

JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA

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GST, GOVERNACE & GROWTH

PATHWAYS TO

VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

ABSTRACT PROCEEDING

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GST, Governance and Growth Pathways to Viksit Bharat 2047-Abstract Book
ISBN : 978-81-995541-6-0
eISBN : 978-81-995541-8-4
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Published by
BALLPEN MEDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

AUSTRALIA ***INDIA*** ***UAE***

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Printed by
BallPen Media Private Limited, New Delhi-110095
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About the Abstract Proceedings

The Goods and Services Tax is one of the most consequential transformations in India's fiscal and economic architecture. It has reshaped the relationship among taxation, markets, technology and federal governance, while sparking an ongoing public conversation on simplification, compliance, equity, sectoral outcomes and institutional capacity. This edited volume, GST, Governance and Growth: Pathways to Viksit Bharat 2047, emerges from that conversation and from a broader commitment to connect rigorous academic inquiry with the practical demands of nation-building.

the volume was conceived as a platform for scholars, practitioners, policymakers, teachers and emerging researchers to examine GST not merely as an indirect-tax mechanism but as an evolving governance institution. The vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 requires a fiscal system that is transparent, efficient, technology-enabled and responsive to the diversity of India's economy. It must support productive enterprises, widen participation in formal markets, respect the principles of cooperative federalism and generate the public resources necessary for inclusive and sustainable development. The papers brought together in this volume address these objectives from multiple disciplinary and methodological perspectives.

The paper-submission record for these proceedings comprises sixty-one contributions. Collectively, they reveal the breadth of contemporary GST scholarship. Several contributions examine the relationship between GST and economic growth, consumption, income distribution, social welfare and regional disparities. Others focus on the ease of doing business, regulatory compliance and business formalisation, particularly for micro, small and medium enterprises. These studies remind us that the success of tax reform cannot be judged solely by aggregate collections; it must also be evaluated against transaction costs, enterprise behaviour, competitiveness, trust and the quality of economic participation.

A prominent strand of the volume focuses on digital transformation. The papers explore e-invoicing, digital payments, financial inclusion, platform commerce, GST-based lending, data-driven administration and responsible artificial intelligence. These questions are especially relevant as tax governance increasingly operates through digital infrastructure. Technology can reduce frictions, improve risk assessment and make compliance more accessible, but its legitimacy depends on reliability, explainability, data protection, procedural fairness and sensitivity to the capacities of small taxpayers. The shift from algorithmic enforcement to trusted compliance therefore emerges as an important theme of this volume.

The submissions also situate GST within the lived realities of sectors and communities. Agriculture, banking, healthcare, manufacturing, retail, textiles, exports, rooftop solar, creative and digital industries, agritourism and the emerging carbon market feature across the research agenda. Studies of women-led enterprises, self-help groups, rural digital trust, youth entrepreneurship and consumer awareness further broaden the analysis. Together, these papers show that a uniform tax framework encounters a highly differentiated economy. Policy design must therefore retain coherence while remaining attentive to sectoral structure, geography, scale, gender and unequal access to knowledge and technology.

Sustainability and inclusion constitute another important bridge between GST and the vision of Viksit Bharat. Contributions examine green manufacturing, carbon accounting, carbon-credit treatment and the alignment of tax policy with sustainable-development goals. They also consider how formalisation and digital financial inclusion may expand opportunity, while recognising that compliance burdens can fall unevenly. These perspectives encourage a richer understanding of growth: one that values resilience, environmental responsibility, decent livelihoods, regional balance and the ability of citizens and enterprises to participate with dignity.

The volume also engages directly with the institutional foundations of GST. Papers on the GST Council, Centre-State fiscal relations, revenue sharing, advanced rulings, appellate delays, composition schemes and future reform roadmaps raise questions central to cooperative federalism and the rule of law. A mature GST system requires stability and predictability, but it must also remain capable of learning. As the framework evolves towards 2047, evidence-based review, clearer interpretation, timely dispute resolution, administrative coordination and meaningful engagement with taxpayers will be essential.

Methodologically, the contributions span empirical and econometric analyses, state-level panel studies, time-series forecasting, perception-based research, thematic and systematic reviews, bibliometric mapping, conceptual frameworks, and multidimensional policy analysis. This diversity is a strength. It reflects the need to combine measurement with interpretation, national trends with local evidence, and technical analysis with an understanding of institutions and human behaviour. It also points to the future research agenda: better longitudinal data, more comparative state and sector studies, careful evaluation of compliance costs, stronger causal evidence, and deeper collaboration among universities, governments, industry, and professional bodies.

For higher education, the volume offers a particularly important message. GST is an interdisciplinary field that spans commerce, management, economics, law, public policy, data science, information systems and social research. Universities must prepare graduates who understand both the technical architecture of taxation and its wider consequences. Contributions on AI-assisted learning and GST competence underscore the need for current case materials, experiential learning, analytical capabilities, ethical reasoning and sustained interaction with practitioners. Universities should not only teach the law as it stands; they should generate evidence, build public understanding and contribute constructively to better policy and administration.

As editors, we view these proceedings as an outcome of scholarly dialogue rather than the final word on GST. The volume captures achievements, ongoing tensions and emerging possibilities. Its title deliberately brings together GST, governance and growth because these dimensions cannot be separated. Revenue performance without trust is fragile; digitalisation without inclusion is incomplete; formalisation without proportional compliance is burdensome; and growth without sustainability or social participation falls short of the promise of Viksit Bharat.

We hope that this collection will serve researchers, teachers, students, administrators, professionals, entrepreneurs and policymakers. More importantly, we hope it will encourage further research that is empirically grounded, methodologically transparent and attentive to implementation. The pathway to 2047 will require institutions that can listen, learn and adapt. GST, as both a tax system and a federal governance project, offers an important field in which those capabilities can be strengthened.

Acknowledgements

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, BallPen Publishing, NextGen Global Consultants, and Adeel Developers and Advisors, for their generous support and valuable contribution towards making the conference possible. Their support facilitated the participation of scholars, encouraged the exchange of ideas, and contributed to creating a meaningful platform for academic research to engage with policy and practice.

We express our profound appreciation to the administration of Jamia Millia Islamia for its leadership, encouragement and institutional support. We thank the university authorities, faculty colleagues, departments, administrative and technical staff, research scholars, student volunteers and every member of the organising team for their commitment, which transformed the volume from an idea into a successful academic event.

Our sincere thanks go to all authors and presenters for entrusting their work to the volume and enriching its deliberations. We also acknowledge the reviewers, session chairs, discussants, panellists, invited speakers and participants, whose questions and observations helped sharpen the conversation. The publication of these abstract proceedings is a collective achievement, and we dedicate this volume to the ongoing pursuit of informed reform, responsible governance and inclusive national development.

Message from the Editors

It gives me immense pleasure to present this book, which brings together scholarly contributions examining the evolving landscape of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. The book reflects the growing academic interest in understanding the implications of GST for taxation, economic activity, business practices, governance, and India's broader development trajectory. Since its introduction, the Goods and Services Tax has emerged as one of the most significant fiscal reforms in independent India. It has substantially transformed the indirect taxation system, influenced the ease of doing business, and reshaped Centre–State fiscal relations. Over the years, GST has continued to evolve through successive policy interventions, rate rationalisation, technological advancements, and structural reforms. These developments make it important to examine GST not merely as a tax reform, but as a broader instrument of economic and institutional transformation. The contributions presented in this volume cover a wide range of issues relating to GST and its implications for different sectors of the Indian economy. These include its impact on MSMEs, agriculture, banking, healthcare, digital governance, sustainable development, fiscal federalism, and other emerging areas of economic and business activity. The volume brings together diverse perspectives and methodological approaches, including empirical, conceptual, and bibliometric research, thereby providing a comprehensive understanding of the contemporary GST landscape.

A particular strength of this volume lies in its interdisciplinary perspective. GST has implications that extend beyond taxation and public finance, influencing business decisions, consumer behaviour, formalisation, digitalisation, intergovernmental relations, and the functioning of different sectors of the economy. The scholarly contributions in this volume therefore provide valuable insights into both the opportunities and challenges associated with the continuing evolution of GST in India. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of all the authors and contributors whose scholarly work forms the foundation of this volume. Their research and perspectives contribute meaningfully to the ongoing academic discourse on GST and its wider economic and institutional implications. I would also like to place on record my sincere thanks to BallPen Publishing, NextGen Global Consultants, and Adeel Developers and Advisors for their valuable support towards this endeavour. I am equally grateful to Prof. Naseeb Ahmad, Head of the Department of Commerce and Business Studies, for his continued guidance and support. I sincerely thank Dr. Izhar Ahmad and Dr. Vivek, the Co-Editors of this volume, for their valuable contribution and support in bringing this volume to fruition. I also extend my sincere appreciation to my faculty colleagues, research scholars, and student volunteers for their valuable contributions and dedicated efforts in bringing this volume to fruition. My heartfelt appreciation also goes to all the authors and contributors whose scholarly work forms the foundation of this book. I hope this volume will be useful to researchers, academicians, policymakers, students, and other readers interested in taxation, public finance, business, economics, and India's ongoing fiscal transformation. I am confident that the ideas and perspectives presented here will encourage further research and informed discussion on the future of GST in India.

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Abstract Proceedings
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GST: A Regression-Based Analysis of Implications with Select Indicators

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The Goods and Services Tax (GST), implemented in India on 1 July 2017, represents one of the most significant tax reforms in the country's fiscal history. By replacing multiple indirect taxes such as excise duty, service tax, and value-added tax, GST aimed to simplify the taxation system, eliminate cascading taxes, and create a unified national market. This study examines eight years of GST reforms and analyses their implications for tax revenue and the formalisation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).The research is based on secondary time-series data covering the period 2017–2025 with monthly observations. The dataset includes total GST revenue, CGST, SGST, IGST, GST, cess, MSME registrations, Index of Industrial Production (IIP), Consumer Price Index (CPI),and Wholesale Price Index (WPI). Regression analysis is used to examine the relationship between GST collections and key macroeconomic variables. The empirical results indicate that MSME registrations and industrial production have a positive and statistically significant impact on GST revenue, suggesting that the formalization of enterprises and increased economic activity contribute to higher tax collections. Wholesale price inflation (WPI) also shows a significant positive effect, contributes to consumer price inflation (CPI) does not appear to have a statistically significant influence on GST revenue. Overall, the findings suggest that GST has contributed to improved tax compliance, expansion of the formal economy, and strengthening of government revenue. The study highlights the importance of continued policy reforms to simplify compliance procedures and support MSMEs in adapting to the GST regime.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax (GST) , MSME Formalization, GST Revenue

A Study of Foundation and Trends in Carbon Accounting and Carbon Markets: A Bibliometric Analysis

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Purpose- The purpose of the study is to do a review of literature and to conduct a bibliometric analysis of the existing research work on carbon accounting and carbon trading markets. The study underscores the gaps in the existing literature and Draws directions for the potential future research to the scholars who will be working in this subject interest. Methodology- This study accentuates the collected 110 documents from Scopus for the period of2016-2026 and employed a bibliometric analysis and tries to analyse the work performed by various authors and publishers in the domain of carbon accounting and carbon trading markets. Findings- As per the findings in study, an annual growth rate of 20.11% has been witnessed in this field. In addition to the contribution made by authors and publishers, the study also highlights the trending keywords, influential journals and underdeveloped themes for future research. It majorly focusses on the Performance Analysis and Synthetization of authors and keywords. Originality- The research emphasizes the different gaps in the existing literature for future research and reflects upon the trending keywords used in the time spam 2016-2026. Limitations- This study is limited to only 75 documents of Scopus database, extracted for the two keywords namely, carbon accounting and carbon trading markets. Moreover, it spans for 11 years from 2016-2026 and exhibit documents only from English language limited to the subject areas of Social Studies, Business, Management and Accounting and Economics, Econometrics and Finance.

Keywords: Carbon Accounting, Carbon Trading Markets, Bibliometric Analysis, R Studio

Comparative Impact of GST and GST 2.0 Reforms on the Agriculture Sector in India

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The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax in 2017 brought about a sweeping change in India's indirect tax system, replacing a fragmented structure with a unified "One Nation, One Tax" scheme. GST 1.0 aimed to simplify supply chains. The study compares two GST eras (GST 1.0 & GST 2.0). It uses data from the 56th GST Council meeting, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (GOI), and the Tractor and Mechanization Association (monthly reports) to evaluate their impact on farm mechanisation and Agricultural economic growth. However, the GST 1.0 complex multi-slab structure caused unexpected financial problems for the agricultural sector. The introduction of GST 2.0 reforms in September 2025 will change how things work. GST 2.0 fixes structural flaws in the earlier regime by rationalising the tax slabs and substantially reducing levies on agricultural inputs. These reforms are designed to support the rural economy and promote growth in the agricultural sector. The study reveals that a significant increase in tractor sales indicates increased demand for farm mechanisation and enhanced market performance following the GST 2.0 reform. Additionally, the agricultural growth rate is fluctuating but remains positive. The image will be clearer in the future with more data to compare, though the data is limited after GST 2.0.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax (GST 1.0), GST 2.0, Indirect taxes, Agriculture sector, India

Formalization, Regulatory Compliance and Inclusive Growth: Conceptualizing the Role of GST in Advancing Agritourism under Viksit Bharat Scheme

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The introduction of Goods and Service Tax (India) marked a significant shift in the indirect taxation framework of India. It aims to unify markets, improve compliance, and promote transparency. While GST has been widely studied in manufacturing and services sectors, its implications for agritourism remain underexplored. Agritourism emergence has gained momentum as a feasible strategy for rural development in recent years. However, the sector remains largely informal with limited standardization, and regulatory compliance and fragmented market participation. This paper aims to develop a conceptual understanding to examine the role of Goods and Services Tax (India) in facilitating the formalization, compliance behavior, and growth of agritourism setups. The study takes into consideration the Compliance Theory and Institutional Theory to Dr.aw from. The paper sets to explore GST as a structural reform mechanism that enhances transparency, encourages digital adoption and provide formal structure for compliance behavior. The model identifies formalization and digitalization as mediating variables, while policy support and awareness function as moderating factors. The paper is exploratory in nature and aims to contributes to literature by linking taxation policy with rural tourism development and provides policy insights for strengthening agritourism as a pillar of inclusive growth under Viksit Bharat Scheme.

Keywords: GST, Agritourism, Formalization, Inclusive growth, Rural development, Viksit Bharat, Regulatory Compliance

Digital Payments and Trust in Rural India: A UPI Study in the GST Context

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The development of digital payments in India, especially through the use of UPI in post-GST India, represents an important step towards an increasing formalization and transparency of the economy. The development of digital infrastructure notwithstanding, however, digital payments remain less ubiquitous in rural parts of the country, leading to important questions regarding the impact of trust on behavioural choices. This research attempts to examine the effect of financial trust on the adoption of UPI in the post-GST world. The paper attempts to define the concept of financial trust in the context of adoption of digital payments by rural consumers through the analysis of various aspects, including issues of institutional credibility, security, and technological awareness. The paper also focuses on understanding the role played by various constructs in shaping the decision of users to adopt digital payments in rural areas. This paper, in essence, attempts to explore the challenges and potential barriers that can hamper the process of policy-induced digitalization. The adoption of UPI, it will be argued in this study, cannot be guaranteed even by adequate policy or the existence of sufficient digital infrastructure unless users develop enough trust in the new financial system. This paper makes a contribution towards the larger discussion on digital economy and inclusive growth by examining the interaction between micro-level behavioural issues and macro-level changes under GST.

Keywords: Digital Payments, Financial Trust, Rural India, GST, Adoption, Financial Inclusion

Assessing The Role Of GST In Enhancing Inclusive Growth And Reducing Regional Disparities In India

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The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India in July 2017 represents one of the most significant fiscal reforms in the country's economic history, aimed at replacing a complex system of indirect taxes with a unified, destination-based tax structure. This reform was designed to create a seamless national market, enhance efficiency in tax administration, and promote transparency. The present study empirically examines the role of GST in fostering inclusive economic growth and adDr.essing regional disparities across Indian states. Relying on secondary data sourced from government publications, policy reports, and recent economic statistics, the paper evaluates key indicators such as GDP growth trends, tax compliance levels, revenue distribution among states, and the extent of economic formalization. The findings indicate that GST has contributed to improved tax compliance through digitization, widened the tax base, and strengthened revenue mobilization for both central and state governments. Additionally, it has facilitated better inter-state trade and reduced cascading tax effects. However, persistent regional inequalities highlight structural challenges, including variations in administrative capacity and economic development. The study concludes that while GST is a progressive reform, targeted policy interventions are necessary to ensure more equitable growth outcomes.

Keywords: GST, Inclusive Growth, Tax Reform, Economic Integration, Regional Disparities, Tax Compliance, Revenue Mobilization, Formalization.

GST Compliance as a Driver of Formalisation: Implications for India's Vision of Viksit Bharat 2047

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The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was a major reform to the indirect tax structure in India to integrate multiple indirect taxes and improve compliance. In this paper, GST compliance is examined as a Driver of formalization in the Indian economy and its relevance for the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. It provides an analysis of available data, research, and policies to determine how compliance features of the GST, such as input tax credit (ITC), digital compliance, and invoice matching contribute to formalization in the informal sector. Overall, the findings suggest that GST has contributed to greater tax base broadening, greater transparency and formalization of supply chains, while continuing to challenge micro and small firms. The paper concludes that GST compliance, by rationalizing, digitalizing and using encouraging policies, can play a key role in achieving an economically inclusive and sustainable development beyond 2047.

Keywords: GST compliance, formalization, MSMEs, digital taxation, Viksit Bharat 2047, Indian economy.

Impact of GST on Banking Sector Development: Evidence from State Level Panel Data in India

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The introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India in the year 2017 symbolizes biggest indirect tax reforms in the country's post-independence fiscal history. Although, a major body of literature has examined GSTs macroeconomic and sector-wise implications, but its growing impact on the banking sector, particularly at the sub-national level, has largely remained unexplored. The present study attempts to adDr.ess this gap by investigating the impact of GST on banking sector development across Indian states using a balanced panel dataset for the period 2018–2024. Against this backdrop, the study hypothesizes banking sector development through two important channels. The first channel represents financial deepening, captured by total deposits, which describes the extent of inclusion of economic agents into the formal financial system. The second dimension is financial outreach, proxied by number of bank branches, which highlights banking accessibility and institutional development. This dual approach allows for a more exhaustive analysis of the GST-Banking sector nexus. By employing fixed effects regression model, the findings of the study reveal that GST collections have positive and significant impact on both deposit mobilization and branch expansion across states. The study further highlights considerable regional heterogeneity through the classification of states into high GST and low GST categories.

Keywords: GST, Banking Sector, Financial Deepening, Financial Outreach, Panel Data

Investment Behavior and Risk Propensity of Individual Investors: A Bibliometric Analysis

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This study offers a comprehensive and deep bibliometric overview of the research field of investment behavior and risk propensity of individual investors, revealing the growing importance of behavioral and demographic factors in financial decision making. When making investment decisions, investors always have to balance risk and return, so a high tolerance for risk plays a major role in investors' decisions. The paper highlights the significance of age, gender, income, education, financial literacy and marital status in terms of risk-taking behaviour. Of particular interest is the gender gap, as female counterparties are likely to be more risk-averse and less financially literate on average than males but have been more active in the financial markets over time. The study uses a systematic literature review approach using the Scopus database, consisting of 95 articles related to the research which have been published from 2015 to 2025. To determine trends in publications, influential journals, patterns of authorship and the main research themes, the bibliometric tools used are thematic mapping, keyword co-occurrence, Bradford's Law, and Lotka's Law. The findings show that the amount of scientific output has been on the rise, and that the fields of behavioural finance, risk perception, financial literacy, and financial decision making are becoming more and more relevant. The analysis points out the key themes such as investment decision making and financial markets as well as new themes such as cryptocurrency and crowdfunding. The research results indicate that the classical finance theories are making way for behavioral finance theories. Finally, the work emphasizes the need to consider individual investors' risk-taking propensities to better understand their investment behavior, and recommends additional research on the emerging markets, the role of technology and financial education to inform better investment decisions.

Keywords: Investment Behavior, Risk Propensity, Individual Investors, Financial Literacy, Financial Markets.

GST Reforms for Viksit Bharat 2047: Challenges, Reforms, and Future Roadmap

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The push toward *Viksit Bharat 2047* hinges on turning India into a developed, USD 30 trillion powerhouse, a goal that requires a highly efficient fiscal system. While launching the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 was a massive step for market integration, the initial years brought serious headaches, from confusing multi-tier rates to heavy compliance burdens for small businesses and messy inverted duty structures. To fix these core flaws, the government rolled out a major "GST 2.0" overhaul in late 2025. This update simplified the tax net into a streamlined two-slab framework (5% and %18), axed the messy 12% and 28% bands, exempted life insurance premiums, and pushed luxury and demerit goods into a strict 40% bracket. Early data suggests this reset gives a solid boost to consumer spending- adding an estimated 0.7 to 0.8 percentage points to GDP growth- while smoothing out corporate supply chains. However, hitting the 2047 targets demands a much bolder, long-term approach. Real progress will require bringing currently excluded sectors like real estate, electricity, and petroleum into the tax net, fixing broken cross-state tax credits, and using digital infrastructure to automate compliance without suffocating smaller enterprises.

Keywords: Viksit Bharat 2047, GST Reforms, Indian Economy, Economic Development, Digital Economy Fiscal Federalism

The Price of Vice: From the Lens of Economics to Sustainable Development

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Over the period of time there has been a prominent change in the health-related outcome with a change in the commercial determinants. The escalating consumption of the harmful or sin goods such as tobacco, alcohol, and sugar- sweetened beverages significantly affected the public health and created a fiscal pressure. To address the menace, the government and policymakers resolute to adopt corrective measures in the form of sin taxes. Sin tax is a type of excise tax, levied on goods that are detrimental to human health, such as alcohol, cigarettes and sugar-sweetened beverages. These goods are generally considered harmful for individuals and society as a whole. Recently, in the 56th GST (Goods and Services Tax) council the Government of India has rationalised the GST by incorporating 40% slab rate for sin goods such as tobacco, cigarettes, sugar sweetened beverages. The GST was marked as a major taxation reform by creating a unified destination-based taxation system that aims the integration of the whole economy. By following the Pigouvian taxation principle this taxation policy provides a mechanism to counter the negative externalities. It also addresses the behavioural correction to discourage consumption along with revenue generation to counter negative externalities which makes policy a double-edged sword. In addition, it focuses on the funding that should be prioritised toward high-impact sectors like primary care and preventative programs, with special emphasis on vulnerable populations that create the social equity by equalizing the social cost and social benefits. To maintain the health care system, sin tax is considered as a vital source of sustainable funding that makes it a powerful instrument of public policy. Thereby, Sin taxes are considered more than just a corrective measure or fiscal tool. They also promote sustainability and equitable access in health financing, while supporting and streamlining social protection schemes. This study undertakes a systematic literature review by critically analysing the history and implementation relating to sin taxes as a policy corrective measure to support the broader objective of sustainable development, with particular emphasis on the behavioural correction, social equity, revenue generation and sustainable financing. The objective is to synthesize the existing literature, identify key thematic trends and to formulate conceptual understanding of how sin tax contributes towards sustainable development goals by analysing the sin taxation policy in Indian context.

Keywords: Sin Tax, Consumption Behaviour, Behavioural economics, Valence, Triple Bottom Line.

Green Manufacturing under GST Regime: Opportunities and Barriers for Indian Manufacturing SMEs

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Sustainability has become a strategic priority for manufacturing enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) operating in resource-constrained environments. In India, green manufacturing practices are increasingly recognized for their potential to enhance environmental performance, operational efficiency, and long-term competitiveness. At the same time, the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has transformed the business landscape through greater digitalization, formalization, transparency, and supply chain integration. While GST was introduced primarily as a fiscal reform, its broader operational effects may influence sustainability adoption among manufacturing SMEs. However, limited research has explored this relationship in the Indian context. This study examines the opportunities and barriers associated with green manufacturing practices under the GST regime in Indian manufacturing SMEs. The research adopts an exploratory and descriptive approach based exclusively on secondary data collected from government reports, policy documents, GST-related publications, and peer-reviewed literature. The data were analyzed using thematic and content analysis techniques. The findings indicate that GST indirectly supports green manufacturing adoption by promoting digitalization, technology integration, business formalization, and supply chain efficiency. Government initiatives such as the MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme and Lean Manufacturing Competitiveness Scheme further strengthen sustainability efforts. However, several barriers continue to hinder adoption, including compliance burden, financial constraints, working capital pressures, technological limitations, digital literacy gaps, and skill deficiencies. The study concludes that GST acts as an indirect enabler of sustainability transition rather than a direct environmental policy instrument. The findings contribute to understanding the link between fiscal reforms and sustainable industrial development and offer policy insights for promoting green manufacturing among Indian manufacturing SMEs.

Keywords: Green Manufacturing, GST, Manufacturing SMEs, Sustainability, Digitalization.

From Paper to Portal: E-invoicing under GST 2.0, MSMEs in Surat's Textile Cluster, and the Road to Viksit Bharat 2047

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India rolled out the Goods and Services Tax on 1 July 2017. Eight years later, it is still the largest indirect tax change the country has seen since the 1991 liberalisation. What this paper is concerned with, though, is not the headline reform but a quieter shift inside it: the rise of e-invoicing as the everyday face of GST compliance. Paper bills have given way to a real-time, government-validated route through the Invoice Registration Portal (IRP), and the threshold for this requirement has been pulled down step by step, from ₹500 crore in October 2020 to ₹5 crore from 1 August 2023. The GST 2.0 package, approved by the 56th GST Council in September 2025, takes the architecture further still. Rates have been simplified into three slabs, health and life insurance have been taken out of the GST net, and Input Tax Credit tracking has been tightened through the Electronic Credit Reversal and Reclaimed Statement (ECRS). A fresh question therefore comes up. What happens when a Micro, Small or Medium Enterprise, often filing GST for the first time, is pushed onto a fully digital compliance rail? We try to answer that question through the textile cluster of Surat in Gujarat. Drawing on data from CBIC, GSTN, the Ministry of MSME, the Ministry of Textiles and the OECD, and on industry voices from SGCCI and FOSTTA, we argue that e-invoicing under GST 2.0 is doing two things at the same time. It is nudging MSMEs into the formal economy, and it is stress-testing how much digital weight they can carry. The paper closes with a set of policy suggestions that tie India's digital tax architecture to the long arc of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Keywords: GST 2.0, E-invoicing, MSME Formalization, Digital Economy, Surat Textile Cluster, Viksit Bharat 2047, Cooperative Federalism, Invoice Registration Portal.

Evaluating the Impact of GST on the Ease of Doing Business: A Thematic Literature Review with Special Reference to MSMEs

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The Goods and Services Tax (GST), enacted through the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act), represents the most transformative indirect tax reform in India's fiscal history. This paper evaluates the impact of GST on the ease of doing business (EoDB), with particular reference to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The analysis is anchored in three specific legislative domains: (1) the Input Tax Credit mechanism under Sections 16 and 17 of the CGST Act and its structural impact on formalisation and supply chain efficiency, (2) compliance provisions under Sections 37, 38, and 39 governing return filing obligations and their disproportionate burden on MSMEs, and (3) relief provisions including the Composition Scheme (Sections 10 and 10A) and sector-specific rate adjustments under Schedule II of the CGST Act. The analysis is further contextualised against the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business indicators, particularly the 'Paying Taxes' and 'Starting a Business' sub-indices. Using Braun and Clarke's (2006) thematic analysis framework, the paper synthesises peer-reviewed literature, government reports, and empirical studies from 2017 to 2024. A counterintuitive finding emerges GST's macro-level simplification celebrated in government narratives has paradoxically produced micro-level compliance intensification for MSMEs, with the formalisation incentive embedded in ITC simultaneously functioning as a mechanism of exclusion for firms unable to meet digital compliance demands. This paradox challenges the dominant policy narrative that structural tax unification is sufficient to improve business ease for small enterprises.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Ease of Doing Business in India: An Empirical Analysis of Financial and Operational Channels

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Goods and Services Tax was introduced in India on 1 July 2017 and is one of the significant indirect tax systems in India, aiming to unify the tax system, improve tax compliance, and enhance the Ease of Doing Business. The paper intends to understand the relationship between GST and Ease of Doing Business through variables such as financial and operational channels during the period of 2017-18 and 2024-25. Secondary data was collected from various government sources, including the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Empirical methods such as descriptive statistics, trend analysis, Pearson's correlation, and multiple regression analysis are used to assess the impact of financial and operational channels on GST collection. Findings indicate that there is an increase in GST collection and a positive and strong association with operational channels. The study concludes that GST has strengthened tax administration, promoted digital compliance, and contributed to improving the Ease of Doing Business in India. The findings offer useful policy insights for enhancing the effectiveness of the GST framework and supporting a more transparent and business-friendly economic environment.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax (GST), Ease of Doing Business, GST Collection, Digital Tax Administration, India

GST and Ease of Doing Business: A Pathway Towards Viksit Bharat

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The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India marked one of the most significant indirect tax reforms in the country's economic history. Implemented on 1 July 2017, GST replaced a complex system of multiple indirect taxes levied by the Central and State Governments. The primary aim of GST was to establish a unified national market, simplify taxation procedures, reduce cascading effects of taxes, and improve the ease of doing business in India. In recent years, the Government of India has emphasized the vision of "Viksit Bharat" or Developed India, where transparent governance, digital transformation, industrial growth, and economic efficiency play a central role. GST has emerged as an important policy instrument in achieving these objectives. India's monthly GST collections have crossed ₹2 lakh crore in recent years, reflecting improved tax compliance and expansion of the formal economy. This paper examines the relationship between GST and ease of doing business in India. It highlights how GST has contributed to simplification of tax administration, transparency in compliance, reduction in logistics costs, promotion of digitalization, and increased formalization of the economy. The study also discusses the positive impact of GST on startups, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), interstate trade, and foreign investment. At the same time, the paper critically analyses challenges such as compliance burden on small businesses, technical issues in the GST portal, complexities in return filing, and concerns relating to multiple tax slabs. The paper concludes that although GST has significantly improved India's business environment, continuous reforms are necessary to make the system more taxpayer-friendly and growth-oriented. Simplification of procedures, rationalization of tax rates, strengthening digital infrastructure, and awareness among taxpayers can further enhance the effectiveness of GST. A stable and efficient GST regime will play a vital role in transforming India into a globally competitive and economically strong nation under the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Keywords: GST, Ease of Doing Business, Viksit Bharat, Tax Reforms, Digital Economy, MSMEs, Economic Development, GST Compliance, Indian Economy, Tax Administration

GST and the Digital Economy: Examining Youth Digital Startup Intentions in India through Digital Readiness, Financial Literacy, and Entrepreneurial Motivation

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The digital economy and Goods and Services Tax (GST) have revolutionized the entrepreneurial ecosystem in India, fostering digital business, online financial systems, and technology-led entrepreneurship. In this context, it has become more important to know the factors that influence the intention of young people in the field of digital startups. This study investigates the effect of Digital Readiness, Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurial Motivation on Youth Digital Startup Intention within the larger context of GST and digital economy for the youth of India. The study was theoretically supported by the Digital Entrepreneurship Theory, Human Capital Theory, and Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB). A quantitative research method was used, and primary data was gathered from 370 respondents aged between 18 to 30 years by using a structured questionnaire that was circulated via academic online networks and Google Forms. The data collected were analyzed with the method of Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) using SmartPLS4 software. The results indicate that Digital Readiness, Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurial Motivation have significant and positive impact on the Youth Digital Startup Intention. Within these factors, Entrepreneurial Motivation was the most significant factor determining entrepreneurial intention followed by Financial Literacy and Digital Readiness. The findings underscore that technological competency, financial awareness and motivational orientation are significant factors in promoting youth entrepreneurship in the context of digital entrepreneurship. The study adds to the body of literature on digital entrepreneurship, by combining dimensions of technological and financial capability in the study of entrepreneurial intention in the context of an emerging digital economy. The results also have implications for policy makers, educational institutions, and entrepreneurship development agencies as they work to boost youth participation in digital startup ecosystems in India.

Keywords: Digital Readiness, Financial Literacy, Entrepreneurial Motivation, Youth Digital Startup Intention, GST, Digital Economy, Digital Entrepreneurship, PLS-SEM.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development: A Systematic Literature Review

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The Goods and Services Tax (GST) has become a major fiscal reform capable of affecting not only economic performance but also sustainability outcomes across different sectors. This paper will examine how GST can be used to promote sustainable development through synthesizing the current academic literature. A review of the literature was conducted in accordance with PRISMA to identify and analyze relevant literature from the Scopus database. A preliminary sample of 100 articles was screened, yielding 19 high-quality articles for in-depth analysis. The results of the thematic analysis show that GST contributes to sustainability across various dimensions. First, it affects consumer behavior by promoting the use of environmentally friendly products by providing tax incentives and disincentives. Second, GST increases operational efficiency and the sustainability of the economy, especially among Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), by simplifying tax structures and enhancing the ease of conducting business. Third, it promotes social sustainability by formalizing informal sectors and improving access to financial and social security systems. Moreover, GST contributes to environmental sustainability indirectly by enabling efficient logistics and minimizing carbon footprints. Sustainable business practices are further reinforced by corporate social responsibility and ethical tax compliance. Nevertheless, the research also notes obstacles that might impede its success. All in all, the paper identifies GST as a complex policy instrument that can play a significant role in sustainable development, provided it is backed by efficient implementation, awareness, and ongoing policy refinement.

Keywords: Fiscal Policy, Sustainable Consumption, Sustainable Development, Thematic Analysis.

GST in India: Navigating Compliance Challenges, Structural Reforms, And a Roadmap Towards Viksit Bharat 2047

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The Goods and Services Tax, which was introduced on 1 July 2017, is still the most important change to taxes in India since the country became independent. It brought together different taxes into one system for the whole country. After ten years the Goods and Services Tax has made things better in some ways, like making businesses more formal and using computers to collect taxes, and it has also increased the amount of money the government gets from taxes. However, some problems still exist, such as different tax rates, complicated rules for filing tax returns, and issues with getting refunds for taxes businesses have already paid. These problems make it harder for businesses like Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to follow the rules. This paper examines the problems with the Goods and Services Tax system and evaluates the changes made in September 2025, known as Goods and Services Tax 2.0. It also suggests a plan for future actions to improve the system, aligned with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. To do this study the researchers looked at decisions made by the Goods and Services Tax Council reports from the government and other available data. What they found out is that while Goods and Services Tax 2.0 has simplified the tax rates with two main rates of 5% and 18% and a higher rate of 40% for some things more needs to be done to make the system easier to use and to make sure that businesses are following the rules. This includes making the rules for filing tax returns making the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal stronger using technology to make sure businesses are following the rules and working together more closely between the central government and the states.

GST, Digital Governance and Regulatory Fragmentation in India: Implications for Socio-Economic Transformation and SME Inclusion

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The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 marked a major structural reform in India's fiscal system, aiming to simplify indirect taxation, expand the formal economy, and promote inclusive socio-economic development. While GST has contributed to higher tax compliance and a broader taxpayer base, its long-term developmental outcomes increasingly depend on the regulatory environment in which digital businesses operate. The rapid expansion of India's digital economy has exposed firms, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and fintech platforms, to overlapping domestic and international regulatory obligations related to taxation, data governance, privacy protection, and cross-border digital trade. Rather than viewing GST as an isolated tax reform, this paper explores how its socio-economic objectives are increasingly shaped by India's evolving digital regulatory environment. It proposes a Geopolitical Regulatory Positioning (GRP) Framework to explain how digital firms respond to multiple and often conflicting regulatory regimes, including India's GST framework, the European Union's GDPR, emerging data localization policies, and global digital trade regulations. Drawing upon government statistics, policy documents, and case studies of Paytm, PhonePe, and Razorpay, the paper explores how these regulatory interactions shape compliance strategies and market participation. The analysis suggests that large firms are generally better equipped to absorb complex compliance costs, whereas SMEs face disproportionately higher regulatory burdens that may restrict digital adoption and formal-sector participation. As a result, some of the inclusive objectives envisioned under GST risk being weakened by fragmented governance structures extending beyond taxation itself. The paper argues that achieving meaningful socio-economic transformation through GST requires greater coordination between tax administration, digital governance, and international regulatory frameworks. Such an integrated approach can strengthen SME inclusion, improve digital competitiveness, and support India's long-term vision of sustainable and inclusive economic development.

Keywords: GST, Digital Governance, Regulatory Fragmentation, Socio-Economic Transformation, SMEs, Fintech, Data Governance, Digital Economy, India.

Impact of GST Reforms on India's Socio-economic Landscape: A Comprehensive Analysis of Consumption Patterns, Income Distribution and Social Welfare

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Goods and Services Tax (GST) is one of the most important tax reforms in India, introduced to simplify the indirect tax structure and create a more transparent and integrated taxation system. It replaced the earlier complex system of multiple taxes and aimed to improve efficiency, reduce confusion, and support the creation of a common national market. Beyond tax administration, GST has played a major role in India's socio-economic transformation by influencing income distribution, consumption patterns, business practices, and social welfare. It has encouraged digitalization through online registration, return filing, e-invoicing, and electronic payments, which has improved transparency and reduced the chances of tax evasion. GST has also helped to reduce the cascading effect of taxes, promoted formalization of the economy, and supported smoother movement of goods and services across states. These changes have contributed to greater economic integration and have strengthened the foundation for inclusive growth. In the broader context of building a Viksit Bharat by 2047, GST is viewed as a reform that can support modernization, regional development, and long-term economic stability. At the same time, its impact has not been equal for all groups, as small businesses, informal workers, and lower-income sections have faced certain adjustment challenges. This paper aims to examine the role of GST in socio-economic transformation with special focus on its effects on income distribution, consumption behaviour and social welfare. The study also seeks to understand how GST contributes to the vision of a stronger, more equitable, and Viksit Bharat in the future.

Keywords: GST, socio-economic transformation, indirect taxes, income distribution, consumption patterns, social welfare

From 'One Nation, One Tax' to 'One Vision, One Future: GST Reforms as a Strategic Architecture for Viksit Bharat 2047-A Multidimensional Policy Review

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The Goods and Services Tax (GST), introduced in India on 1 July 2017, constitutes one of the most transformative fiscal policy interventions in the nation's post-liberalization economic history. Conceived under the unifying principle of 'One Nation, One Tax,' this landmark reform dismantled a deeply fragmented indirect tax architecture and replaced it with a destination-based, technology-enabled unified framework. Over the eight years since its inception, GST has transcended its original mandate as a mere tax harmonization mechanism to emerge as a comprehensive instrument for economic formalization, digital governance, fiscal sustainability, and cooperative federalism. This review paper undertakes a rigorous, multidimensional assessment of GST's role in advancing India's transformative long-term development agenda, with particular emphasis on the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 India's commitment to becoming a fully developed, high-income nation by the centenary of its independence. The paper critically examines the structural evolution of GST, including the landmark GST 2.0 reform package launched on 22 September 2025, which radically simplified the tax slab architecture from four tiers to a two-slab system (5% merit rate and 18% standard rate), alongside a 40% rate for sin and demerit goods. Synthesizing evidence from government data, peer-reviewed literature, and institutional reports published between 2017 and 2026, the review finds that GST has demonstrably contributed to fiscal consolidation with gross collections reaching a record ₹22.08 lakh crore in 2024–25 at a year-on-year growth of 9.4%—alongside significant improvements in market integration, MSME formalization, and digital compliance infrastructure. The paper identifies persistent structural challenges in federal coordination, MSME compliance capacity, and revenue buoyancy at the state level. It concludes with a forward-looking reform roadmap, arguing that the next generation of GST policy must embed principles of inclusivity, simplification, green taxation, and institutional efficiency to serve as a genuine developmental architecture for Viksit Bharat 2047.

Keywords: GST, GST 2.0, Viksit Bharat 2047, Fiscal Consolidation, Cooperative Federalism, Economic Formalization, Digital Governance, Tax Rationalization, MSME, Sustainable Development.

GST as a Catalyst for Sustainable and Inclusive Development: Aligning Tax Reforms with SDGs and Viksit Bharat 2047

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The implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India in 2017 marked a landmark shift in the country's indirect taxation framework. While GST has been widely studied for its economic and administrative implications, its potential role in advancing sustainable and inclusive development remains insufficiently explored in academic literature. This paper examines GST as a multidimensional policy instrument capable of contributing to India's sustainability agenda and its vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.The study adopts a descriptive and conceptual research approach, Drawing upon secondary data from the Economic Survey 2024-25, NITI Aayog SDG India Index 2023-24, GST Council notifications, and existing academic literature. The paper is structured around three core themes. First, it examines GST's role in supporting green initiatives and sustainable consumption, with specific reference to rate rationalization on renewable energy, electric vehicles, and eco-friendly products. Second, it analyses GST as an instrument of inclusive taxation, exploring its impact on vulnerable groups, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and the informal sector. Third, it maps GST reforms against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1, SDG 7, SDG 10, SDG 12, and SDG 13, and assesses their alignment with national priorities under the Viksit Bharat 2047 framework. The findings suggest that while GST has made significant strides in economic formalization and revenue consolidation, critical gaps persist in its alignment with environmental and social SDGs. The paper proposes an original conceptual framework linking GST reforms to sustainable and inclusive development outcomes and offers policy recommendations for strengthening this alignment.

Keywords: GST, Sustainable Development, SDGs, Inclusive Taxation, Green Initiatives, Viksit Bharat 2047, Tax Reform, MSME, Environmental Taxation, India

GST and Socio-Economic Transformation: An Empirical Analysis of India's Growth, Equity, and Consumption Patterns

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The Goods and Services Tax (GST), operationalised across India on 1st July 2017, constitutes the most structurally ambitious fiscal reform in the country's post-independence trajectory. This paper undertakes an empirical examination of GST's transformative influence across three analytically distinct yet interrelated dimensions: macroeconomic revenue growth, distributive equity across income groups, and the reorientation of household consumption behaviour. Drawing on secondary data from the Ministry of Finance, the National Statistical Office (NSO) Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022–23, Reserve Bank of India Annual Reports, and Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) databases spanning FY 2017–18 through FY 2023–24 the study employs trend analysis, revenue buoyancy computation, and distributional incidence mapping. Findings confirm that GST has yielded measurable gains in tax base expansion, revenue elasticity, and enterprise formalization. Monthly collections surpassed ₹2.10 lakh crore in April 2024, reflecting consolidated fiscal momentum. Distributional results, however, continue to be uneven: while the multi-rate slab structure carries embedded progressivity for necessities, lower-income and informal-sector households are disproportionately burdened by privately provided health care, building materials, and entry-level discretionary categories. There is evidence of a shift in consumption toward digital transactions and organised retail. In line with India's Viksit Bharat 2047 goal, the study ends with specific policy proposals for equitable transformation, such as tariff rationalisation, improved input tax credit access for microenterprises, and institutionalised equity monitoring.

Keywords: GST, socio-economic transformation, revenue buoyancy, consumption patterns, distributive equity, Viksit Bharat, indirect taxation, formalization.

The GST Revolution 2.0: Structural Reinvention, Sectoral Realignment, and the Changing Face of Indian Taxation

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The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced in 2017 as part of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, marking a significant change in how India handles indirect taxes by consolidating various taxes into a single tax system. Although GST 1.0 was meant to make the tax structure simpler and eliminate the cascading effect of tax, it is now facing problems like multiple tax rates and a complex compliance process, and has also put additional strain on businesses, particularly Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The Government of India introduced GST 2.0 in September 2025, which is a comprehensive tax reform based on the 56th GST Council recommendation to streamline the tax structure, simplify the compliance process, and resolve many outstanding issues for businesses, including MSMEs. The new system emphasises the simplification of tax rates, the ease of compliance with digital processes and transparency in tax administration. This study highlights the differences between GST 1.0 and GST 2.0, and its impact on the manufacturing, services, agricultural, healthcare, education, construction and information technology sectors. It also reviews the impact of these reforms on businesses and consumers. The findings indicate that GST 2.0 has made compliance easier, the doing of business easier, and increased the rate of formal economic activity. In conclusion, GST 2.0 seems to be a step in the right direction towards a more efficient and equitable system of taxation. The sustainability of these initiatives will rely on the proper implementation and support of small businesses.

Keywords: MSMEs, GST 2.0, Indirect Tax Reform, Tax Simplification, MSMEs, Sectoral Analysis.

GST, Formalization, and the Gendered Time Burden: Rethinking Women SHG Enterprises under SVEP in Eastern Uttar Pradesh

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The Startup Village Entrepreneurship Program (SVEP), implemented under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), has enabled thousands of women affiliated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to establish rural non-farm micro-enterprises across India, including Eastern Uttar Pradesh. As these enterprises mature and seek to scale beyond hyper-local, cash-based transactions, they increasingly encounter the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime through registration thresholds, e-way bill requirements for inter-district sales, digital invoicing, and periodic return filing. While GST reform is framed nationally as a Driver of formalization, ease of doing business, and inclusive growth, its ground-level implications for women-run micro-enterprises remain under-examined, particularly through a gendered time-use lens. Existing literature on GST and small enterprises focuses largely on compliance cost, tax incidence, and formal-sector productivity gains, treating compliance labor as a neutral administrative cost. This abstracts away from a critical dimension: for rural women entrepreneurs already balancing enterprise work with unpaid domestic and care responsibilities, GST compliance activities like bookkeeping, digital literacy demands, dependence on intermediaries (Common Service Centers, accountants), and travel for registration constitute an additional, gendered time burden that is rarely accounted for in either tax policy design or enterprise-support programming. This paper undertakes a secondary-data-based analysis to build an evidence-based case for this argument ahead of primary fieldwork.

Research Objectives

- To map the extent of GST registration and formalization among SVEP-supported and comparable rural non-farm enterprises using available program and government data.
- To synthesize existing time-use evidence (national and state-level) on rural women's paid work, unpaid domestic work, and care burden, and situate compliance-related tasks within this framework analytically.
- To review secondary evidence and policy/evaluation reports on GST compliance costs and formalization barriers faced by micro and small enterprises, with specific attention to women-led and SHG-linked enterprises.
- To develop a conceptual framework linking GST-Driven formalization to gendered time burden, to inform future primary research and policy recommendations.

Research Questions

- What does existing secondary data reveal about the scale and pattern of GST registration among rural, women-led non-farm micro-enterprises in India and Uttar Pradesh?
- What do national time-use surveys and related studies suggest about the unpaid work burden already carried by rural women entrepreneurs, and how might compliance-related tasks add to this?
- What do government evaluations, SVEP/NRLM program reports, and academic studies indicate about formalization as a barrier or enabler for women-led rural enterprises?

Methodology

This paper adopts a secondary-data-based analytical approach. It Draws on: (i) national and state-level time-use survey data (e.g., the NSO Time Use Survey) to establish baseline patterns of women's unpaid work and time allocation in rural areas, (ii) SVEP and DAY-NRLM program reports, Management Information System (MIS) data summaries, and evaluation/impact studies to assess enterprise formalization status and

GST engagement, (iii) GST Council reports, CBIC circulars, and published compliance-cost studies on micro and small enterprises, and (iv) existing academic and policy literature on gender, informality, and taxation. Data will be synthesized through a structured thematic review to build a conceptual link between formalization-Driven compliance work and the existing unpaid-work burden of rural women entrepreneurs.
Expected Contribution
This paper contributes to GST policy discourse by foregrounding a dimension largely absent from ease-of-doing-business and formalization narratives: the gendered distribution of compliance labour. Using available secondary evidence, it bridges tax policy and gender/livelihoods scholarship by extending the time-use and unpaid-care-work framework commonly applied to domestic work to the domain of regulatory compliance work. The synthesis is intended to inform more gender-responsive design of GST facilitation mechanisms within rural livelihood missions such as SVEP and NRLM, and to lay the analytical groundwork for future primary research, supporting the conference's broader theme of aligning GST reform with inclusive and sustainable development.

Keywords: GST, formalization, women self-help groups, SVEP, rural non-farm enterprises, unpaid care work, time-use, secondary data, Eastern Uttar Pradesh

GST, Digital Financial Inclusion, and Sustainable Development: A Perception-Based Study of Retail Businesses in India

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This study focuses on the correlation of GST awareness and compliance, digital financial inclusion, financial and economic inclusion among retail businesses across India and Draws conclusions about all the factors involved in the process. Goods and Services Tax (GST) has led to a radical change in the retail sector by fostering transparency, digitalisation and formal financial engagement. Goods and Services Tax (GST) has made a huge impact on the retail sector by increasing transparency, digitalisation and formal financial engagement. The study has taken a quantitative research design and primary data have been collected from 370 retail business owners and managers of Haryana, India using a structured questionnaire. The data collection was done using the convenience sampling technique. Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) and Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) were used for examining the proposed relationships between the variables, using the software package R. The results showed that the awareness and compliance of GST are significant with the positive effect on economic inclusion, and the digital financial inclusion significantly contributes to the perception of sustainable development among retail business. The findings also show that there is a positive relationship between economic inclusion and sustainable development. The study underscores the need to digitalize and integrate with GST to support sustainable business practices, as well as to boost financial participation for formalizing the economy. The results offer insightful implications for policy makers, financial institutions and retail businesses to bolster the digital financial system and increase awareness of GST for sustainable economic growth of India.

Keywords: GST, Digital Financial Inclusion, Economic Inclusion, Sustainable Development, Retail Businesses, PLS-SEM.

Impact of GST on Affordability of Healthcare Services in India: An Analytical Study of Input Taxation and Healthcare Exemption

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Healthcare is a critical component of socio-economic development and public welfare in both developing and developed economies. In India, healthcare services have been exempted under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime with the objective of reducing the financial burden on patients. However, several input goods and services used in hospitals and healthcare institutions continue to remain taxable. Since healthcare providers are not eligible to claim Input Tax Credit (ITC) as their outward supplies are exempted, taxes paid on such inputs are embedded in the operational cost structure, indirectly increasing treatment costs. The present study analytically examines the impact of GST input taxation on healthcare affordability in India. The research adopts a descriptive and analytical approach using secondary data, policy reports, GST notifications, and existing literature. The study finds that denial of ITC on healthcare inputs creates a cascading tax effect, thereby increasing operational costs for hospitals and which in turn increases treatment cost and ultimately affects affordability for patients. The paper argues that adopting a zero-rated framework or extending GST relief to critical healthcare inputs could significantly reduce treatment costs and improve accessibility of healthcare services. Affordable healthcare contributes positively to workforce productivity, economic efficiency, and long-term Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. The study concludes that a balanced GST framework aligned with welfare objectives is essential for ensuring inclusive and sustainable healthcare development in India.

Keywords: GST, Healthcare Services, Input Tax Credit, Healthcare Affordability, Taxation Policy, Healthcare Exemption, Economic Growth

India's Orange Economy: Policy Recognition, GST Challenges, and Structural Constraints

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The creative economy, commonly referred to as the orange economy, has emerged as a significant Driver of economic development by leveraging creativity, knowledge, and intellectual property as key sources of value creation. In India, the increasing recognition of creative industries has been reinforced through the Union Budget 2026–27, which formally acknowledges the sector's potential to contribute to innovation, employment, and digital transformation. Despite this recognition of policy, the institutional environment governing the creative economy remains fragmented, particularly with respect to the Goods and Services Tax (GST). This paper examines the evolution of India's orange economy, analyses its economic significance, and critically evaluates the interaction between recent policy initiatives and the GST framework. Adopting a narrative review approach, the study synthesises insights from literature on the creative economy, digital platforms, taxation, innovation systems, and cultural economics to develop an integrated understanding of the structural factors influencing the sector. The analysis reveals that while recent budgetary measures promote skill development, institutional capacity building, and creative entrepreneurship, GST-related issues, including classification ambiguity, compliance complexity, and the taxation of digital and intangible outputs, continue to constrain sectoral growth, particularly for freelancers, microenterprises, and independent digital creators. The paper further identifies a policy incoherence between developmental initiatives that encourage creativity and regulatory mechanisms that increase operational burdens. This misalignment limits the effectiveness of policy interventions and reduces the capacity of the creative economy to realise its full economic potential. To address these challenges, the study recommends greater policy coherence through GST rationalisation, simplified compliance procedures, improved access to finance, stronger intellectual property protection, equitable platform governance, and enhanced statistical measurement of creative industries. The paper contributes to the growing literature on India's creative economy by providing an integrated policy perspective that links economic development, taxation, and institutional design, while offering practical recommendations for fostering a more supportive ecosystem for sustainable growth.

Keywords: Orange economy, Creative economy, Goods and Services Tax, Union Budget 2026–27, India, Creative industries, Public policy

Digitalization through GST and Its Contribution to Ease of Doing Business: An Empirical Analysis of Indian Enterprises

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This study investigates the influence of GST-Driven digitalization on the ease of doing business among Indian enterprises, using the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) as its theoretical framework. Data were collected from 483 respondents through a structured questionnaire and analyzed using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM). The findings reveal that perceived ease of use and perceived usefulness significantly and positively shape enterprises' attitudes toward GST digital platforms. Electronic word-of-mouth (e-WOM) also emerged as a strong positive predictor of attitude, underscoring the role of peer recommendations and online interactions in technology adoption. Contrary to expectations, trust showed a negative relationship with attitude, suggesting enterprises prioritize practical utility over trust-related concerns. Furthermore, positive attitudes significantly enhance behavioral intentions to continue using GST systems. Overall, the study concludes that GST-enabled digitalization has improved tax compliance efficiency, transparency, and operational convenience, thereby fostering a more business-friendly environment in India.

Keywords: GST Digitalization, Ease of Doing Business, Indian Enterprises, TAM

Mapping GST Research in India: Bibliometric Insights for Achieving Viksit Bharat 2047

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GST is one of the most significant fiscal reforms in India, playing a pivotal role in strengthening tax administration, digital governance, ease of doing business, and supporting the national vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047. Although research on GST has expanded considerably since its introduction, a comprehensive understanding of its intellectual landscape remains limited. To fill this gap, this study conducted a bibliometric analysis of GST research in India, focusing on 69 publications in Scopus from 2017 to 2025. The bibliometric techniques used include publication trends, citation performance, influential authors and journals, collaboration networks, keyword co-occurrence, and thematic evolution, which were conducted using Biblioshiny. The findings show that the GST study has gradually moved away from implementation-related issues and embraced themes such as digital governance, taxpayer compliance, fiscal federalism, MSME development, and sustainable economic growth. The research makes a significant contribution to the existing body of knowledge by creating a detailed map of GST studies and outlining future research potential, including in AI in tax administration, digital public finance, green taxation, and comparative fiscal governance. These findings can help researchers, policymakers, and practitioners design a robust tax policy framework to strengthen India's tax system and accelerate its path towards a resilient, inclusive, and globally competitive economy.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax (GST), Bibliometric Analysis, Scopus, Fiscal Federalism, Viksit Bharat 2047.

Role of GST in Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Growth of MSMEs in India: A Systematic Literature Review

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The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced in India in 2017 and is considered to be one of the most important indirect tax reforms that aim at enhancing transparency, ease of tax and increasing the economic formalisation. This research work presents a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) of the role of GST in inclusive and sustainable growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India. Selected research articles are reviewed from the reputed databases such as Scopus, Emerald, Elsevier, Springer, SAGE, and Google Scholar from 2017 to 2026. The review is conducted in accordance with the PRISMA approach to selecting, screening and analysing relevant literature. The results reveal that GST made remarkable contribution in the areas of formalisation of MSMEs, Financial inclusion, Digital transformation and transparency in the business environment. Current research indicates that digital compliance mechanisms based on GST have enhanced the operational efficiency, institutional integration and access to formal financial systems of MSMEs. Thematic analysis also highlights that GST facilitated digital governance and sustainable business practices, and organised market participation. The review also identifies a number of problems that MSMEs are encountering under the GST regime, such as compliance burden, the delay in the refunds, technology-related issues and lack of digital skills especially by micro and rural enterprises. The research identifies the key research gaps in the field of sustainable MSME development, women entrepreneurship, rural enterprises, and digital business systems Driven by AI. The overall study findings suggest that GST has significant potential to Drive inclusive and sustainable MSME growth in India if it can be backed by policy support and digitalization efforts in terms of awareness and ease of compliance.

Keywords: GST, MSMEs, Financial Inclusion, Sustainability, Digital Transformation

GST and Economic Growth in India: A Bibliometric Analysis of Research Trends and Policy Linkages

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The introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India in 2017 is one of the most fundamental changes in the structure of the indirect tax system in India. A burgeoning literature has examined the economic and policy issues surrounding the GST regime. Through bibliometric analysis, this paper attempts to synthesize trends and policy links between the GST and economic growth in India by exploring 327 documents retrieved from the Scopus database over the period from 2003 to 2026 with the help of the tool Biblioshiny to represent the intellectual structure of the area by thematic mapping, co-occurrence of keywords, annual scientific production and collaboration. The quantity of GST literature surged widely post-2017 with a growing focus on tax policy reforms, fiscal governance, and growth. Accordingly, the study identifies customary research spheres of GST as GST, economic growth, indirect tax, fiscal federalism, and public finance, and emerging research areas as digital taxation, voluntary compliance systems, MSMEs, and GST governance. The paper discusses increased interdisciplinarity and institutional collaboration in GST research, and provides a thorough overview of the growth of GST literature in India, and delineates multiple future research directions and policy implications.

Evaluating the Effectiveness of the GST Composition Scheme for SMEs in India's FMCG Sector: Operational Efficiency, Compliance Behaviour, and Policy Reform

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This study evaluates the effectiveness of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Composition Scheme in shaping operational efficiency, compliance behavior, and competitive positioning of small and medium enterprises. The research investigates whether tax simplification mechanisms achieve policy objectives without undermining growth potential. Findings reveal that while administrative burden declines significantly, structural constraints related to input tax credit restrictions and interstate trade limitations influence pricing strategies and expansion decisions. The study contributes to taxation and SME policy literature by proposing a lifecycle-based taxation framework aligning compliance simplicity with scalability.

Keywords: GST Composition Scheme, FMCG, SMEs, Tax Compliance, India, Business Competitiveness, Policy Reform

Fiscal Policy as a 'Driver for Make in India: A Comparative Analysis of Samsung & Apple under the 2026 Tax Reforms

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This study examines fiscal policy as a Driver for industrial expansion under India's 'Make in India' initiative, comparing Samsung India and Apple India from FY2019 to FY2025. Grounded in Jorgenson's (1963) Neoclassical Theory of Investment, the research employs a quantitative comparative design. RStudio was utilized as the primary computational tool, leveraging the tidyverse and stats packages to perform data normalization and Pearson Correlation (r) analysis. R-generated outputs indicate a moderate inverse relationship between corporate tax liability and capital formation ($r \approx -0.48$ for Samsung, $r \approx -0.52$ for Apple). While these correlations provide directional structural evidence rather than high statistical significance, they highlight how statutory tax shifts and Production-Linked Incentives (PLI) affect Capex. The study concludes that a dual-track fiscal framework—tailored for both direct manufacturers and asset-linked orchestrators is vital for achieving the Viksit Bharat 2047 industrial roadmap.

Keywords: Make in India, Fiscal Policy, Capital Expenditure, PLI Scheme, Neoclassical Investment Theory, Corporate Tax Reform, Viksit Bharat 2047

GST Compliance, Business Formalisation, and Business Growth among Women-Owned MSMEs: Implications for Viksit Bharat 2047

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In July 2017, India launched the Goods and Services Tax (GST), one of its most sweeping indirect tax changes, to create a single national market, streamline tax administration, and boost economic efficiency. GST has influenced corporate formalisation, digital compliance, and entrepreneurial development beyond its fiscal goals. A transparent and comprehensive tax structure should help women-owned Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which provide jobs, Drive innovation, and support inclusive economic growth. Due to limited financial resources, digital knowledge, and access to expert tax aid, compliance requirements, digital filing systems, and procedural complexities may pose greater challenges for women entrepreneurs. This study examines GST compliance, business formalisation, and entrepreneurial performance in Indian women-owned MSMEs. The study claims that GST compliance promotes firm formalisation and entrepreneurial performance using Institutional Theory. Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling will test the assumptions based on a structured questionnaire administered to women-owned MSMEs. The study expands the tax reform and entrepreneurial development literature by linking GST reforms to women's entrepreneurship and business formalisation, adding to the Viksit Bharat 2047 policy discussions. The findings should help policymakers, tax administrators, and entrepreneurship support institutions improve GST implementation and business growth in women-owned ventures.

Keywords: GST Compliance, Business Formalisation, Women Entrepreneurs, Entrepreneurial Performance, MSMEs, Viksit Bharat 2047

GST and India's Orange Economy: A Review of Digital Creative Industries and Creator Ecosystems

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India’s orange economy is rapidly expanding through the convergence of creativity, digital platforms, user-generated content (UGC), and creator-led entrepreneurship. Despite its growing economic significance, limited attention has been given to the taxation and institutional frameworks shaping the development of digital creative industries. This study examines the role of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the growth, formalization, and sustainability of India’s orange economy, with particular emphasis on creator ecosystems and platform-mediated economic activities. Adopting a descriptive research design, the study uses qualitative content analysis of secondary sources, including academic literature, government reports, policy documents, institutional publications, and industry reports. The review highlights the increasing economic importance of creators, UGC, gaming, AVGC, influencer marketing, and other digital mediated creative activities. It further identifies GST and related taxation mechanisms as important Drivers of formalization and transaction visibility within creator-leading markets. However, compliance complexity, taxation ambiguity, limited access to institutional finance, inadequate intellectual property protection, and fragmented governance constrain the sector’s sustainable development. The study recommends creator-centric GST simplification, improved access to finance, stronger intellectual property governance, and greater institutional coordination. These measures can support the development of a more inclusive, formalized, and globally competitive orange economy in India.

Keywords: Orange economy, GST, Eentrepreneurship, Taxation, Platform Economy, User-Generated Content.

GST and Ease of Doing Business in India: A Conceptual Paper

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A country's market competitiveness and investment attractiveness are largely determined by its regulatory and tax environment, with taxes in particular dictating how easy or difficult it is to launch, operate, and promote a business. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) in India are reviewed in the current research using a theoretical framework. The study breaks down prior studies into distinct, thematic strands, centred on the current intellectual and policy literature. These segments include the reasons for tax reform, the structure and handling of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), and how it influences large businesses differently from micro, small, and medium-sized businesses (MSMEs).. While a majority of the literature acknowledges that GST has strengthened transparency by conducting digital administration, diversified the tax base, and rationalized India's indirect tax architecture, it additionally identifies a persistent research disparity: very few studies employ "Ease of Doing Business" as a dedicated theoretical lens through which to evaluate GST, and almost none trace how GST-related scholarship itself has advanced in relation to this exclusive framework. In its conclusion, the findings outline future avenues for empirical and bibliometric research and suggest an approach that links GST design aspects to EoDB findings.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax, Ease of Doing Business, tax reform, MSMEs, tax compliance, India

Role of GST in Promoting Digital Business Participation Among Women-Led Enterprises, Study of Women centric entrepreneurship in Uttarakhand | Financial Years 2017–18 to 2024–25

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In the Indian subcontinent Uttarakhand is the small and naturally beautiful state of India. In the administration aspect of administration Uttarakhand has two divisions one is the kumaon and second one is the garhwal division. The major sources of the state economy are agricultural and tourism (char dham yatra and other spiritual places e.g. Adi Kailash, Om parvat, panch kedar etc) based. As per the study 20.5% of all the registered MSME on the udyam portal are women owned nationally and its generating 18.73% of employment across the country. In this aspect, Uttarakhand state has registered a remarkable seven-fold expansion during the financial year 2017-18 to 2024-25 after the implementation of GST 1 July 2017. This study focused on the role of the GST implementation in the state economy with the specific manner of women led entrepreneurship. The study adopts a quantitative longitudinal framework with the help of population level time series study, and it is based on the purely secondary data-based study. It is adopted for the established relationship between dependent and independent variable is multiple regression model with the help of OLS regression model and data analysis adopt correlation matrix, Pearson correlation. As per the finding of the study is the plains area district faster growing women led business and whare as hilly region district is less growing and they are facing more challenges as compare to plains district due to the connectivity of 4G/5G data services and its explore MSME growth 577% during 2017-18 to 2024-25, the correlation between MSMEs and GST registration is 0.985, UPI volume expand 620X, GST filling rate increases with 93.8% and also emphasize on established localised facilitation centers in smaller municipal blocks, operated with self-help group and cooperative provide return filling support, registration services and guidance Programme.

Keywords : women entrepreneurship, Digital Payments, business participation, self-help group.

GST And Its Sectoral Impacts: A Thematic Literature Review

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The Goods and Services Tax (GST), introduced in India on 1 July 2017, is one of the most significant tax reforms in the country's economic history. It replaced multiple indirect taxes levied by the Central and State Governments, such as Excise Duty, Service Tax, Value Added Tax (VAT), Entry Tax, Luxury Tax, and Entertainment Tax. The primary objective of GST was to establish a unified tax structure, eliminate cascading taxation, improve tax compliance, and create a common national market. This paper examines the impact of GST on major sectors of the Indian economy, including manufacturing, services, agriculture, e-commerce, real estate, and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Through thematic analysis of existing literature, government reports, and academic studies, the paper identifies both positive outcomes and challenges associated with GST implementation. The study concludes that GST has significantly improved transparency and tax efficiency while promoting formalization of the economy. However, issues such as compliance burden, technological challenges, and sector-specific concerns continue to affect businesses. The findings provide valuable insights for policymakers, businesses, and researchers regarding the future development of India's indirect tax system.

Uniform Taxation, Fragmented Interpretation: The Impact of Divergent Advance Rulings and GSTAT Delays

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In India the Goods and Services tax ('GST') was introduced through the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. GST was hailed as India's most ambitious tax reform since independence - a transformative moment that promised to unify the country's fragmented indirect tax landscape under 'One nation, One tax'. This constitutional vision sought to dismantle the complex web of indirect taxes comprising of various central and state levies, eliminate cascading tax effects and create a seamless national market that would accelerate economic growth and enhance India's competitiveness. Yet, almost 9 years into its implementation, at troubling disconnect has emerged. While GST achieved success in structural unification - fewer rates, uniform procedures and integrated information technology infrastructure - it is yet to ensure interpretive unification during its formative phase. This paper journeys through the institutional architecture of GST's advanced ruling mechanism, examining how the constitution of the Authority for Advance Ruling ('AAR') and the Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling ('AAAR') - with separate authorities operating independently across states - has generated a perplexing patchwork of contradictory rulings on identical legal issues. Through detailed analysis of divergent rulings spanning flavored milk classification, director's remuneration taxability, liaison office treatment, demo vehicle input credit eligibility, the paper illustrates how interpretive fragmentation undermines legal certainty, increases compliance costs and dilutes the constitutional objective of cooperative federalism. The paper further examines how the prolonged delay in operationalizing the GST Appellate Tribunal ('GSTAT') - which remained non- functional for over 6 years aggravated this problem, forcing taxpayers into expensive and time-consuming High Court litigation. Drawing upon international practices from Canada's unified administration and the Netherlands centralized ruling system, the paper argues that true realization of 'One Nation, One Tax' inevitably necessitates 'One Nation, One Interpretation'. It proposes structural reforms including making GSTAT functional in all states on priority, reconstitution of AAR with judicial members and legislative amendments to ensure interpretive consistency across India.

Keywords: Goods and Services tax ('GST'), Authority for Advance Ruling ('AAR'), Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling ('AAAR'), GST Appellate Tribunal ('GSTAT'), Interpretive Fragmentation, 'One Nation, One Tax', Cooperative Federalism, Contradictory Rulings, Tax Certainty

The Growth of Rooftop Solar in India (2018–2026): A GST Perspective using SAP-LAP Linkages

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India's rooftop solar sector has witnessed an intense structural makeover and from a grid-connected capacity of 1.06GW it stood at in March 2018 it has reached 25.73GW as of March 2026. This study examines the transformative trajectory of rooftop solar through the perspective of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), positioning it as a strategic lever that has orchestrated this growth. Using the SAP-Linkages Framework (Situation-Actor-Process-Learning-Action-Performance) supplemented by a multi-break Interrupted Time-Series (ITS) analysis and Monte Carlo simulations, this research partitions India's rooftop solar trajectory into three distinct phases underpinned by GST rate prevalent: Trigger (5% GST), Balance (12%), Harvest (5%GST).The authors argue that the calibration of rates by the GST Council and their timing was in a manner that harmonised industrial policy with revenue collection. Our econometric analysis shows that the September 2025 restoration of tax rate to 5% has catalysed an encouraging acceleration of 1044.93MW/quarter, backed by a Bootstrap BCa 95% confidence interval of 902-1499MW. While the policy interventions and fiscal reforms have improved the unit economics or rooftop solar and facilitated adoption, our SAP-LAP analysis identifies a bottleneck in the application-to-installation conversion rate, bringing to fore the DISCOM bottleneck as a critical hurdle that constrains. This research provides a viable roadmap for Sustainable Development and Energy, one of the core pillars of Viksit Bharat 2047 arguing that while GST calibration gave impetus to growth and adoption of rooftop solar, achieving long-term energy democracy requires more accountability. The findings of this study offer an insight into a playbook for other Global South economies that seek to synchronize energy independence with industrial self-reliance.

Keywords: SAP-LAP Linkages, Rooftop Solar, Goods and Services Tax, Policy, Chow-Lin Method

Cooperative federalism and fiscal governance in India: A critical analysis of centre – state financial dynamics

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The 2017 enactment of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) stands as a watershed milestone in India's economic history, designed to reshape tax structure and actualize a unified, destination-based market. This system sought to promote cooperative federalism through the GST Council, establishing an arena for joint centre-state decision-making. However, this harmonisation has precipitated severe structural friction, as sub-national governments surrendered vital tax-levying powers, yielding a significant contraction in their fiscal autonomy. The asymmetric voting architecture within the Council, coupled with delays and the ultimate cessation of the revenue compensation mechanism, has increasingly tilted the equilibrium toward fiscal centralism. Consequently, states face widening vertical imbalances between their localized welfare expenditure mandates and centralized revenue streams. This paper critically analyzes these evolving financial dynamics, arguing that the sustainability of India's fiscal federalism hinges on urgent structural reforms.

From AI-Assisted Learning to GST Competence: A Conceptual Framework for Higher Education

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The rapid adoption of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) has transformed higher education by providing students with instant access to explanations, problem-solving support, and personalised learning experiences. In commerce education, particularly in the teaching and learning of Goods and Services Tax (GST), AI-powered tools offer significant opportunities to simplify complex tax concepts and improve learning efficiency. However, the increasing reliance on AI also raises concerns regarding superficial learning, overdependence on AI-generated responses, and the development of inadequate professional judgement. Existing studies predominantly examine the effectiveness, adoption, and acceptance of AI in education, while limited attention has been paid to how AI-assisted learning can be translated into the professional competencies required for GST education. Addressing this gap, this conceptual paper proposes a framework that explains the progression from AI-assisted learning to GST competence in higher education. Drawing upon Distributed Cognition Theory, Metacognitive Theory, Reflective Practice Theory, and Competency-Based Education, the framework conceptualizes AI as a cognitive partner that enhances learning when supported by metacognitive regulation and reflective learning. The proposed framework argues that meaningful GST learning extends beyond obtaining correct answers from AI and requires learners to monitor their understanding, critically reflect on AI-generated information, and apply GST knowledge to authentic professional contexts. The paper conceptualizes GST competence as a multidimensional construct comprising conceptual competence, procedural competence, interpretive competence, reflective competence, and professional competence. By integrating established educational theories with the emerging role of Generative AI, the framework contributes to the literature by offering a theoretically grounded model for redesigning GST education in higher education. The study provides practical implications for curriculum designers, educators, and policymakers seeking to foster competent, reflective, and AI-ready commerce graduates, while also establishing a foundation for future empirical validation of the proposed framework.

Keywords: Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI), AI-Assisted Learning, GST Competence, Metacognitive Regulation, Reflective Learning, Higher Education, Commerce Education.

GST and MSMEs: A Bibliometric Analysis of Tax Compliance and Business Performance Research

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Numerous studies on GST and MSMEs exist, covering tax compliance, performance, digital taxation, and policy. However, the literature remains fragmented. This study aims to synthesize the research and identify emerging trends. A bibliometric analysis explored GST and MSME research's structure. Data from Scopus, using PRISMA 2020, started with 173 documents. After filters (2016–2026), relevance screening, and manual searches, 49 publications remained. Techniques analyzed trends, authors, journals, collaboration, citations, and themes. The analysis showed research themes evolving from GST implementation and tax reforms to tax compliance, digital taxation, MSME performance, business competitiveness, and digital governance. It identified key themes around GST compliance, business growth, policy effectiveness, and tech adoption among MSMEs. The social and intellectual analyses highlighted influential authors, key sources, and collaboration networks shaping the field. The findings also reveal emerging research opportunities in digital tax administration, AI, and sustainable MSME growth. The study offers insights for policymakers, tax administrators, researchers, and MSME stakeholders by highlighting key research areas and gaps in literature. Its findings can aid in developing effective GST policies, enhancing tax compliance, and supporting MSME growth in a digitalized environment. This study is among the few bibliometric analyses on GST and MSMEs. It consolidates knowledge, provides an overview of the research landscape, highlights key contributions, and suggests future directions. The study improves understanding of GST research evolution and its impact on MSMEs and economic growth.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax (GST), Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Tax Compliance, Bibliometric Analysis, Digital Taxation

From Algorithmic Enforcement to Trusted Compliance: Responsible AI Governance for GST Administration in India's Digital Economy

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India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) system increasingly depends on interconnected digital infrastructures, including e-invoicing, electronic returns and transaction-level reporting. These systems generate large volumes of structured data that can support artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled anomaly detection, fraud identification, risk-based scrutiny and taxpayer assistance. However, the use of AI in legally consequential tax administration raises concerns regarding opacity, erroneous classification, privacy, accountability and the ability of taxpayers particularly micro, small and medium enterprises to challenge adverse actions. This study develops a Responsible AI–GST Governance Model (RAIGST) to examine how AI decision architecture and procedural safeguards influence perceived fairness, institutional trust and voluntary GST-compliance intention. The model integrates the Slippery Slope Framework of tax compliance with procedural justice and algorithmic- legitimacy theory. A sequential mixed-method design is proposed. First, doctrinal and policy analysis will classify AI applications according to administrative function, decision severity and taxpayer- rights risk. Second, a 2 × 2 × 2 factorial vignette experiment will manipulate decision mode, intelligible explanation and contestability among GST-registered businesses and professionals. Third, expert interviews will explore implementation challenges and safeguard requirements. The study advances five hypotheses concerning human review, explanation, contestability, procedural fairness, trust and serial mediation toward voluntary compliance. Its principal contribution is a risk-based governance framework distinguishing low-, moderate- and high-risk AI applications. The framework argues for proportionate automation: as the legal and economic consequences of a GST decision increase, requirements for human oversight, explanation, data correction, auditability and effective review should also increase.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Goods and Services Tax, digital economy, tax administration, procedural fairness, institutional trust, voluntary tax compliance, algorithmic governance, e-invoicing

Evaluating the impact of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on India's digital economy: opportunities, challenges, and the way forward for Viksit Bharat 2047

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As outlined in Viksit Bharat 2047, India's goal of becoming a developed country by 2047 focuses strongly on creating an inclusive, technologically advanced, and internationally competitive economy. In addition to economic growth, achieving this goal also requires effective public institutions, transparent governance, and a robust digital environment. Due to the extensive usage of digital payments, fintech technologies, e-commerce platforms, and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), India's digital economy has grown quickly in recent years. A significant development in this journey was the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017, which fundamentally changed the country's indirect tax system. GST has supported the digitization of tax administration and increased transparency in corporate transactions by introducing online registration, electronic return filing, e-invoicing, and technology-based compliance measures. The implementation of GST has also played an important role in bringing more businesses into the formal economy, improving tax compliance, and creating a more business-friendly environment. At the same time, its digital framework has encouraged enterprises to adopt technological solutions in their day-to-day operations. However, the system continues to face several practical challenges. Small and medium enterprises often struggle with procedural complexities and frequent regulatory changes, while issues such as technical glitches, cybersecurity concerns, delays in input tax credit and refund processing, and unequal digital access remain significant obstacles. Although a substantial body of research has examined GST in relation to revenue generation, tax administration, and economic performance, comparatively little attention has been given to its contribution to the growth of India's digital economy within the broader framework of Viksit Bharat 2047. This study seeks to bridge that gap by examining how GST has supported digital transformation while also identifying the opportunities and constraints associated with its implementation. The analysis is based on secondary data collected from government reports, GST Council publications, the Ministry of Finance, and relevant scholarly literature. The paper concludes that continuous policy reforms, simpler compliance procedures, stronger digital infrastructure, and enhanced cybersecurity measures will be essential to strengthening GST's role in India's digital economy and supporting the country's long-term development goals under the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax (GST), Digital Economy, Viksit Bharat 2047, Digital Governance, Tax Reforms, Economic Development.

Levelling the Global Playing Field: The Impact of GST on Export Performance

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Purpose: The study explores the functional and macroeconomic effects of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on India's export competitiveness. It examines how the ease of doing business, export performance, and global price competitiveness for domestic enterprises are affected by structural tax formalisation. Methodology: The study applies a research design based exclusively on secondary data. The data have been extracted from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Database, Annual Reports of the Department of Commerce, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Database, GST Council Bulletins and the centralised GST Network (GSTN) portal. The descriptive statistics and trend evaluation have been utilised to compare trade statistics for the pre- GST period (FY 2012–13 to FY 2016–17) and post -GST era (FY 2017–18 to FY 2025–26). The study employs descriptive statistics and trend analysis to examine trade statistics to provide empirical clarity on export trends before and after GST implementation. Findings: The analytical assessment records total exports of $860.09 billion in FY26, denoting an improvement in trade performance. The E-Way bill network removed border checkpoints and brought down national logistics costs to 7.97 % of GDP. Further, the disbursement of 90% of provisional export refunds within seven days, with automated digital portals, boosted liquidity. However, the manufacturing hubs experience short-term working capital limitations due to the ongoing inverted duty structure and strict invoice-matching rules. Originality: The paper addresses a critical time lag in international trade literature. The study analyses the comprehensive effects of advanced policy upgrades ("GST 2.0"), while the earlier research emphasises early implementation hurdles. The paper presents a fresh appraisal of export competitiveness and a neutral tax structure for economic advancement.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax, Export Performance, Trade Competitiveness, Ease of Doing Business, Zero-Rated Supply, Export Promotion

Immense Challenges in the Country's GST, Urgent Need for Reforms and Future Action Plan

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In our country, GST evasion occurs on a very large scale in rural areas. There are many rural areas of the country where GST officers and employees are able to conduct very little inspection. Because this is a very backward area, where illegal sale of materials like sand, gravel and morang is very rampant. Inspection by the GST team in these areas is a very challenging task. Apart from this, there is also a great need for Drastic reforms in GST Environment friendly materials should be exempted from GST. So that more and more citizens in the country can use environment friendly materials. With environmentally friendly materials becoming GST free, most of the citizens of the country will automatically come forward to protect the environment and will also be very helpful in protecting the environment of our country. Apart from this, an environmental protection cell should be formed by the GST department, so that environmental protection can be started on a large scale in the country. The GST department should prepare a special action plan which can be implemented across the country to comprehensively control environment protection and climate change. A part of GST should be spent on environmental protection and control of climate change for the development of our country. A special action plan will have to be prepared underdeveloped India-2047 by the Central Government. A portion of the GST should be statutorily earmarked for spending on the country's environmental protection and comprehensive control of climate change.

Keywords: Environmental Friendly, Environmental Protection, Climate Change, Developed India, Action Plan

Role of GST Reforms in Shaping Retail Investment Decisions: A Theoretical Framework for Achieving Viksit Bharat 2047

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Goods and Services Tax (GST) is one of the most important fiscal and institutional reforms in India's post-independence economic history. GST has introduced a single tax system replacing various indirect taxes, which has brought about more clarity in regulations, better tax compliance, hastened economic formalization and so created a more efficient corporate climate. Although the existing literature has extensively examined the macro-economic, administrative and business effects of GST, there has been little scholarly attention to understanding the impact of GST reforms on retail investment decisions and the institutional and behavioral mechanisms that underline this relationship. To bridge this gap, the present study offers a conceptual framework explaining the effect of GST Policy Efficiency, Regulatory Transparency and Economic Formalization on retail investment decisions. The paradigm offers Investor Confidence as the mediating process via which GST reforms impact investment behavior and Financial Literacy is theorized as a moderating variable that affects the magnitude of this connection. The proposed paradigm combines the Institutional Theory, Information Asymmetry Theory and Behavioural Finance Theory to demonstrate the ways in which institutional reforms may improve transparency, reduce uncertainty, increase investor trust and promote rational investment decisions. The work contributes to the behavioural finance and public policy literature by framing GST as an institutional change rather than a taxing policy and presents a unified theoretical view to explain the behavioural consequences of fiscal reforms. The framework provides a theoretical basis for future empirical study and gives policy implications for enhancing investor trust, increasing retail involvement in capital markets, encouraging financial market growth and supporting the long-term goal of India's Viksit Bharat 2047.

Keywords: GST reforms, GST policy efficiency, regulatory transparency, economic formalization, investor confidence, financial literacy, retail investment decisions, institutional theory, behavioural finance, Viksit Bharat 2047.

From Collateral to Code: Impact of GST based lending on the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in India

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The main objective of the study is to understand the implementation of goods and service tax (GST) in India and about the impact it has on the MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) sector. The implementation of GST has enhanced financial transparency by digitising business transactions and creating digital records. GST submissions are government verified and time stamped and all leave digital footprints through their GSTR filings. GST brings visibility into cash flow. This development has enabled a shift in lending practices from traditional collateral based models to data Driven credit models and it allows for a better assessment of the credit worthiness of the borrowers. By analysis of the available secondary data and literature, the paper compares asset based and data Driven lending approaches to assess the effectiveness in reducing credit risk and its impact on MSMEs. While GST improves information availability and supports better decisions, there are certain challenges such as data reliability, compliance gaps and manipulation that persist.

Keywords: GST based loans, MSME financing, credit risk assessment, data Driven lending

Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Socio-Economic Transformation in India: A Policy Roadmap for Viksit Bharat 2047

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The Goods and Services Tax (GST), introduced in India in 2017, represents one of the country's most transformative fiscal reforms, aiming to establish a unified indirect tax system while fostering economic integration, transparency, and improved tax compliance. Beyond its fiscal objectives, GST has emerged as a significant policy instrument for promoting socio-economic transformation by influencing income distribution, consumption behavior, business formalization, cooperative federalism, and public welfare. In the context of India's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, understanding the broader developmental implications of GST has become increasingly important for designing an inclusive and sustainable growth trajectory. This paper critically examines the role of GST in facilitating socio-economic transformation in India through a conceptual and policy-oriented approach. The study is based on an extensive review of secondary data obtained from government publications, the GST Council, the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India, NITI Aayog, the Economic Survey, and relevant peer-reviewed academic literature. The analysis explores the multidimensional impact of GST on economic efficiency, consumer behavior, social welfare, regional development, fiscal federalism, and digital governance while identifying persistent structural and administrative challenges that continue to affect its effectiveness. The study finds that GST has significantly contributed to market integration, enhanced tax transparency, expanded the formal economy through digital compliance mechanisms, and strengthened public revenue mobilization. These developments have improved the government's capacity to finance social welfare programmes, infrastructure development, and inclusive economic growth. Nevertheless, challenges such as multiple tax slabs, compliance burdens for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), technological disparities, delayed refunds, and revenue concerns among states continue to limit the transformative potential of the reform. The paper argues that achieving the aspirations of Viksit Bharat 2047 requires a transition towards a more simplified, technology-enabled, citizen-centric, and equitable GST framework. The paper contributes to the existing literature by developing an integrated policy perspective that links GST reforms with socio-economic transformation rather than examining taxation solely from the perspective of revenue generation. It further proposes a comprehensive policy roadmap encompassing tax rationalization, digital innovation, AI-enabled compliance systems, strengthened cooperative federalism, and inclusive governance to enhance the effectiveness of GST as a catalyst for sustainable development and national economic transformation.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax (GST), Socio-economic Transformation, Viksit Bharat 2047, Inclusive Growth, Fiscal Federalism, Tax Compliance, Digital Governance, Public Finance, Sustainable Development

Forecasting India GST Revenue Trajectory: A Long-Term Time Series Analysis Using ARIMA

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The Goods and Services Tax (GST), implemented on 1 July 2017, is now India's principal source of indirect tax revenue and a central pillar of the country's fiscal architecture. While a growing body of literature has examined GST's effects on state-level revenue efficiency, tax buoyancy, and short-horizon forecasting accuracy, comparatively little research has evaluated the long-run trajectory of aggregate GST collections or linked such projections to India's developmental ambitions under the "Viksit Bharat 2047" vision. This study addresses that gap by forecasting India's real GST revenue over a 22-year horizon using monthly Gross GST collection data spanning July 2017 to March 2025 (93 observations), sourced from the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) and the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The nominal series was deflated using the Wholesale Price Index (Base Year 2011–12 = 100) and log-transformed prior to estimation. An Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average model, identified via the auto.arima() algorithm and validated through Augmented Dickey–Fuller and Ljung–Box diagnostics, selected ARIMA (0,1,1) with Drift as the optimal specification. The model was used to generate point forecasts and 80%/95% prediction intervals for 273 months (April 2025–December 2047). Results indicate that real GST revenue is projected to rise from an average of approximately ₹1,57,934 crore per month in 2025–2029 to approximately ₹10,09,348 crore per month in the 2045–2047 terminal period more than a sixfold increase Driven by a persistent, statistically significant Dr.ift attributable to continuing digitalization, compliance improvement, and economic formalization. However, prediction intervals widen substantially over the horizon, underscoring the compounding uncertainty inherent in multi-decadal forecasting. The findings suggest that GST is well positioned to serve as a growing and sustainable fiscal pillar for financing the infrastructural, social, and technological investments envisioned under Viksit Bharat 2047, while highlighting the continued importance of digital governance reforms, rate-base stability, and macroeconomic resilience in sustaining this trajectory.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax, revenue forecasting, ARIMA, time-series analysis, fiscal sustainability, Viksit Bharat 2047, digitalization, economic formalization

GST Treatment of Carbon Credit Certificates under India's Emerging Carbon Market: A Policy Framework for Viksit Bharat 2047

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India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) is moving from regulatory design to implementation, creating a national market for the issuance, trading, purchase and surrender of Carbon Credit Certificates (CCCs). But the indirect-tax treatment of these certificates remains insufficiently defined. The GST regime has specific provisions for Renewable Energy Certificates and similar instruments, but there are no specific classification, rate, place-of-supply rules, or retirement treatment for the new CCCs. This uncertainty could impact price discovery, liquidity, project viability and the participation of micro, small and medium enterprises in the emerging carbon market. The paper explores how to apply GST to CCCs while protecting revenue, preventing fraud and avoiding an additional tax burden on decarbonisation. It takes a doctrinal and comparative approach to policy analysis, Drawing on Indian statutes, notifications, circulars, advance rulings, CCTS procedures, and selected international VAT/GST approaches. The analysis reveals four major headaches with taxing carbon credits. First, nobody knows if they are goods, services or security. Second, buying them new doesn't have the same tax treatment as everyday trading. Third, there are no guidelines on tax credits, exports or surrender. And finally, the carbon registry and the tax offices aren't even talking to each other. Excluding first and last stages: The GST would not apply to the first issue of CCCs and the final surrender of CCCs. Simpler domestic trade: local resale would be treated as a specific, preferential environmental service, with the buyer paying the tax and receiving a full input tax credit. Helping Global Transfers. Eligible cross-border transactions will be zero-rated to preserve international competitiveness. It also suggests registry-linked e-invoicing, unique certificate identity and simplification rules for small offset projects. The framework aims to make GST an enabling, rather than an obstructive, part of India's climate transition architecture and Viksit Bharat 2047.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax, carbon credit certificates, Indian Carbon Market, CCTS, green taxation, carbon pricing, Viksit Bharat 2047, sustainable development.

GST Awareness and Consumer Trust in India's Digital Economy: A Study of Quick-Commerce and Food-Delivery Platforms Among Gen Z and Millennial Consumers

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The increasing use of digital platforms has heightened the importance of transparent billing practices, particularly concerning Goods and Services Tax (GST) and other platform-related charges. This study examines the relationship between GST awareness, consumer trust, and purchase intention in the context of digital platforms. It further investigates the mediating role of consumer trust in the relationship between GST awareness and purchase intention and examines whether the relationship between GST awareness and consumer trust differs between Generation Z and Millennial consumers. A quantitative, cross-sectional research design was adopted, and data was collected through a structured questionnaire using a five-point Likert scale. The measurement items were developed specifically for the study based on conceptual foundations established in prior literature and contextualized to GST-related billing on digital platforms. The final sample was analyzed using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM), with bootstrapping employed to assess the statistical significance of the proposed relationships. The findings indicate that GST awareness positively influences consumer trust and purchase intention, while consumer trust has a significant positive influence on purchase intention. Consumer trust also significantly mediates the relationship between GST awareness and purchase intention. However, the moderating effect of generation on the relationship between GST awareness and consumer trust was not statistically significant. The study highlights the role of GST awareness and consumer trust in shaping purchase intentions and provides insights into the importance of clear and transparent GST-related billing practices on digital platforms.

Keywords: GST awareness, consumer trust, purchase intention, Generation Z, Millennials, digital platforms, PLS-SEM

Impact of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on attainment of Sustainable Development Goals in India

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The implementation of the Goods and Services tax (GST) on 1st July 2017 marked one of the most significant fiscal reforms in India's post-independence economic history. By replacing a fragmented indirect tax system with a unified, destination-based tax regime, GST aimed to simplify tax administration, improve compliance, enhance transparency, and establish a common national market. While numerous studies have examined GST's impact on economic growth, revenue generation, inflation, and business performance, relatively limited attention has been given to its contribution to sustainable development in India. Sustainable development requires balancing economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection, as reflected in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Improved tax compliance, digitalization of tax administration, expansion of the formal economy, and enhanced public revenue have the potential to strengthen government capacity for financing sustainable infrastructure, healthcare, education, renewable energy, and environmental conservation. Furthermore, GST has accelerated digital governance through initiatives such as e-invoicing, e-way bills, and integrated online tax filing systems, contributing to transparent and accountable public administration. This research paper critically reviews existing literature to examine the relationship between GST and sustainable development in India. It analyses the extent to which GST contributes to achieving selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) particularly:

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth,
SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure,
SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities,
SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and production,
SDG 13 – Climate Action, and
SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.
The research paper also identifies major policy challenges, including compliance costs for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), the absence of explicit green tax incentives, and the need for integrating sustainability objectives into future GST reforms. Findings: The study concludes that GST indirectly supports sustainable development by strengthening fiscal capacity, promoting formalization, improving governance, and facilitating economic efficiency. However, achieving India's long-term sustainability goals requires complementary fiscal policies, including green taxation, carbon pricing mechanisms, sustainability-linked tax initiatives, and environmentally differentiated GST rates. The paper further highlights research gaps and proposes future directions for empirical investigation into the relationship between taxation and sustainable development in emerging economies.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax (GST), Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Fiscal Policy, Green Taxation, Economic Growth, Digital Governance, Environmental Sustainability.

GST as a Strategic Enabler of Viksit Bharat 2047: Developing a Conceptual Framework for Digital Governance, Economic Formalization, and Inclusive Sustainable Development

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Background: The Vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 envisions India as a developed nation characterized by sustained economic growth, inclusive development, technological advancement, good governance, and global competitiveness. Achieving this vision requires robust institutional reforms that enhance fiscal capacity, improve governance, accelerate digital transformation, and foster an enabling environment for businesses and citizens alike. Among the landmark economic reforms undertaken in recent years, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has emerged as one of the most significant structural reforms with implications extending beyond tax administration. Beyond its fiscal objectives, GST has emerged as an institutional reform with the potential to influence broader dimensions of economic development, including digital governance, economic formalization, financial inclusion, ease of doing business, and public revenue mobilization. In this context, GST can be viewed not merely as a tax reform but as a strategic governance mechanism capable of supporting India's long-term developmental aspirations. Although the existing literature extensively examines the impact of GST on tax administration, revenue collection, compliance, and business performance, relatively limited attention has been devoted to understanding GST as a multidimensional catalyst for achieving the broader objectives of Viksit Bharat 2047. This study seeks to bridge this gap by developing an integrated conceptual framework that explains the role of GST in facilitating India's transition towards a developed economy. Objective: The study aims to examine the strategic role of GST in supporting the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and develop a conceptual framework linking GST with inclusive and sustainable economic development. It also aims to explain the institutional pathways through which GST contributes to digital governance, economic formalization, financial inclusion, and fiscal capacity. Methodology: The study adopts a conceptual research design based on an extensive review and synthesis of peer-reviewed literature, government reports, policy documents, and institutional publications on GST, public finance, digital governance, and economic development. The framework is informed by number of theories which collectively explain how technology-enabled fiscal reforms can improve governance, enhance transparency, strengthen tax compliance, and support inclusive development. Instead of testing hypotheses, the study develops a theoretically grounded framework that integrates existing knowledge and identifies key relationships for future empirical validation. Proposed Conceptual Framework: The study proposes the GST-Driven Framework, which conceptualizes GST as a strategic enabler of India's developmental transformation. The framework suggests that GST strengthens digital governance through technology-Driven tax administration, including GSTN, e-invoicing, e-way bills, and online return filing. Improved digital governance enhances tax transparency and compliance, encouraging businesses to transition from the informal to the formal economy. Economic formalization subsequently expands financial inclusion, improves access to institutional finance, and increases business competitiveness. Collectively, these interconnected outcomes improve the ease of doing business, promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Ultimately, the framework conceptualizes GST as a strategic policy instrument contributing to the realization of Viksit Bharat 2047.Expected Contributions: The study contributes to the literature by repositioning GST from being merely an indirect tax reform to a multidimensional governance and development instrument. It introduces the Framework as a novel conceptual model that integrates fiscal reforms with digital governance, economic formalization, financial inclusion, and sustainable development. The framework offers valuable insights for policymakers in designing future GST reforms and provides a robust theoretical foundation for subsequent empirical studies

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax (GST), Viksit Bharat 2047, Digital Governance, Economic Formalization, Financial Inclusion, Sustainable Development, Public Finance

Evaluating GST Revenue Buoyancy and its Impact on Sovereign Debt and Fiscal Deficits: An Empirical Study of Post-Reform Public Finances in India

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The Goods and Services Tax (GST), introduced under the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act in 2017, comprehensively reorganized India's indirect tax system by replacing a fragmented, origin-based tax structure with a unified, destination-based framework. As gross monthly GST collections have stabilized above ₹1.8–2.0 lakh crore, this paper examines whether this expansion reflects genuine tax buoyancy relative to Nominal Gross Domestic Product (NGDP). It further analyzes the transmission mechanism through which GST revenue stability affects sovereign debt sustainability and primary deficit containment. Using quarterly time-series data spanning Q2 2017 to Q1 2026 (T = 35), the study employs the Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) bounds testing procedure to establish long-run cointegration, alongside an Error Correction Model (ECM) to evaluate short-run dynamics and structural policy shifts.The empirical findings confirm a statistically significant long-run equilibrium relationship between GST collections and Nominal GDP ($F = 8.9779$, $p < 0.004$). The normalized long-run tax buoyancy coefficient ($\beta_1 = 0.9621$) demonstrates near-unitary elasticity, indicating that tech-enabled compliance mechanisms including mandatory e-invoicing, real-time GSTR-2B reconciliation, and AI-Driven audit scrutiny have successfully expanded tax receipts in step with economic expansion without tax rate increases. The error correction coefficient ($ECT_{t-1} = -0.6742$) indicates rapid convergence, resolving 67.4% of short-run disequilibria per quarter. Additionally, the post-compensation policy dummy confirms an autonomous 5.17% baseline step-up in state organic collections following the sunset of central revenue guarantees. Stable GST receipts reduce reliance on short-term market borrowing, contract primary deficits, and strengthen sub-national and central sovereign debt trajectories under India's FRBM framework.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax (GST), Tax Buoyancy, Sovereign Debt Sustainability, Fiscal Deficit, ARDL Bounds Testing, Cooperative Federalism, Public Finance, India.

Influence of GST Reduction Perception on Consumer Buying Decisions: Unravelling the Underlying Mechanisms

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Purpose: This study examines the effect of GST Reduction Perception (GSTRP) on Consumer Confidence (CC), Financial Well-Being (FWB), and Perceived Economic Benefit (PEB) and investigates their influence on Consumer Purchasing Power (CPP) and Consumer Buying Decision (CBD). It also examines the mediating role of Consumer Purchasing Power in these relationships. Design/Methodology/Approach: A quantitative, cross-sectional research design was adopted. Primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire using a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The measurement items were adapted from established scales and contextualized to the GST reduction context. Using purposive sampling, 316 valid responses were obtained. IBM SPSS Statistics was used for data screening and descriptive analysis, while SmartPLS was employed for Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) to assess the measurement and structural models. Findings: The proposed model examines ten direct relationships, three mediation effects, and three serial mediation effects. The framework demonstrates how GST Reduction Perception may influence consumer confidence, financial well-being, and perceived economic benefits, which subsequently shape purchasing power and buying decisions. Consumer Purchasing Power is positioned as a key mediating mechanism between these economic perceptions and consumer buying decisions. Originality/Value: The study contributes to GST and consumer behaviour literature by developing an integrated framework linking GST reduction perceptions with consumer confidence, financial well-being, perceived economic benefits, purchasing power, and buying decisions. It extends existing research beyond GST awareness and compliance by focusing on the consumer-level economic and behavioural implications of GST reduction in India. The findings offer useful implications for policymakers, tax authorities, businesses, and consumer-oriented organisations.

Keywords: GST Reduction Perception, Consumer Confidence, Financial Well-Being, Perceived Economic Benefit, Consumer Purchasing Power.

Exemption versus Zero-Rating under GST: A Structural Analysis of Input Tax Credit Asymmetry in Healthcare and Education Services in India

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India brought in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) hoping to create a smooth, all-in-one system where tax paid at each stage gets offset, so only the final buyer really pays. That's the pitch, anyway. But things get messy the moment you look at how GST treats healthcare and education. Both are labeled as "exempt" well-meaning on paper, a problem in practice. Hospitals and schools shell out GST on everything they buy, but when it comes to time to claim input tax credit (ITC), they're blocked. The chain breaks. This isn't some paperwork quirk – it means hospitals and schools end up absorbing extra tax costs, which show up in what patients and students pay. Economists call this "embedded taxation." For a country worried about high out-of-pocket healthcare costs and access to quality education, this isn't great news. This paper takes apart how exempt supplies - like healthcare and education - work differently from zero-rated supplies, which mostly means exports. Both deal with taxed inputs. Yet, only zero-rated supplies get a clean refund or credit, because Section 16 of the IGST Act, 2017 lets them claw back what they paid. Section 17(2) of the CGST Act, 2017, meanwhile, slams the door on ITC for exempt services and leaves them with unrecoverable tax costs. We'll map out how these rules play out, looking at capital-heavy exports versus essential services, and how policy stumbles in its own logic. The basic argument: exemptions undermine what GST was supposed to fix, making vital services pricier for no good reason. The way forward? Maybe it's time for a version of zero-rating or at least targeted ITC for needy sectors - a move that could finally make the system work as intended.

Digital Media Strategies for Enhancing GST Awareness and Sales Growth among Indian MSMEs: A Roadmap for Viksit Bharat 2047

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Background and Purpose: Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) is one of the major contributors in generating employment, promoting entrepreneurship, development of state , building exports and promoting inclusive growth for the various stakeholders of society. One of the key pupose of Viksit Bharat is to bring the working class in front and make them the part of economy. GST can change the role of MSMEs in India and can support the companies in their growth. To create an awareness regarding GST and its practices use of social media is one of the most effective solution. There are many other digital media forms also which can help in creating an awareness about GST and its practices. There are various social media platforms there, different mobile applications are there, one can also generate video based content , webinars , websites and different web communities are there. These platforms can substantially help in reducing the communication gap related to GST information and knowledge about tits various practices. This digital media platforms help in spreading the faster information related to GST. The purpose of this paper is to explore the different impact of digital media strategies on awareness, its readiness and sales performance among Indian MSMEs in the ecosystem of GST. Conceptual Framework: The study identifies four key aspects that affect the effectiveness of digital media strategies: content quality, platform appropriateness, engagement and information credibility. Quality content is characterized by simplicity of language, novelty, correctness and topicality. We make the platform suitable by integrating the right communication channels that match where MSME owners consume their media. Audience engagement allows the audience to interact thru things like comments, webinars, Q&amp,As (question and answer) sessions, professional communities and customized messaging. Even perceived quality of information from government agencies, tax professionals, industry associations and business influencers affect message credibility. The framework highlights the effectiveness of digital communication which helps in enhancing awareness about GST and its practices. If awareness is there it will help in improving the compliance by various MSMEs. And this will lead to better transparency and will help in the business growth indirectly. The confidence of consumers will rise with this transparency, and this will lead to better ROI in terms of sales and marketing. Research Methodology, awareness levels of GST, GST compliance , Customer trust and Sales Performance. In this study it is proposed to mixed method research design. In the quantitative data collection field survey will be carried out with the help of our research instrument, questionnaire. From this we will get responses from different stakeholders of MSMEs. These MSMEs are involved in services, trading and manufacturing. This will include the measurement of various digital content related to GST, we will also measure the perceived quality of GST content, we will also measure the various platform related metrics micro &amp, small enterprises (MSME) engaged in selected manufacturing, trading and service sectors. In the research study stratified and purposive sampling is used to capture various data like size of company , sectors, region of respondents. In this study descriptive statistics are used to identify the different patterns of digital media use and GST awareness. Scales are tested on the basis of reliability and validity. In this study multiple regression may be used to see the effectiveness of digital media, awareness and compliance readiness of GST and to check the performance of businesses also in their respective relationships. The qualitative part shall comprise of semi-structured in-depth interviews from MSME owners, chartered accountants, GST practitioners and industry-association representatives and professionals providing digital marketing services. The interviews will provide insights into specific communication gaps, preferred content formats, and industry-specific challenges. Expected Findings and Contribution: The hypothesis being that coronavirus explanatory videos, regional-language content, infographics, interactive webinars and short policy updates are easier for MSMEs to digest than any highly technical or text-heavy communication. YouTube, WhatsApp, LinkedIn and even portals of government

agencies can have different but complementary roles in spreading awareness about GST. It is also expected to be shown that digitally based media communication will have benefits beyond statutory compliance. GST tier-wise and in case of Businesses, the formal registration of MSMEs may be helpful in participating in business-to-business transactions, Government procurement, e-commerce platforms and formal credit systems. Could also help to boost the confidence of buyers, especially corporate or institutional buyers, in this case for systemic tax transparency. It then integrates taxation communication research and digital media strategy and business performance literature as a new contribution. This helps to reinforce the baseline compliance requirement of knowing about GST and brands looking at it as a necessary business capability. These findings can help government agencies, policymakers, industry associations and tax professionals to develop simplified communications campaigns in a multilingual format for targeted sectors. The suggested framework will enable MSMEs to select appropriate digital platforms for utilization, with communication outcome being measured using metrics like awareness, engagement, compliance, sales growth and marketing ROI. Conclusion: When MSMEs are equipped with the knowledge they need to effectively engage with GST and feel they can enter tax borne, then one can say that reforms in GST will play a significant part in Driving India's socio-economic transformation. Digital media can bridge the gap between policymaking and the actual implementation at the enterprise level. A well designed inclusive digital communication program makes GST less complicated and can promote voluntary compliance, support business formalization and empower MSMEs to access higher level markets. In this way we will move toward building a transparent, digital, competitive MSME ecosystem which would be aligned toward Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

Keywords: GST awareness, digital media strategies, MSMEs, sales growth, marketing ROI.

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GST GOVERNANCE PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN STRENGTHENING INDIA'S TAX ADMINISTRATION BY PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY, COMPLIANCE, AND EFFICIENCY. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GST HAS CREATED A MORE INTEGRATED INDIRECT TAX SYSTEM, SIMPLIFIED TAX PROCEDURES, AND IMPROVED COORDINATION BETWEEN THE CENTRE AND THE STATES. CONTINUED REFORMS IN DIGITAL TAX ADMINISTRATION, FASTER DISPUTE RESOLUTION, DATA-DRIVEN COMPLIANCE, AND TAXPAYER-FRIENDLY PROCESSES CAN FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GST GOVERNANCE.

AS INDIA MOVES TOWARDS THE VISION OF VIKSIT BHARAT @2047, GST CAN SERVE AS AN IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT FOR SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND FORMALISATION. A STABLE AND RESPONSIVE GST FRAMEWORK CAN ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT, STRENGTHEN BUSINESSES, IMPROVE REVENUE MOBILISATION, AND FACILITATE SMOOTHER MOVEMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES ACROSS STATES. FUTURE GST REFORMS SHOULD THEREFORE FOCUS ON BALANCING REVENUE EFFICIENCY WITH SIMPLICITY, INCLUSIVENESS, AND EASE OF DOING BUSINESS TO CREATE A STRONGER FOUNDATION FOR INDIA'S LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT.