Post – Budget Memorandum 2022 – 23

Indirect Taxes – GST



American Chamber of Commerce in India

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AMCHAM Post-Budget Memorandum Recommendations post Union Budget 2022 – 23

Goods and Services Tax (GST) Indirect Tax

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Input Tax Credit

SL. No	Area of Challenge	Issue		Recommendation
A.1	Additional restrictions for availment of input tax credit to the recipient, along with prescribing terms and conditions for detailing inward supplies and credit to the recipient by way of an auto-generated statement.	New restrictions have been introduced vide amendment in Section 16 and substitution of Section 38 of the CGST Act for availing input tax credit by a taxpayer. Taxpayer can claim input tax credit basis the auto generated statement containing the details of input tax credit available to the recipient and details of input tax credit which cannot be availed wholly or partially for the	•	It is recommended to allow availment of input tax credit based on GSTR-2B and not to restrict credit due to the conditions laid under the proposed Section 38 of the CGST Act.
	[Section 16 and 38 of Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 ('CGST	following reasons:	•	Notwithstanding the above, it is requested that prior to
	Act') vide clause 99 and 103 of the Finance Bill 2022]	 Supplier has not disclosed excess outward tax liability in GSTR-1 vis-à-vis GSTR-3B 		implementation of these provisions which would lead to identification of ineligible credits, industry
		 Supplier has availed excess input tax credit than the amount that can be claimed as per the auto generated statement 		consultations are done for providing information on how the ineligible credits would be identified under Section 38 once implemented.
		 Restriction on availing input tax credit on account of 		
		supplies received from a newly registered taxpayer.	•	In this regard, it is recommended that:
		 Supplier has not made continued default in payment of tax for prescribed period. 		 instead of denying input tax
		 Supplier has not defaulted in discharging his outward tax liability in proportion to the permitted limit through Electronic credit ledger 		credit to the recipient at the time of monthly compliances, adequate time and functionality should be given to the recipient

	- By such other class of persons as may be prescribed • Once the recipient has paid the invoice value including taxes charged thereon to the supplier, the benefit of input tax credit of same should not be denied to the recipient for reasons beyond its control. The aforesaid conditions make the process of availment of input tax credit cumbersome for the taxpayers.	to identify the defaulting suppliers - the supplier should be given an opportunity to explain any discrepancy and only thereafter if the explanations are not satisfactory the restrictions should be applied. In the absence of the same, there could be instances where there is sufficient justification for non-compliance of the provision contained in Section 38 but input tax credit would be restricted on account of implementation of system derived restrictions causing undue hardship on the bonafide recipients of the supplies - compliance of the said amended provisions should be assessed on a year-till basis and not on a monthly basis.
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SL. No	Area of Challenge	Issue	Recommendation
A.2	Clarification regarding extension of time limit for availing input tax credit [Section 16 of CGST Act vide clause 99 of the Finance Bill 2022]	 As per Section 16(4) of the CGST Act, credit for a Financial Year cannot be claimed beyond September of the subsequent Financial Year. The said timeline has been proposed to be extended to 'the thirtieth day of November'. The proposed amendment seeks to increase the time limit for availment of input tax credit to November 30 from September 30 of the subsequent Financial Year in which the underlying supply is made. However, the proposed amendment by replacing the words 'September' with 'thirtieth day of November' is leading to an ambiguity in interpretation of Section 16(4) of the CGST Act. 	It is recommended that the term 'the thirtieth day of November' should be amended to 'due date for furnishing return for the month of November' to remove the ambiguity on the time limit for availment of input tax credit and allow the extension for two months.

SL. No	Area of Challenge	Issue	Recommendation
A.3	Reversal of input tax credit with interest, where corresponding supplier has defaulted	As per the substituted Section 41(2) of the CGST Act, where a supplier has not paid the amount of tax then input tax credit so availed by the recipient is required to be reversed along with interest.	It is recommended that further clarity is provided to ensure that a recipient is not required to pay interest in cases where the supplier
	[Section 41 of CGST Act vide clause 105 of the Finance Bill 2022]	This amendment has shifted the liability on recipient for the default of supplier. Hence, this requirement is	has paid the tax amount with interest.
		draconian in nature, and is against the Government's principle of ease of doing business.	In case the recipient is required to pay interest, corresponding provision should be made to allow refund of the interest paid by such

 Further, it is unclear whether the recipient is liable to pay interest in case where the supplier has defaulted the payment of tax in one month but has deposited the said liability in the subsequent month along with interest. In short, Government would be earning interest two times in
payment of tax in one month but has deposited the said is discharged by the supplier along liability in the subsequent month along with interest. In with interest.
liability in the subsequent month along with interest. In with interest.
short, Government would be earning interest two times in
the instant scenario, one from supplier on short payment • Notwithstanding the above, it is
of taxes and other by recipient on reversal of credit. recommended that the proposed
provision is aligned with the
• It is pertinent to note that the intent of Government amendment under Section 50(3) of
should not be to collect double tax on a single the CGST Act, ie, the levy of
transaction. Accordingly, wherein interest is discharged interest should only pertain to input
on the said liability by supplier, it is unclear whether it tax credit which has been availed
would result in payment of interest by the recipient also. and utilized by the recipient.
 Pertinent to note that there is no corresponding provision It is further recommended that
under the law to claim the refund of the interest at the appropriate clarification is provided
time of re-availment of credit. regarding the mechanism of re-
availment of such credit and
restrictions on re-availment if any.

SL. No	Area of Challenge	Issue	Recommendation
A.4	Facility of transfer of input tax credit of Central GST (CGST) & Integrated GST (IGST) from one GST Identification Number (GSTIN) to another GSTIN of same PAN	As per the proposed amendment in Section 49(10) of the CGST Act, any amount of tax, interest, penalty. fee or any other amount available in the electronic cash ledger of a particular registration can now be transferred across GST registrations of distinct person(s), ie, between branch offices and/or head offices with separate GST registrations.	It is recommended that a similar provision is introduced for transfer of accumulated and unutilized input tax credit of CGST and IGST from one GSTIN to another GSTIN registered under same PAN.

However, currently there is no such provision for transfer of accumulated input tax credit belonging to one GSTIN to another GSTIN, even if both the GSTINs are under the same PAN.	The same will provide a significant relief to the businesses to manage their working capital much more optimally.
Owing to the above, there are instances wherein input tax credit accumulates under one GSTIN for the company, and in another GSTIN the same company pays taxes through cash. This has an adverse impact on the working capital of the company.	
• The taxpayers do not have the liberty to optimize their tax and credit balances across the business.	
It is understood that the credit balances of a particular State (State GST/ SGST) can still be considered to be specific to the operations of that State, however, the credit balances of central taxes (i.e. CGST and IGST) should be allowed to be fungible across all registrations of an entity at a PAN level.	

SL. No	Area of Challenge		Issue		Recommendation
A.5	Levy of interest on input tax credit	•	Section 50(3) of the CGST Act provides for levy of	•	It is recommended that
	wrongly availed and utilized –		interest on undue or excess claim of input tax credit,		corresponding amendments are
	retrospective amendment		which has been proposed in the Finance Bill 2022 to be		made to Section 73, 74 and 122 of
			retrospectively amended to only levy interest on the		the CGST Act to retrospectively
	[Section 50(3) of CGST Act vide		amount of input tax credit that is wrongfully availed and		provide for adverse action to be
	clause 110 of the Finance Bill 2022]		utilized.		taken against a taxpayer only in

		 However, corresponding amendments are not made to Sections 73, 74 and 122 of the CGST Act, which provide for issuance of notice and levy of penalty in case of wrongful availment or utilization of input tax credit. 		case of wrongful availment and utilization of input tax credit.
SL. No	Area of Challenge	Issue		Recommendation
A.6	Amendment in Section 50 of the CGST Act to provide for no interest exposure even in case of previous period liability paid through input credit ledger	 As per Section 50 of the CGST Act, in case the monthly return in Form GSTR-3B for a particular period is not filled within the prescribed time limit, the interest on GST liability due for that period will be levied only on the GST liability that is payable via the electronic cash ledger. In other words, no interest will be payable for the GST liability declared in the said return and paid via the electronic credit ledger. While the intent of the law is to not levy interest on late payment of GST in cases where such GST is paid/payable by utilizing the input tax credit, the benefit is practically extended only in such cases where the GST liability pertains to a particular period and GSTR-3B of the said period is filed after the due date. The said benefit is not extended in cases where the GST liability is pertaining to a previous period, but is disclosed in the Form GSTR-3B of subsequent tax periods and discharged through utilization of input tax credit. 	•	It is recommended that a clarification is provided in the proviso to Section 50(1) of the CGST Act to waive the interest liability in all cases of delayed payment of GST, where the input tax credit equivalent to the said liability was available in the electronic credit ledger at the time and for the period when the said liability became due for payment. This will be in line with the intent of the Government to not penalize the assessee for delayed payment of GST liability in case where the said liability could have been discharged by utilizing the credit available.

This creates disparity even though the intent of the	
amendment approved by the GST Council was to provide relaxation by levying interest only on the liability payable	
through cash.	

SL. No	Area of Challenge		Issue		Recommendation
A.7	Restrictions on use of amount available in electronic credit ledger for discharge of output tax liability by prescribed registered person or a class of registered persons [Section 49 of CGST Act vide clause 109 of the Finance Bill 2022]	•	As per clause 109 of the Finance Bill 2022, Section 49 has been proposed to be amended to introduce a subsection 12, specifying the maximum proportion of output tax liability that can be discharged through the electronic credit ledger of such registered persons or class of registered persons as may be prescribed. The above amendment is in line with the Rule 86B of the CGST Rules, 2017 ('CGST Rules'), which mandates a minimum of 1 percent tax liability to be discharged in cash by specified registered persons, in order to discharge the remaining tax liability by way of input tax credit. However, in practice, the tax officials are applying this	•	It is recommended that the ground level tax officials are sensitized and are made aware to only apply the proposed Section 49(12) of the CGST Act to registered persons that fall under the prescribed specifications given under Rule 86B of the CGST Rules, and not apply the same to all registered taxpayers.
		•	rule on every registered taxpayer without completely following the guidelines provided under the aforesaid Rule 86B, and as a result suspending the registrations of genuine taxpayers.		

Return filling requirements

SL. No	Area of Challenge	Issue	Recommendation
B1	Amendment in the due date of filing monthly returns in Form GSTR-5A by non-residents supplying Online Information Database Access and Retrieval ('OIDAR') services	 As per Section 39(5) of the CGST Act, an OIDAR service provider is required to furnish its monthly returns in Form GSTR-5A by the 20th day of the following month. However, the said date is proposed to be amended to 13th day of the following month. 	It is recommended that the proposal to amend the due date is reconsidered and the original due date of filing monthly GSTR-5A by 20th of the following month is reinstated.
	[Section 39 of CGST Act vide clause 104 of the Finance Bill 2022]	The above proposal to change the due date to furnish GSTR-5A by non-residents supplying OIDAR services is not aligned with the global practices and will put unwarranted pressure on the non-resident taxable persons in undertaking compliances.	This will also put non-resident taxpayers at par with other resident taxpayers in terms of compliance with India GST laws.
		 Further, this will create a disparity with respect to tax payment due date vis a vis the domestically registered taxpayers who are allowed to furnish GSTR-3B returns by 20th of the following month. 	

SL. No	Area of Challenge	Issue	Recommendation
B2	Clarification regarding extension of time limit for amendment in GSTR-1 for the Financial Year [Section 37 of CGST Act vide clause 102 of the Finance Bill 2022]	 In terms of Section 37(3) of the CGST Act, the last date to make any edit in the details furnished in GSTR-1 pertaining to a Financial Year is October 11 of the subsequent Financial Year. The said timeline has been proposed to be extended to November 30. The proposed amendment seeks to increase the time limit for amendment in GSTR-1 from return filing date of September to November 30 of the subsequent Financial Year in which the underlying supply is made. However, the proposed amendment by replacing the words 'September' with 'thirtieth day of November' is leading to an ambiguity in interpretation of Section 37(3) 	It is recommended that the term 'the thirtieth day of November' should be amended to 'furnishing of the return under section 39 for the month of November" to remove the ambiguity on the time limit for amendment in GSTR-1 of a Financial Year and allow the extension for two months.
		of the CGST Act.	

Refund

SL. No	Area of Challenge	Issue	Recommendation
C1	Refund of Tax Deducted at Source	The Government, vide Circular No. 166/22/2021-GST	It is recommended that field
	('TDS')/ Tax Collected at Source	dated November 17, 2021, clarified that the amount	formations are sensitized about the
	('TCS') deposited in electronic cash	deducted/collected as TDS/TCS and credited to	amendment so that taxpayers need
	ledger under the provisions of section	electronic cash ledger of the registered person, is	not undergo unwarranted scrutiny
	51/52 of the CGST Act, as excess	equivalent to cash deposited in electronic cash ledger.	while claiming refund of balances
	balance in cash ledger		from cash ledger.

[Section 54 of CGST Act vide clause 112 of the Finance Bill 2022]	 Accordingly, it has been proposed that any amount that remains unutilized in electronic cash ledger, after discharging all tax liabilities, can be claimed as refund as per the amended Section 54(1) of the CGST Act. However, practically, on ground the taxpayers were still facing unwarranted and rigorous scrutiny while claiming aforesaid refunds from cash ledger. 	Also, it is recommended that this process is automated where in a pre-defined time-limit, the refund is automatically granted to the taxpayer's bank account linked with the GST portal.
	In line with the above circular, the Finance Bill 2022, vide clause 112 has made requisite amendment to Section 54(1) to include TCS and TDS refund from cash ledger, in order to put an end to the disputes around TDS/TCS refunds from cash ledger. However, the on-ground reality and rigours from the tax officials may still not change, even after the said amendment.	

Registration requirements

SL. No	Area of Challenge	Issue	Recommendation
D1	Cancellation of registration on failure to file returns for a continuous tax period as may be prescribed [Section 29 of CGST Act vide clause 100 of the Finance Bill 2022]	As per Section 29(2)(c) of the CGST Act, a proper officer may cancel the registration of a person (other than persons paying tax under composition scheme), in case the said person has not furnished returns for a for a continuous period of six months.	It is recommended that the overall powers of suspension of registration is relooked at, and an 'opportunity of being heard' should be mandatorily granted before any adverse action is taken.

-	_ , , , , , ,
The above provision is proposed to be amended to	Further, there is a critical
cancel the registration in case of failure to file returns for	requirement of standard procedures
a continuous tax period that the tax authorities may	relating to suspension and
prescribe (instead of the already prescribed six months).	cancellation of registrations across
	India so that trade as well as tax
• We understand that the rationale for this amendment is to	authorities have clarity, and there is
provide flexibility to tax authorities to change the period of	no misuse of powers.
default for cancellation of registration. However, this can	
lead to serious implications on the business, as	
cancellation of registration leads to a complete halt on a	
taxpayer's business and the taxpayer needs to be	
involved in litigation to get the registration restored.	

Rate rationalization

SL. No	Area of Challenge	Issue	Recommendation
E.1	GST rate on subservient and allied products or accessories being higher than the primary product	Contact lenses and surgical equipment are taxed at 12 percent GST under Chapter Headings 9001 and 901850 respectively, however, Lenscare and accessories to surgical equipment are taxed at 18 percent GST under Chapter Headings 3307 and 903300 respectively.	It is recommended that Lenscare and/or accessories of surgical equipment which are ancillary to the usage of their primary products are taxed at the same rate as the respective primary product.
		Lenscare is a lens disinfectant which is used regularly by the patients and is a mandatory requirement for wearing contact lenses. However, currently it is taxed at 18 percent GST as 'Cosmetics', even though it neither fits	 Hence, Lenscare and accessories of surgical equipment should be brought under the 12 percent tax net of GST and relevant

into the category of cosmetics, nor has any cosmetic	amendment should be undertaken
purpose.	in the Notification No.1/2017-
	Central Tax (Rate) dated June 28,
Similarly, accessories of surgical equipment, which are	2017 so that level playing field can
used for making use of the respective surgical equipment	be provided to contact lenses with
are currently taxed at 18 percent GST.	spectacle lenses.
Since usage of Lenscare and/or accessories of surgical	Further, GST on spare parts of
equipment is ancillary to the usage of their primary	other medical equipment should
products, there is no case of taxing these at a higher	also be streamlined to ensure the
GST rate.	same are not charged at a higher
	GST rate than the main equipment
Further, GST on various spare parts of other medical	itself.
equipment is also currently charged at a higher rate than	
the equipment itself, leading to increase in cost for the	
medical industry.	

SL. No	Area of Challenge	Issue	Recommendation
E.2	Reduction of GST rate on medical equipment and devices	The current GST rate of medical equipment, medical cold chain, devices and instruments is 12 percent (refer SI. No. 218 of Schedule II of Notification No. 01/2017-Central Tax (Rate) dated June 28, 2017).	It is recommended that medical equipment, devices and instruments should be brought at par with other preferential products and taxed at preferential GST rate of 5 percent.
		Given the global pandemic, the healthcare industry of India and the expansion of the same should be promoted through reduced costs improving patient accessibility and overall share of healthcare industry in the national GDP.	This will reduce cost and provide a boost to the healthcare industry in India.

Credit Notes

SL. No	Area of Challenge	Issue	Recommendation
F.1	Extension of time limit for Issuance and reporting of credit notes	As per Section 34(2) of the CGST Act, the last date to issue and report a credit note pertaining to a Financial Year is September of the following year. The said	To remove any ambiguity in interpretation of Section 34(2) of the CGST Act, it is recommended that
	[Section 34 of CGST Act vide clause 101 of the Finance Bill 2022]	timeline has been proposed to be extended till November 30 of the following year.	the word 'September' is replaced with 'November' instead of 'thirtieth day of November' so that the
		 The proposed amendment seeks to increase the time limit to issue credit note to November 30 from September 30 of subsequent Financial Year in which the underlying supply is made. However, the proposed amendment by replacing the words 'September' with 'thirtieth day of November' is leading to an ambiguity in interpretation of Section 34(2) of the CGST Act. 	extension is allowed for two months.

Miscellaneous

SL. No	Area of Challenge	Issue	Recommendation
G.1	GST on healthcare services – to be made from exempt to zero-rated	Healthcare services are exempt from GST under the Notification No. 12/2017-Central Tax (Rate) dated June 28, 2017 and Notification No. 9/2017-Integrated Tax (Rate) dated June 28, 2017.	It is recommended that healthcare services should be placed under the category of 'zero-rated services' under Section 16 of the Integrated GST Act, 2017.

Accordingly, input tax credit of GST paid on inputs and	This will enable the industry to claim
input services is not available on such services, and	rebate of the GST paid on inputs
hence becomes a cost for the industry.	and/ or input services used for the
	provision of output healthcare
Given the global pandemic, the healthcare industry of	services, thereby decreasing the
India should be motivated and made as cheap as	cost of the overall healthcare
possible for general public, and hence, any additional	services.
cost should be avoided.	

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Indirect Taxes – Customs



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<u>Customs – Indirect Tax</u>

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Classifications and duty rates

SL No	Area of concern	Issues	Justification/ Recommendation
A.1	Amendment in the Health cess ad valorem imposition	Health Cess at 5 percent is imposed on import of specified medical devices on the assessable value (as per Section 141 of the Finance Act, 2020), which only adds to the increased cost of such devices and equipment, thereby making the treatment more inaccessible to the general public.	 It is recommended that if health cess is not completely eliminated by the Government, the same should at least be made applicable on the Basic Customs Duty (BCD) amount, instead of ad valorem.
		Though it is called health cess, the levy is imposed not on the customs duty amount but on the value of goods imported.	This will relieve the pressure on the medical devices industry and make healthcare services cheaper.
		This is making the medical devices more expensive, leading to making quality healthcare more unavailable to the poorer sections of the population.	
		While the domestic medical devices industry has been requesting for eradication of such heath cess entirely, the imposition of the same ad valorem is draconian, especially in the wake of Covid-19.	

SL No	Area of concern	Issues	Justification/ Recommendation
A.2	Streamlining of Customs duty on spare parts and critical components of medical equipment	 Currently, the spare parts of various medical equipment are subject to a higher BCD than the main equipment itself. 	Customs duty on spare parts of other medical equipment should also be streamlined to ensure the same are not

Due to higher customs duty on spare parts of medical equipment, the main equipment and the usage of the same becomes costlier, resulting in an overall increase in cost for the medical industry.	charged at a higher BCD rate than the main equipment itself.

SL No	Area of concern	Issues	Justification/ Recommendation
A.3	Reduction in BCD rate on mobile phones	As stated above, the Government, in its mission of 'Make in India' has currently not provided for BCD exemption/ concession on cellular mobile phones, thereby making the import of final product, ie, cellular mobile phones very expensive.	It is recommended that BCD on high-end cellular mobile phones should be rationalized, and appropriate duty exemption/ concession should be provided on the BCD rate of cellular mobile phones.
		The high BCD rate on cellular mobile phones leads to duty arbitrage which helps the operations of illegal importation in the grey market and results in loss to the exchequer.	This will result into a cleaner market environment and will also keep a check on the grey market operations.