transformation, encouraging quality and commitment across sectors.

Mr. R. Ravi Kumar, Senior Vice President, proposed the Vote of Thanks, expressing his gratitude to the Hon'ble Governor, the Guest of Honour, the distinguished jury members, sponsors, award winners, and all dignitaries and guests for making the FTCCI Excellence Awards 2025 a grand success. He stated that these awards uphold FTCCI's credibility and inspire continuous excellence across Telangana's industrial spectrum. He also acknowledged the dedicated efforts of the Awards Committee, the FTCCI Secretariat, and all supporting teams who worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the event. The ceremony witnessed the participation of over 450 prominent industrialists and dignitaries, making it a memorable celebration of excellence and innovation in Telangana's vibrant industrial landscape.

Grand Opening

15th July, 2025 at Federation House, Red Hills, Hyderabad

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Chief Guest : Shri Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Finance & Planning, Energy Govt of Telangana

Guest of Honours : Shri Mynampally Hanumantha Rao,
Secior Congress Leader, Telangana State and
Shri Mynampally Rohit, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Medak, Telangana State



Meeting with Mr. Mujeebur Rahman Aftab, Acting Consul General, Afghanistan :
18th July, 2025 at Federation House, FTCCI, Hyderabad

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RBI's Lost Decade: How Unnecessarily Expensive Capital Dwarfed Indian Growth

China and others used cheap capital to build industrial giants.

But India's costly credit regime, rooted in flawed belief that capital is scarce, has stunted its firms into structural dwarfism, despite strong fiscal reforms.

A colleague, who is a professor at one of the premier engineering institutions of Mumbai, recently returned from visiting manufacturing clusters in China. His observations were unsettling. Chinese MSMEs, he noted, were immaculate, with spotless facilities, cutting-edge equipment, and highly trained workers. "Why can't India do this?" he asked.

The answer, I told him, was very expensive capital.

This crystallized a deeper truth: the RBI's obsession with high interest rates has not only slowed economic growth, but it has also fundamentally deformed the architecture of Indian manufacturing, creating structural dwarfism.



**Prof. Vidhu Shekhar*

The Numbers Tell the Story

Consider the stark contrast: 76.8% of Indian factories have fewer than 50 employees, while in China only 25% of manufacturing firms fall into this smallest size category. This substantial gap represents an entirely different conception of industrial organization. In India, most firms remain stuck in subsistence operations.

The cause is evident: while Chinese MSMEs access capital at 3 to 4 percent, often lower with strategic state support, their Indian counterparts face borrowing rates of 11 to 16 percent.

Indian manufacturers find it impossible to invest adequately in modern equipment, employee training, or facility upgrades when every rupee is consumed by immediate survival. They cannot scale due to prohibitively expensive growth capital, leading entrepreneurial energy into fragmented, sub-optimal enterprises.

This is not limited to MSMEs. When COVID forced the RBI to slash rates to

a historic low of 4%, India witnessed a startup boom. In 2021, with the lowest interest rates, India added over 40 unicorns, its highest ever.

The monetary easing in response to COVID-19 briefly aligned India's capital cost with the global norm. The result was an explosion of entrepreneurial activity and capital formation.

But then again, RBI pivoted back aggressively with rate hikes post-COVID, even though India's inflation spike was comparatively mild and core inflation stabilized rapidly. This stifled entrepreneurial momentum, drastically reducing new unicorn formation to just two in 2023, seven in 2024, and two thus far in 2025.

India now has 119 unicorns. China has over 300, and the US has over 700, both powered by a decade of near-zero interest rates and government-backed liquidity. India, by contrast, has consistently been an island of expensive capital in a sea of monetary largesse.

When the rest of the world was lending at or near zero and, in some cases, even subsidising capital through negative real rates, India maintained a 6 to 8 per cent interest rate policy for most of the decade.

The Infrastructure Paradox

This monetary conservatism extends to infrastructure, revealing an even deeper policy contradiction. The Indian government needed Japan for a zero-percent loan to finance its bullet train project. Japan extended this facility, recognizing the long-term value of quality infrastructure.

Why did India, with its sovereign currency and central bank, need concessional financing from Japan? The RBI could have provided similar support domestically through special infrastructure bonds or direct financing mechanisms. China routinely does this, funding its infrastructure through policy banks prioritizing strategic value over short-term commercial returns.

When Japan can afford to lend to India at zero percent, but India cannot lend to itself at comparable rates, something is fundamentally flawed with the monetary framework.

Addressing Potential Concerns

Some argue that cheaper capital might fuel speculative bubbles or financial instability. However, historical experience from Japan, South Korea, and China shows that strategic, targeted, low-cost capital, combined with prudent regulation, has consistently driven industrial transformation without triggering economic overheating. These nations succeeded by directing affordable capital toward productive sectors and infrastructure.

It is important to note that a decade of ultra-low interest rates in the West did not result in inflation. In fact, for most part, they had ultra-low

has been sound, then what exactly was the RBI defending against?

The Fiscal Foundation Exists

The tragedy is that India has already earned the right to cheaper capital. India's fiscal discipline is evident. Inflation has averaged below 5 percent since 2016, fiscal deficits have consistently declined, and foreign exchange reserves exceed \$600 billion. Tax buoyancy improved dramatically post-GST implementation, significantly narrowing external vulnerabilities.

Despite this strong foundation, the RBI maintained its high-rate orthodoxy even when inflation was supply-driven and core inflation clearly stabilized. The result was a damaging mismatch: a fiscally responsible government aimed at economic growth, while the monetary arm constrained it through

Under Governor Sanjay Malhotra, the RBI has executed three consecutive rate cuts in 2025, including a bold 50 basis point move in June, bringing the rate to 5.5 percent. This shift is philosophical, signalling a move from reflexive hawkishness to growth-oriented policy.

inflation. The global spike in 2021–2022 was directly linked to large fiscal stimulus programs. In some advanced economies, these fiscal stimuluses exceeded 20 percent of GDP, far more than anything India attempted.

It is increasingly clear that inflation is driven more by fiscal policy than by monetary conditions. Central banks can suppress inflation caused by fiscal excess by slowing the economy itself with high rates (i.e., no bamboo no flute analogy). But they do not cause inflation themselves. That originates in large government deficits.

If inflation is fundamentally a fiscal phenomenon, and India's fiscal policy

punitive capital costs.

Indeed, despite RBI's persistently high interest rates, India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing major economies globally. This impressive growth trajectory is occurring despite the RBI's monetary conservatism, not because of it.

Had the central bank aligned its policies more closely with India's progressive reforms and strong fiscal management - offering lower-cost capital to industries, infrastructure, and startups - India could plausibly have achieved sustained double-digit growth.



The Real Cost of Orthodoxy

The human and economic cost of India's structural dwarfism extends beyond statistics. Businesses unable to scale fail to achieve efficiencies crucial for global competitiveness.

Most critically, expensive capital prevents the natural consolidation necessary for creating industrial champions. Rather than developing fewer but larger and more efficient manufacturing units, India remains trapped with millions of tiny workshops incapable of competing internationally or providing substantial quality employment.

How can Indian firms compete when their capital costs are nearly 10% higher? That is the entire margin in many industries. In fact, Chinese companies often access capital at zero or negative rates through government schemes.

The obstacle here is not entrepreneurial skill or technical capacity. RBI's persistent high-interest regime places Indian firms at a severe disadvantage in a world dominated by low-cost capital. The difference gives Chinese businesses the financial breathing room for long-term growth, while Indian enterprises are forced into survival mode.

This points to a fundamental philosophical misunderstanding. Capital is not a natural resource or inherently scarce. It is essentially a policy instrument whose cost should reflect economic objectives and evolving conditions.

Yet Indian monetary policy has historically approached capital as if it were a precious and limited commodity, rigidly protecting its scarcity and keeping its price high even during periods of controlled inflation and fiscal discipline.

A Belated Recognition

Under Governor Sanjay Malhotra, the RBI has executed three consecutive rate cuts in 2025, including a bold 50 basis point move in June, bringing the rate to 5.5 percent. This shift is philosophical, signalling a move from reflexive hawkishness to growth-oriented policy.

Yet this pivot, while encouraging, may be insufficient and overdue in reversing a decade of structural damage. The delayed easing means manufacturing consolidation, infrastructure modernization, and startup ecosystem development have lost crucial momentum.

Recovery demands sustained commitment, ideally pushing the repo rate to between 4 and 5 percent,

a level consistent with India's inflation and fiscal profile and aligned with global capital flows.

The Path Forward

The evidence overwhelmingly supports that the cost of capital is not a natural constraint but a policy choice. Countries choosing affordable capital, such as China, Japan, and South Korea during their growth phases, constructed industrial ecosystems dominating global markets. Nations treating capital as scarce and expensive remain trapped in low-productivity cycles.

This monetary conservatism stems from institutional legacy. Since the inflation-targeting regime began in 2016, the RBI has erred heavily on the side of caution, prizing inflation control over growth. But this conservatism has exacted a cost through lost investment cycles, weakened private capex, and a constrained startup ecosystem.

What the manufacturing sector lacks is not entrepreneurial energy but the financial architecture enabling enterprises to scale from small to medium to large to global leaders.

In a world where capital availability is policy-driven, maintaining artificially expensive capital while competitors thrive with affordable funding is indefensible.

With its fiscal house in order, inflation tamed, and robust foreign exchange reserve, India must decisively embrace cheaper capital, unlocking the full potential of its entrepreneurs and industries to secure its rightful position as a global economic and manufacturing powerhouse.

**Dr. Vidhu Shekhar holds a Ph.D. in Economics from IIM Calcutta, an MBA from IIM Calcutta, and a B.Tech from IIT Kharagpur. He is currently an Assistant Professor in Finance & Economics at Bhavan's SPJIMR, Mumbai. Previously, he has worked as an investment banker and hedge fund analyst. Views expressed are personal.*

Source: <https://swarajyamag.com/economy/the-rbis-lost-decade-unnecessarily-expensive-capitals-toll-on-indian-growth>

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Loss of GST Audit, Gain for the Department: How Smart Taxpayers Are Staying Ahead with Internal Reviews

*CA Arpan Bohra



“When the eyes of the law stopped watching, the guards of compliance fell asleep.”

Once upon a recent past, businesses had a guardian angel – **Section 35(5) read with Section 44** of the CGST Act – mandating that if your aggregate turnover exceeded the prescribed threshold, you needed to get your accounts audited by a **Chartered Accountant or Cost Accountant**, and furnish a reconciliation statement in **Form GSTR-9C**.

That guardian angel — the GST Audit — was formally taken away.

With the **Finance Act, 2021**, effective **from FY 2020–21**, the mandatory requirement of **GST audit by professionals** has been removed. Section 35(5) was omitted, and the language of Section 44 was substituted to remove the requirement for GSTR-9C certification by professionals. Now, a self-certified reconciliation statement is all that remains.

Particulars	Till FY 2019–20	From FY 2020–21 onwards
GST Audit by CA/CMA (Sec 35(5))	Mandatory	Removed
GSTR-9C Certification	By CA / CMA	Self-certified by taxpayer
Section 44 Compliance	Based on audit + reconciliation	Only reconciliation (no audit by CA /CMA)

Sounds like relief? Not really.

The Illusion of Compliance

Many taxpayers rejoiced at this 'simplification', thinking the burden had been reduced. What actually happened? The **burden of compliance was silently shifted back to the taxpayer - without professional oversight, without a neutral eye, and without the early warnings** that auditors previously provided.

The result?

- ▶ Annual return compliance became **just another formality**.
- ▶ Reconciliation was reduced to **basic matching exercises**.
- ▶ **Health-checks and diagnostic reviews vanished** from the annual compliance calendar.

Meanwhile, the department didn't slow down - it only got sharper.

Departmental Audits Under Section 65 - The Sword Still Hangs:

Just because GST audit by a CA/ CMA (hereafter referred as CA) is gone, don't presume the taxman isn't coming. **Section 65 of the CGST Act** empowers departmental officers to conduct audits at the taxpayer's premises.

Here's what the law says:

"The Commissioner or any officer authorised by him may undertake audit of any registered person for such period, at such frequency and in such manner as may be prescribed."

And when they do – they come with:

- ▶ Detailed set of **Queries & Questionnaire**,
- ▶ **Past returns** under scrutiny,
- ▶ Mismatches flagged across **GSTR-1, GSTR-3B, GSTR-2A/2B, Books of Accounts**,
- ▶ **RCM compliance** under lens, etc.,
- ▶ And all this leading to potential demand notices with interest and penalties under Section 73 or 74.

The Silent Damage: How Lack of Internal Audit/Review Hurts:

Earlier, when CAs conducted GSTR-9C

audits, the following **early red flags** were often caught:

- ▶ ITC wrongly claimed or missed.
- ▶ RCM tax payable but not discharged.
- ▶ Ineligible credits taken.
- ▶ Mismatches in turnover reported in books and returns.
- ▶ Classification and rate misapplications.
- ▶ Non-payment on advances or reverse charge.

Now, *without professional audits*:

- ▶ **Two years later**, these errors show up during a departmental audit.
- ▶ By then, **limitation periods** for rectification are over.
- ▶ ITC becomes **irrecoverable**.
- ▶ **Interest (18%) and Penalty (10%-100%) kick in**.

It's not just tax outflow anymore – it's a full-blown financial hit.

Scope Creep: Reconciliation is NOT Audit

Most companies today are conducting reconciliations – matching GSTR-3B vs GSTR-1 vs books vs 2A/2B. That's great.

But that's **Section 61 territory** – scrutiny of returns. It's **NOT a substitute** for a detailed audit.

A true GST internal audit includes:

- ▶ **Document-level sample checks**,
- ▶ **HSN/SAC validations**,
- ▶ **ITC eligibility testing**,
- ▶ **Vendor compliance verifications** (to avoid ITC loss),
- ▶ **RCM transaction mapping** (including legal, import of services, GTA, security, etc.),
- ▶ **E-invoicing compliance**,
- ▶ And many more aspects, all – a **risk-based review** that aligns with departmental audit patterns.

The Department is Winning

Let's call a spade a spade. **The department is winning because taxpayers fumbled the chance.**

No more GSTR-9C = no external

pressure = relaxation = exposure.

Meanwhile, officers under **DGARM (Directorate General of Analytics and Risk Management)** are:

- ▶ Mining your return data,
- ▶ Matching it with customs and income tax,
- ▶ Sending DRC-01A pre-notices,
- ▶ Launching audits at scale,
- ▶ And in many cases – imposing **steep penalties** even for unintentional omissions.

Real Examples of Misses That Hurt

1. **RCM Non-compliance:** Payment made to an advocate. Books record expense. No GST paid under RCM. After 2 years, the department audits and demands tax + 18% interest + penalty. Now, the taxpayer is not able to claim the Input Tax Credit as well, which otherwise he is eligible for.
2. **Wrong ITC Availment:** Credit availed on blocked goods (e.g., food and beverages or Motor Vehicle Purchased, ITC on Immovable Property, etc.). Not reversed. Detected after audit – reversed along with interest and penalty.
3. **Turnover Underreported:** Book turnover and GSTR-1 mismatch (Other Incomes, through 26AS, etc.). Ignored due to poor internal controls. Department finds it later.

Majority of these could've been caught with a **Quarterly/Half-yearly GST health check or an annual internal audit**.

Proactive Compliance is the New Superpower

In the age of AI-powered data analytics at the government's fingertips, **passive compliance is a losing game**.

Smart taxpayers are taking back control by:

- ▶ Conducting **quarterly/halfyearly/annually GST internal reviews**,
- ▶ Engaging consultants for **voluntary audits**,

- ▶ Treating **GSTR-9 & 9C as serious compliance events**,
- ▶ Reconciling not just data, but also **legal positions**,
- ▶ Keeping **litigation summaries** and compliance trackers updated,
- ▶ Training internal teams on evolving **judicial interpretations** and **notifications**.



Final Thoughts: GST Audit Was Never Just a Form – It Was a Firewall

The removal of statutory GST Audit was to ease compliance. But in reality, it has **exposed taxpayers to greater risks**, delayed identification of leakages, and weakened compliance frameworks.

If you're not getting your **internal reviews** done with professional guidance, **you're essentially saying:** "Let the department find the mistakes – and charge me when they do."

But the wise taxpayers are saying: "Let me find the mistake first – and fix

it before they knock."

A Smart Practice to Embrace

Treat **Internal GST Audits** not as cost-centers, but as **value-protectors**.

They help:

- ▶ Identify ITC leakages early,
- ▶ Reduce interest and penalty exposure,
- ▶ Improve documentation and compliance rating,
- ▶ Build confidence before assessments or audits,

- ▶ And ensure peace of mind.

In GST, what you don't know can hurt you – financially, legally, and reputationally.

Taxpayers often cite the ever-changing nature of the law as a reason for oversight — yet ironically, that very uncertainty demands deeper internal vigilance. Still, many miss this critical aspect, failing to prevent what is preventable. And as we all know, prevention is always better than cure.

Choose to Stay Ahead. Choose Internal Audits / Reviews.

(The views expressed in this article are solely those of the author and are intended for general informational purposes only. They do not constitute legal or professional advice. Readers are advised to consult their advisors before taking any decisions based on the contents of this article. For any clarifications or further discussion, the author can be reached at gst@arpanbohra.co.in)

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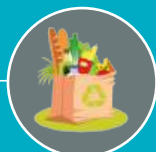
Innovations In Food Packaging: Balancing Convenience and Sustainability

**Dewangi Sharma*

India's food processing sector is one of the largest in the world, and its output is expected to reach \$535 Bn by 2025-26. In particular, the Indian food and beverage packaging industry, with an annual growth of 14.8%, is projected to reach \$86 Bn in 2029.

This dynamic industry includes various items like containers, cups, tableware, straws, bags, wraps, and boxes designed to safeguard or encase food. Due to its perishable nature, a considerable portion of food loss occurs in the supply chain caused by various environmental factors, such as moisture, oxidation, thermal degradation, or microbial contamination. With the increasing urban population, tackling this challenge becomes more evident, highlighting the need for efficient food packaging to make it easier to transport, store, and consume food products.

The food and beverage industry is one of the largest users of sustainable packaging among all other industries. Sustainable packaging involves the creation and use of packaging materials that have minimal environmental impact throughout their life cycle. It includes using eco-friendly and renewable materials, reducing waste, and mitigating the carbon footprint associated with product packaging, transportation, and disposal. The primary goal of sustainable packaging is to protect the product while simultaneously minimising the environmental impact of the packaging.



The food processing industry has seen impressive innovation in terms of packaging. The eco-friendly food packaging market is categorised based on material selection, application, type, and technique. Materials include paper & paperboard, bioplastics, metal, and glass, among others. Applications range from bakery and confectionery to meat, fish, poultry, fruits, vegetables, dairy, beverages, and convenience foods. Techniques employed encompass active packaging, moulded packaging, and multipurpose packaging. At each level, a shift towards green packaging is seen through “the use of materials that are biodegradable, recyclable, or compostable, and designs that are efficient, reusable, or refillable.” The emerging trends in the biodegradable packaging include:

1. **Corn Plastic:** Using corn kernels to create a biodegradable plastic from PLA, an industrial resin.
2. **Bamboo:** One of the fastest-growing plants, making it an excellent alternative to paper and

Ongoing research is also focused on developing frontier technologies to present revolutionary solutions to age-old challenges:

1. **IoT (Internet of Things):** IoT devices significantly improve supply chain transparency. Real-time tracking and inventory management play a crucial role in ensuring the freshness and timely delivery of food.
2. **AI-powered forecasting:** AI processes extensive datasets, enhancing the accuracy of demand predictions.
3. **Blockchain:** Ensuring transparency and security in food sourcing and distribution is critical. Blockchain offers verifiable records, fostering consumer trust—an invaluable advantage for professionals in the packaging industry.

Given the vast potential of the food processing and packaging industry, the Government of India has taken several steps towards facilitating ease of doing business

to various national and international standards. Some regulatory measures taken by FSSAI to reduce Food and Beverage Industry’s plastic footprint include:

1. Allowing use of other food grade packaging material like paper, glass, metal alloys for packing water
2. Issuing guidelines for use of bamboo as food contact material
3. Allowing serving drinking water in paper-sealed reusable glass bottles for captive use within the hotel premises, subject to certain conditions

Additionally, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has introduced several programs:

1. Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) is a comprehensive scheme which aims to modernise infrastructure and enhance supply chain management from farm to retail, boosting the food processing sector. It contains several component schemes such as Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Creation of Infrastructure for Agro Processing Cluster (APC), and Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing And Preservation Capacities (CEFPPC), among others which provide credit linked financial assistance in forms of grants to entrepreneurs for setting up of food processing projects across the country. PMKSY scheme is expected to leverage investment of INR 11,095.93 Cr, benefiting 28,49,945 farmers and generating 5,44,432 direct/indirect employment in the country by the year 2025-26.
2. The PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme has been launched with an outlay of INR 10,000 Cr for a period of five years, from 2020-21 to 2024-25. It offers financial, technical, and business assistance for establishing or upgrading micro

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018, prescribing general and specific requirements for food packaging to ensure materials used for packaging are in adherence to various national and international standards.

plastic is being widely used for eco-friendly cutlery like spoons, fork, knife, straws, cup, etc.

3. **Wood and Plant Fibres:** Cellulose from plant matter and wood pulp is used to create biodegradable packaging material and paper, which can be easily recycled into other paper products.
4. **Mushroom:** Mycelium, the thread-like roots of mushrooms and other fungi, is mixed with seed husks to create an eco-friendly substitute for polystyrene or styrofoam packaging.

and investments in this sector. Notable initiatives such as the Plastic Waste Management Rules and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework play a crucial role in promoting environmentally friendly packaging, fostering recycling and waste management, and holding manufacturers responsible for their packaging waste. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018, prescribing general and specific requirements for food packaging to ensure materials used for packaging are in adherence



food processing enterprises. So far, a total of 43014 micro food processing enterprises have been sanctioned for assistance in the country.

3. The Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI), with an outlay of INR 10,900 Cr, has been implemented from 2021-22 to 2026-27 for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities. The scheme aids in enhancing industry capacity, incentivising strong Indian brand growth, and increasing the global presence of Indian food brands. As on 11 August 2023, a total investment of INR 7800.53 Cr has been committed in projects located across the country under the scheme.

The food processing sector is a priority under the Make in India initiative. To attract investments, the Ministry of Food Processing Industry is implementing schemes to develop infrastructure for food processing industries. This includes promoting Mega Food Parks in areas rich in agricultural resources, providing common facilities such as roads, electricity, water supply, sewage, and processing amenities like pulping, packaging, cold storage, dry storage, and logistics.

To tap into this sector, businesses are leveraging research and development, enhancing technologies, and innovating efficient disposal methods. ITC Limited has

introduced FiloBev, a food-grade board that is 100% recyclable. Nestle aims to make all its plastic packaging recyclable and achieve a recycling rate of over 95% by 2025. The Government of India has identified and prohibited single-use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, with effect from 1st July, 2022. The Extended Producers Responsibility guidelines mandate sustainable plastic packaging to reduce plastic footprint and put forth a framework to strengthen the circular economy of plastic packaging waste, promote the development of new alternatives to plastics and provide next steps for moving towards sustainable plastic packaging by businesses. With the support of government policies and compliance regulations, India is a fertile soil for investments in the sustainable food packaging sector.

Global consumer preferences and sustainability considerations are rapidly changing. A 2020 global survey revealed that a significant majority, around 79% of consumers, are adjusting their buying choices based on factors like social responsibility, inclusivity, and environmental impact. The research also reveals that a notable portion of consumers, specifically 53% overall and 57% in the 18-24 age group, are gravitating towards lesser-known brands that showcase sustainable practices. Additionally, over half of consumers, accounting for 52%, express forming an emotional connection

with products or organisations perceived as sustainable. Particularly for India, it was found that 66% of the respondents from India have switched to lesser-known brands whose products or practices they perceive as more sustainable. This not only underscores the increasing significance of sustainable packaging but also underscores the profound impact of sustainability on consumer purchasing decisions.

Conclusion

In today's environmentally conscious world, sustainable packaging is essential for minimising the adverse effects of packaging materials on the environment. It significantly reduces waste by employing biodegradable, recyclable, or compostable materials, contributing to a circular economy. Additionally, sustainable packaging lowers the carbon footprint, as materials like biodegradable plastics require less energy and water during production. This helps mitigate climate change. Furthermore, embracing sustainable packaging practices enhances customer loyalty, as consumers are increasingly supporting businesses aligned with eco-friendly values.

India has taken significant strides to address environmental concerns, particularly by supporting sustainable packaging solutions, including the use of biodegradable materials, the establishment of a robust recycling infrastructure, and the promotion of reusable containers. India aims to reduce its projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes by 2030 and decrease the carbon intensity of its economy by 45% by 2030. The country also aspires to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. By fostering collaboration between the government, businesses, and consumers, a substantial reduction in food waste can be achieved, paving the way for a sustainable India.

Source: <https://www.investindia.gov.in/blogs/innovations-food-packaging-balancing-convenience-and-sustainability>

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Sri Navin Mittal, IAS, Prl . Secretary to Government, Energy Department, Govt of Telangana : 20th June, 2025



Photo with Hon'ble Union Minister for Coals and Mines Sri G Kishan Reddy at a SLBC meeting at MCR HRD INSTITUTE OF TELANGANA : 23rd June, 2025



Sri Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Hon'ble Dy Chief Minister, Govt. of Telangana : 13th July, 2025



Sri Nikhil Chakravarty, Director of Industries, Govt of Telangana : 25th July, 2025

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