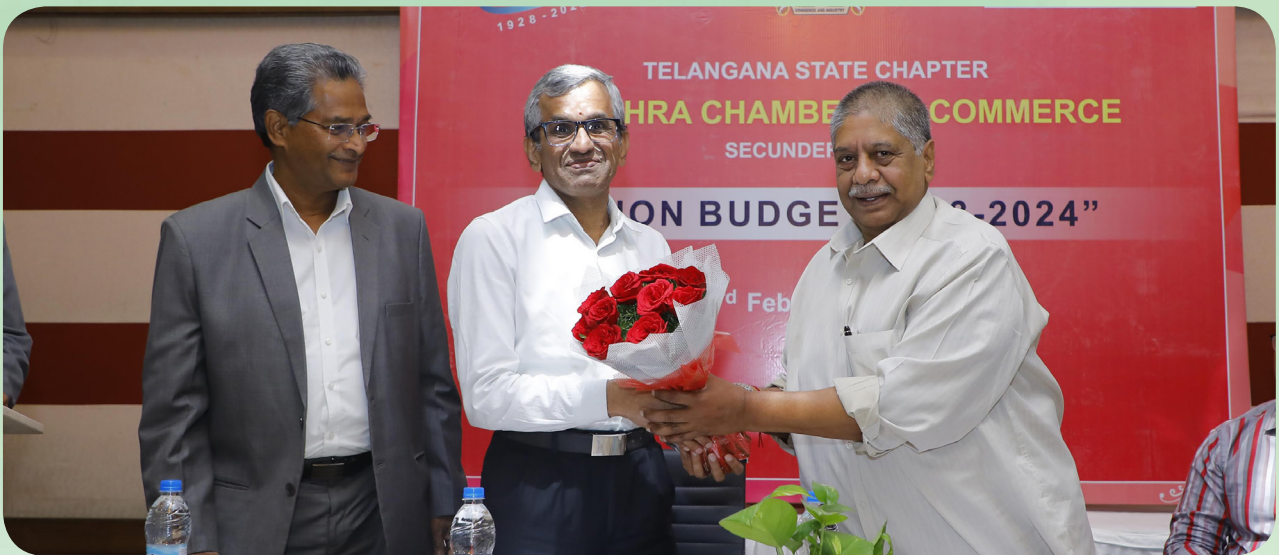




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ANDHRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

INFORMATION BULLETIN PROGRESS THROUGH COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



PROGRAMS HELD DURING FEBRUARY 2023



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PRESIDENT'S DESK

The spirit of India's G20 chairmanship is manifested in the theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' enshrined in the ancient Sanskrit ethos as 'Vasudahaiva Kutumbakam.'

India considers its G20 presidency a medium of change and world transformation in this era of multi-dimensional crises like food and energy security. With the world caught up in conflicts, jeopardising the lives of ordinary people, India will harness its G20 presidency to reach constructive solutions to various challenges, like reviving global growth, more decisive climate actions and robust global health architecture. Endorsing food and nutrition security will be essential as the pandemic has strapped millions of people into poverty. Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and leading the world to adopt an eco-friendly sustainable lifestyle through LIFE (Life for Environment) will be other significant priorities in the next few months.

With its core strength in information technology, India focuses on making digital architecture inclusive of becoming an agent of socio-economic evolution. Promoting inclusive growth and financial inclusion will be the key priorities.

The mandate of G20 is to conduct 200+ meetings throughout the year in all states of India via three tracks - Sherpa, Finance, Engagement.

The G 20 presidency meetings in India will be held in 55 cities across all states and Union Territories of India. The final summit meeting is on the 9th & 10th September 2023.

The G20 is expected to bring in inclusive economic growth through Skill Development, Financial Inclusion, Technological Advancement, and Economic Growth & Social Development.

Dr V.L. IndiraDutt

President



CHAMBER



NEWS

PROGRAMME ON “UNION BUDGET 2023-24” HELD ON THE 3RD FEBRUARY 2023 IN HOTEL SAVERA, CHENNAI.

Andhra Chamber of Commerce, Chennai organised a Programme on Union Budget 2023-24 on the 3rd February 2023 in Hotel Savera, Chennai.

President of Andhra Chamber Dr V L Indira Dutt, in her welcome address said that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has to be congratulated as this was an extremely well-balanced budget focused on growth driven by capital expenditure while giving an adequate push to rural welfare and agriculture.

She also mentioned that our Hon'ble Union Finance Minister stated in her first AMRIT KAAL budget that “Our vision for the Amrit Kaal includes technology-driven and knowledge-based economy with strong public finances, and a robust financial sector. To achieve this, the Budget adopts the following seven priorities. They complement each other and act as the ‘Saptarishi’ guiding us through the AMRIT KAAL - Inclusive Development, Reaching the Last Mile, Infrastructure and Investment, Unleashing the Potential, Green Growth and Youth Power & Financial Sector”.

She further added that many beneficial pragmatic measures were presented by our Finance Minister and this will greatly benefit the trade and industry in the days to come. On the whole, the budget was an inclusive and growth oriented Budget.

Mr T G Suresh, Chartered Accountant presented on the Direct Tax proposals of the budget. In his

presentation he said that the Tax rates are changed in the new budget. 50% of the people might migrate to the new Regime. Earnings up to 62500/- per month will not have tax. India is a savings based country through not like earlier.

He also explained in detail what if new regime is opted and what if it is not opted.

Then he presented in detail about the long term capital gains and short term capital gains.

Then Mr V V Sampath Kumar, Chairman, Indirect Taxes subcommittee introduced Dr M R Venkatesh who is a Chartered Accountant & Advocate.

Dr M.R.Venkatesh in his presentation said that the Union Budget assumes a nominal GDP growth of 10.5% in 2023-24, which implies a projected inflation rate of just 4%, given the economic survey's baseline real GDP growth projection of 6.5%.

As far as MSMEs are concerned, to promote timely payments to micro and small enterprises, it is proposed to include payments made to such enterprises within the ambit of section 43B of the Act, which is a welcome move in the budget.

The tax holiday of 100% of profits is extended by one more year. Startups incorporated till March 31, 2024 will enjoy this tax holiday.

Gaming is no longer fun as online gaming companies



will need to apply TDS at 30% on net winnings without considering the exemption threshold of Rs.10000/- currently available.

Appeal disposal will be faster now as a new post of Joint Commissioner (Appeals) is proposed to hear and decide appeals of smaller taxpayers. He said TDS has become more tedious.

Mr R Subramanian, Chartered Accountant – the speaker on Indirect Tax proposals was introduced by Mr V V Sampath Kumar.

Mr Subramanian in his presentation said that the indirect tax proposals announced in the Budget 2023, emphasised the tax structure simplification with fewer tax rates to help reduce compliance burden and improve tax administration.

In his presentation he has highlighted the points under Indirect Tax proposals.

- The number of basic customs duty rates on goods has been reduced from 21 to 13, other than textiles and agriculture.
- The basic customs duties, cesses, and surcharges on items like toys, bicycles, automobiles, and naphtha have been slightly modified.
- To avoid tax cascading on blended compressed natural gas, excise duty on GST-paid compressed biogas contained in it has been waived.
- The customs duty exemption on the import of specified capital goods and machinery required for the manufacture of lithium-ion cells used in the batteries of electrically powered vehicles (EVs) has been extended until March 31, 2024.
- Vehicles, specified automobile parts and components, sub-systems, and tyres proposed to be exempt from customs duty when imported for testing and/or certification by notified testing agencies, subject to conditions.

• In order to increase domestic value addition in the manufacture of mobile phones, the Finance Minister announced a reduction in customs duty on certain parts and inputs, such as camera lenses. Customs duties on camera lenses and their parts that are used to make camera modules for cell phones have been cut to zero, and the reduced duty on lithium-ion cells used in batteries has been extended for another year.

- The basic customs duty on parts of open cells in TV panels has been reduced to 2.5 percent.
- The budget also proposes changes to the basic customs duty in order to correct the inversion of duty structure and encourage the production of electrical kitchen chimneys. The basic customs duty on electric kitchen chimneys has been raised from 7.5 percent to 15 percent.
- The basic customs duty on heat coils used to make electric kitchen chimneys has gone down from 20% to 15%.
- Duty reduction on key inputs for domestic shrimp feed manufacturing
- The basic customs duty on seeds that are used to make diamonds in a lab has been cut.
- Import duties on silver jewellery, bars, and articles have been raised to match those on gold and platinum.
- The basic customs duty exemption on raw materials used in the production of CRGO steel, ferrous scrap, and nickel cathode was maintained.

The Q & A was well answered by the speakers.

Mr V V Sampathkumar, Chairman, Indirect Taxes subcommittee proposed vote of thanks.

Around 75 industry members and reporters from Media attended the programme.



PROGRAM ON UNION BUDGET 2023-2024 ORGANISED BY ANDHRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, TELANGANA STATE CHAPTER ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023 IN HYDERABAD.

Andhra Chamber of Commerce, Telangana State Chapter organised a Programme on Union Budget 2023-24 at Hotel Best Western Ashoka, Lakdikapul, Hyderabad and the same was supported by Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Dr. J.A.S.Giri, Chairman, Telangana State Chapter of ACC chaired the session and welcomed the Guest Speakers and participants for the Programme on Union Budget 2023-2024. In his welcome address Dr. J.A.S.Giri congratulated Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Hon'ble Finance Minister, as this was a well-balanced budget focused on growth driven by capital expenditure while giving an adequate push to rural welfare and agriculture.

He also said that our Hon'ble Union Finance Minister stated in her first AMRIT KAAL budget that "Our vision for the Amrit Kaal includes technology-driven and knowledge-based economy with strong public finances, and a robust financial sector. To achieve this, the Budget adopts the following seven priorities. They complement each other and act as the 'Saptarishi' guiding us through the AMRIT KAAL - Inclusive Development, Reaching the Last Mile, Infrastructure and Investment, Unleashing the Potential, Green Growth and Youth Power & Financial Sector".

Many beneficial pragmatic measures were presented by our Finance Minister and this will greatly benefit the trade and industry in the days to come. On the whole the budget was an inclusive and growth oriented Budget.

PROGRAM ON "UNION BUDGET 2023-2024" HELD ON THE 4TH FEBRUARY 2023 IN TRIVENI HALL AT HOTEL DASPALLA. VISAKHAPATNAM

Shri V. Chalamaji Gupta, Member of Visakhapatnam Advisory Committee Chaired the session and welcomed the Guest Speakers and participants for the Programme on Union Budget 2023-24. In his welcome address Sri Chalamaji Guptha observed that Hon'ble Finance Minister has presented an extremely well-balanced budget focused on growth driven by capital expenditure while giving an adequate push to rural welfare and agriculture.

Shri U. Rama Krishna, Chartered Accountant made

Shri G. Ganesh, FCA, Chartered Accountant, made a detailed presentation about budgetary changes in direct tax proposals. Shri Bhupendra Agarwal, FCA, Chartered Accountant made a detailed presentation about budgetary changes in Indirect tax proposals. Mr. R. Balakrishna, Chief Manager, Trade Finance & Forex, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Telangana Region made a presentation on Trade Finance & Global Markets Outlook.

Earlier Dr. J.A.S. Giri, Chairman, Telangana State Chapter extended the floral welcome to the Guest Speakers Shri G. Ganesh, Shri Bhupendra Agarwal and Shri R. Balakrishna, Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Shri N. Pardhasaradhi, Hon. Advisor on Foreign Trade introduced the Speakers.

There was a good interaction between the participants and the speakers, all the questions raised by the participants were answered by the speakers.

Dr. VBSS Koteswara Rao, Co-Chairman, Foreign Trade Sub-Committee presented Mementoes to the speakers.

The Programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Shri N. Pardhasaradhi, Hon. Advisor on Foreign Trade of ACC.

The Number of participants for the Symposium were 103. The participants found the programme very useful.

a presentation on the Direct tax proposals of the Budget.

Shri B. Vinay Gandhi presented on the budgetary proposals on Indirect taxes.

There was good interaction between the participants and the speakers. The participants raised many questions which were answered by the speakers.



The Programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by V.Thrinadharao Deputy Secretary Andhra Chamber of commerce Vskp.

The Number of Participants for the Symposium were 45.

PROGRAMME ON “TALLY PRIME - (ALL ABOUT E-WAY, E-INVOICING, EDIT LOG) HELD ON THE 15TH FEBRUARY 2023 @ CHAMBER’S CONFERENCE HALL,CHENNAI.

Andhra Chamber of Commerce organised a programme on "TallyPrime - (All About E-Way, E-invoicing, Edit Log)" on the 15th February at Chamber's Conference Hall.

Mr V.V. Sampath Kumar, Chairman, Indirect Taxes subcommittee of the Chamber in his opening remarks said that Tally accounting software has come a long way with lot of features which are useful for the members and this is a timely programme for our members.

The speaker of the day Mrs. Vishnupriya Rajkumar, Certified Partner -Tally Solutions in her presentation said that Tally Prime is the latest version of Tally. Simplicity, speed, flexibility, and reliability are a trademark of Tally products and with Tally Prime you will experience them at a whole new level. You can multitask without losing the progress, navigate and discover the product much easier, invoice with amazing simplicity and much more to delight you.

With Tally Prime, you can generate GST compliant invoices such as tax invoice, bill of supply etc. in seconds and file accurate GST returns always. She

showed practical demo on inventory Management, invoicing and account, generating business report, how to keep the data secure etc.,

Mr Ezhilarasan, GST Consultant presented on the specific features of Tally Prime. In his presentation he said that with TallyPrime, you can generate GST compliant invoices such as tax invoice, bill of supply etc. in seconds and file accurate GST returns always. What's more? You can automatically generate e-invoice and print invoices with IRN and QR code instantly. Using Tally Prime's features, you can also manage TDS, TCS and payroll statutory such as PF, ESI and employee income tax.

Mr Varun Nagpal from Tally Prime Solutions thanked Andhra Chamber for giving them an opportunity to present about the latest features to the members.

Ms Vijayalakshmi, Secretary General of Andhra Chamber proposed vote of thanks.

The programme was attended by 61 participants who found the programme very useful.

INAUGURATION OF DR V L DUTT HALL IN ANDHRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CHENNAI, ON THE 22ND FEBRUARY 2023

Andhra Chamber of Commerce has a legacy of its own, the only Chamber in South India having its presence in three States viz., Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Since its inception in 1928, it has been headed by 47 Presidents who have rendered selfless service for the growth of the Chamber. Dr V L Dutt has gone one step ahead and was instrumental in acquiring this building to the Chamber.

Dr Dutt was the President during the Golden Jubilee year of the Chamber. Dr Dutt was a well-known industrialist and philanthropist. Dr Dutt was not an individual but was an institution. He was a corporate statesman who inspired a whole generation of young entrepreneurs.

His successful ventures in various sectors like

Cement, Sugar, Heavy Industrial Machinery, Power Generation, IT and Hospitality are sheer examples that he was a great visionary and a stalwart in administration.

Dr Raj Singh, Regional Director of Ministry of Corporate Affairs inaugurated Dr V L Dutt Hall at the Andhra Chamber on the 22nd February 2023. Mr PS Kumar, Former President of Andhra Chamber and Director of KCP Ltd., & Mr S.B.Prabhakar Rao, EC Member of the Chamber gave the felicitation address, wherein they reminisced their association with Dr V L Dutt. It is a great pride and honour for the Chamber to have a hall in the name of Dr V L Dutt. The Office bearers, Executive Committee Members and industry members of the Andhra Chamber attended the function.



PROGRAMME ON MCA – PRESENT & FUTURE HELD ON THE 22ND FEBRUARY 2023 AT DR V L DUTT HALL, ANDHRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CHENNAI

Andhra Chamber of Commerce has organised a Programme on MCA – Present & Future on the 22nd February 2023.

Dr V L Indira Dutt, President of Andhra Chamber in her welcome address said that the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has travelled a long way from being a “Department of Company Affairs” as a part of Ministry of Law and Justice to become an Independent Ministry titled “Ministry of Corporate Affairs”. The timing of such promotion coincided with the opening of the Indian Economy which in turn led to boom in number of Companies incorporated. Today, MCA is one of the busiest Ministry taking up the role of modernization to a new peak.

The year 2016/2017 was a landmark year, wherein the MCA embarked upon digitalization. The migration process was painful. However, with the support of the then Software enablers, smooth transmission happened. E-filing was introduced for the first time. The existing records, to a maximum extent possible were scanned and stored in the website of the MCA. Gone are those days, when the employees of the Companies standing in long queue for filing, manual search at Registrar of Companies Office, piling up of files in the desk of the employees of the RoC. Ironically, a visitor has to remove the forms and files stacked up in the desk of the Officer, to look into his face. Presently, the office of the RoC is lean and perfect fit. The number of Companies blossom over the years.

Over the years, XBRL system was introduced for certain class of companies making it possible to analyze the data with ease. The disclosure content in the Financial Statements is now in par with international standards. CARO Report format was modified to suit the current needs. The MCA has taken the improvement as a continuous process rather than a one-time exercise.

In the meanwhile, MCA too faced issues with non-filers termed as “shell companies”. It is estimated that about 40% of the companies have not filed its yearly Annual Report and Return at one point in time. The cleaning up effort took about 2 years of hard work,

which led to striking off the companies who are non-compliant and its Directors disqualified for a period of 5 years.

Mr G Ramachandran, Chairman of Company Law subcommittee of the Chamber introduced the speaker Dr Raj Singh, Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Dr Raj Singh, Regional Director of MCA said that he feels delighted to come for this programme, as after he has taken over in South, this is the first interaction with the industry members of the Chamber.

MCA has amended the Companies Act to ensure that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is implemented in letter and spirit. He said that India is the first country in the world to create a legal framework on Corporate Social Responsibility and statutorily mandate for the companies to report on the same. The CSR provisions provide a robust framework for companies to partner in contributing to the Nation’s development challenges through leveraging their managerial skills, technology and innovation.

Now contribution to CSR activities has become mandatory and should be completed within a given time frame.

MCA has already taken steps to not only for transparent financial reporting but also for maintenance of accounting and financial records. MCA has enhanced the monetary ceiling of Small Companies.

His presentation was followed by Q & A session and he clarified all the points. He also said that the suggestions made by the members can be submitted as a recommendation through the Andhra Chamber so that it can be taken up with the Ministry.

Mr G Ramachandran, Chairman, Company Law subcommittee proposed vote of thanks.

The programme was attended by 60 plus industry members who found the interactive session very useful.



ACC & MMA JOINT SESSION ON “IMMERSIVE DIGITAL EXPERIENCE IN METAVERSE – APPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS” HELD ON THE 28TH FEBRUARY 2023,@V.L.DUTT HALL,CHENNAI.

Andhra Chamber of Commerce along with MMA organised the 103rd session on “Immersive Digital Experience in Metaverse – Applications for Business” on the 28th February 2023.

Ms Vijayalakshmi, Secretary General in her welcome address said that the next version of the internet is coming, and it's called the Metaverse. The Metaverse refers to an immersive and persistent three-dimensional virtual realm, shared with many users, that spans various digital platforms and merges with the physical world, where people can shop, work, play and hang out together in real time. How this is applicable in Business in a very interesting aspect. With this introduction, she welcomed the speaker and the participants to the programme.

Mr R R Padmanabhan, EC Member & Chairman, Foreign Trade & Skill Development subcommittee in his opening remarks said that Technology plays a major role in today's life and business people have to look into the positive side of Technology and use it to their advantage. This programme will throw light on this upcoming technology on Metaverse. He then introduced the speaker Dr Arunkumar M.Sampath who is a Principal Consultant from Tata Consultancy Services.

Dr Arunkumar M.Sampath in his presentation said that Metaverse is the Technology for future. Metaverse is used in various fields. As far as healthcare is concerned, Patients can get accurate information on the medical condition through an “immersive” experience, get second opinion from a different doctor/expert can be done virtually, irrespective of his/her location. Doctors can virtually look at a patient's medical condition, understand

treatment history, and suggest remedies, consult with each other BEFORE an actual surgery so they can practice/rehearse a surgery.

By using Metaverse, city planners and administration officials can virtually plan residential and commercial establishments to evaluate mass transportation needs, traffic patterns, etc.

People can do virtual shopping in a supermarket – Eg. Walmart – immersive shopping so that we understand the deals available and purchase according to our needs.

Dr Arunkumar further added that the web evolution has happened over a period of time from static to dynamic to the present, where one can have our own data in the web. Metaverse is used in the game development. He said that some of the content creators for Metaverse are Decentraland, Sandbox, AxieInfinity, Bloktopia.

By using MS AltaVista VR, we can host virtual events such as birthday parties or attend talk shows. Metaverse is going through the evolution phase now.

Metaverse with the onset of 6G networks comprising edge AI & Intelligence will be a game changer in future.

It was an interactive programme with participants raising many questions as they were inquisitive to know more about the privacy and protection of data in Metaverse etc., which was clarified by the speaker.

Mr Gautham, EC Member & Co Chairman, Renewable energy subcommittee proposed vote of thanks.

FREE CONSULTANCY SERVICE ON 11TH FEBRUARY 2023 @ CHAMBER'S CONFERENCE HALL, CHENNAI SAME AS PRINT BULLETIN CONTENT

Andhra Chamber of Commerce has been offering the Free Consultancy Service on every month with subject matter experts on various fields to the Members on the second Saturday of every month. Is was held at the registered office of the Chamber,

“Velagapudi Ramakrishna Bldg”, New No. 23, Third Cross Street, West CIT Nagar, Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035 @11.00 A.M. to 12.00 P.M. During January & February 2023.



India's Foreign Trade



India's Foreign Trade: February 2023

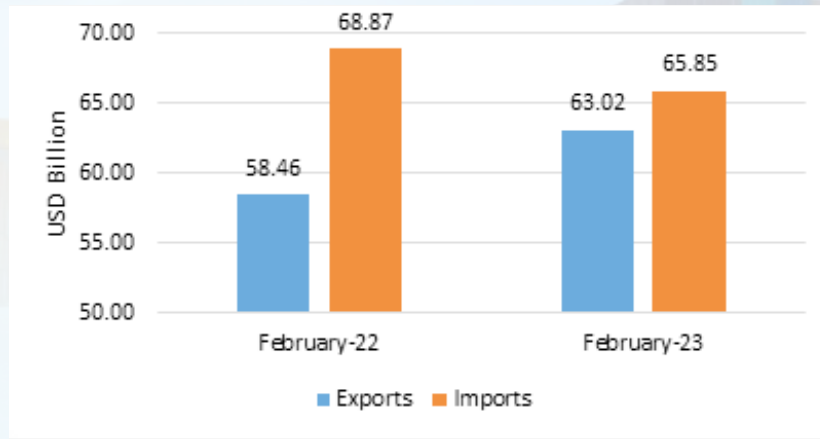
India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in February 2023* are estimated to be USD 63.02 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 7.81 per cent over the same period last year. Overall imports in February 2023* are estimated to be USD 65.85 Billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 4.38 per cent over the same period last year. Table 1: Trade during February 2023*

Table 1: Trade during February 2023

		February 2023 (USD Billion)	February 2022 (USD Billion)
Merchandise	Exports	33.88	37.15
	Imports	51.31	55.90
Services*	Exports	29.15	21.30
	Imports	14.55	12.97
Overall Trade	Exports	63.02	58.46
	Imports	65.85	68.87
(Merchandise + Services)*	Trade Balance	-2.83	-10.41

* Note: The latest data for services sector released by RBI is for January 2023. The data for February 2023 is an estimation, which will be revised based on RBI's subsequent release. (ii) Data for April-February 2021-22 and April-September 2022 has been revised on pro-rata basis using quarterly balance of payments data

Fig 1: Overall Trade during February 2022*

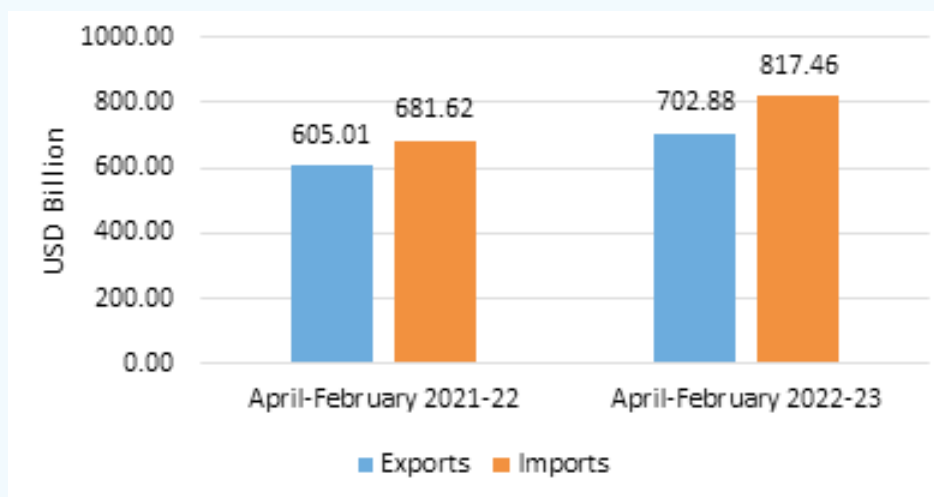


India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April-February 2022-23 is estimated to exhibit a positive growth of 16.18 per cent over the same period last year (April-February 2021-22). As India's domestic demand has remained steady amidst the global slump, overall imports in April-February 2022-23 is estimated to exhibit a growth of 19.93 per cent over the same period last year.

Table 2::Trade during April-February 2022*

		April-February 2022-23 (USD Billion)	April-February 2021-22 (USD Billion)
Merchandise	Exports	405.94	377.43
	Imports	653.47	549.96
Services*	Exports	296.94	227.58
	Imports	164.00	131.66
Overall Trade (Merchandise +Services)	Exports	702.88	605.01
	Imports	817.46	681.62
	Trade Balance	-114.58	-76.62

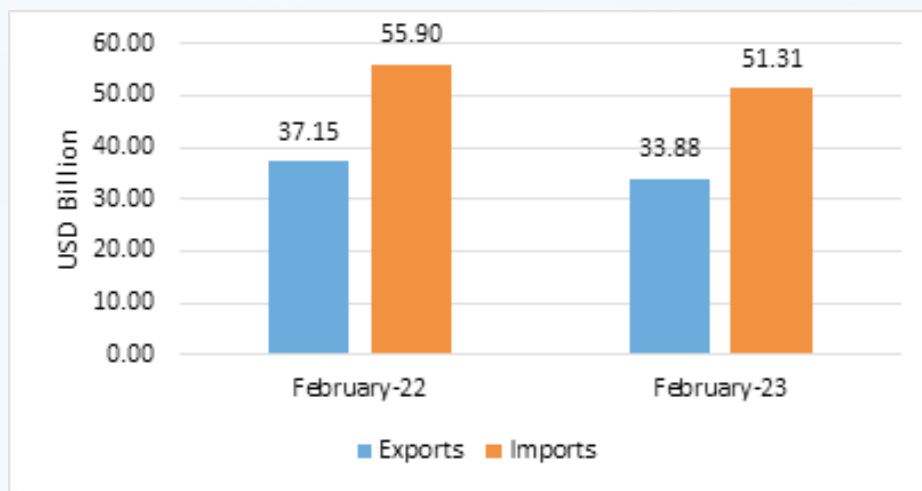
Fig 2: Overall Trade during April-February 2022-23*



MERCHANDISE TRADE

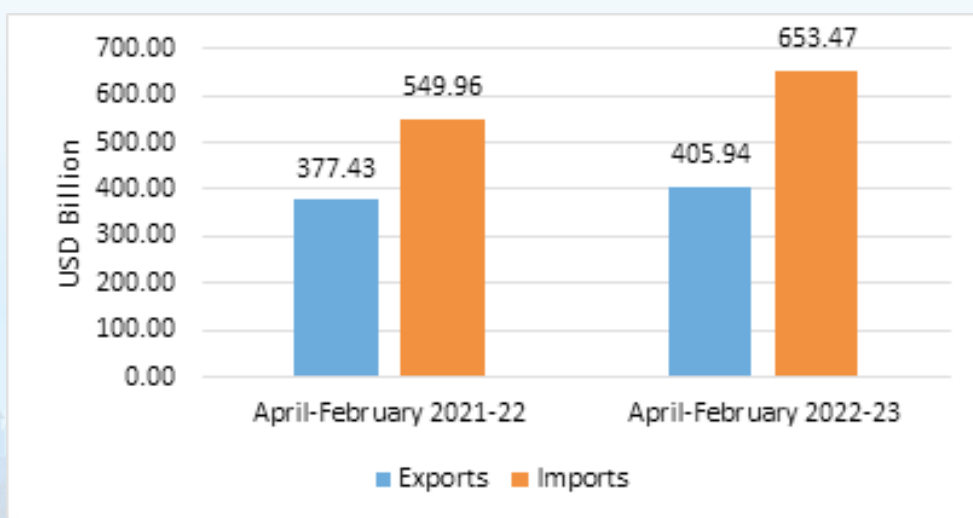
- Merchandise exports in February 2023 were USD 33.88 Billion, as compared to USD 37.15 Billion in February 2022.
- Merchandise imports in February 2023 were USD 51.31 Billion, as compared to USD 55.90 Billion in February 2022.

Fig 3: Merchandise Trade during February 2023



- Merchandise exports for the period April-February 2022-23 were USD 405.94 Billion as against USD 377.43 Billion during the period April-February 2021-22.
- Merchandise imports for the period April-February 2022-23 were USD 653.47 Billion as against USD 549.96 Billion during the period April-February 2021-22.
- The merchandise trade deficit for April-February 2022-23 was estimated at USD 247.52 Billion as against USD 172.53 Billion in April-February 2021-22.

Fig 4: Merchandise Trade during April-February 2022-23



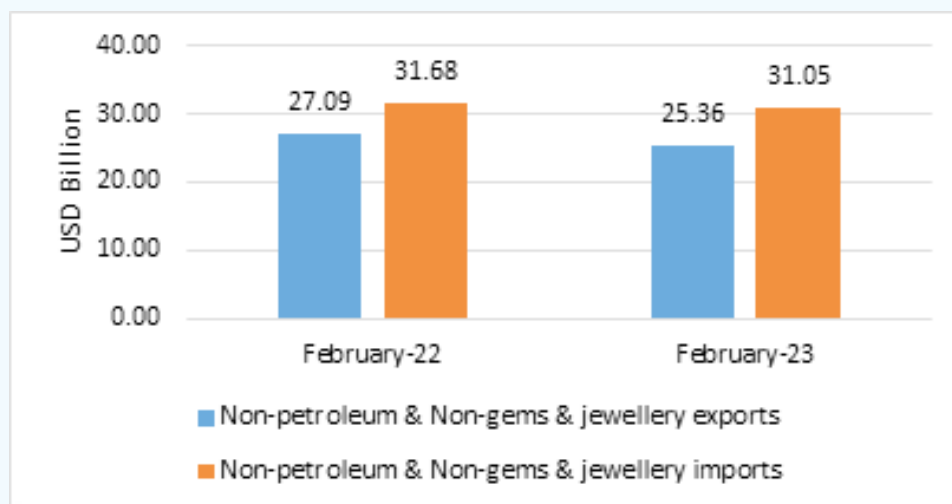
- Non-petroleum and non-gems & jewellery exports in February 2023 were USD 25.36 Billion, compared to USD 27.09 Billion in February 2022.
- Non-petroleum, non-gems & jewellery (gold, silver & precious metals) imports in February 2023 were USD 31.05 Billion, compared to USD 31.68 Billion in February 2022

Table 3: Trade excluding Petroleum and Gems & Jewellery during January 2023

	February 2023 (USD Billion)	February 2022 (USD Billion)
Non- petroleum export	28.96	30.26
Non- petroleum imports	36.23	40.14
Non-petroleum & Non Gems & Jewellery exports	25.36	27.09
Non-petroleum & Non Gems & Jewellery imports	31.05	31.68

Note: Gems & Jewellery Imports include Gold, Silver & Pearls, precious & Semi-precious stones

Fig 5: Trade excluding Petroleum and Gems & Jewellery during February 2023



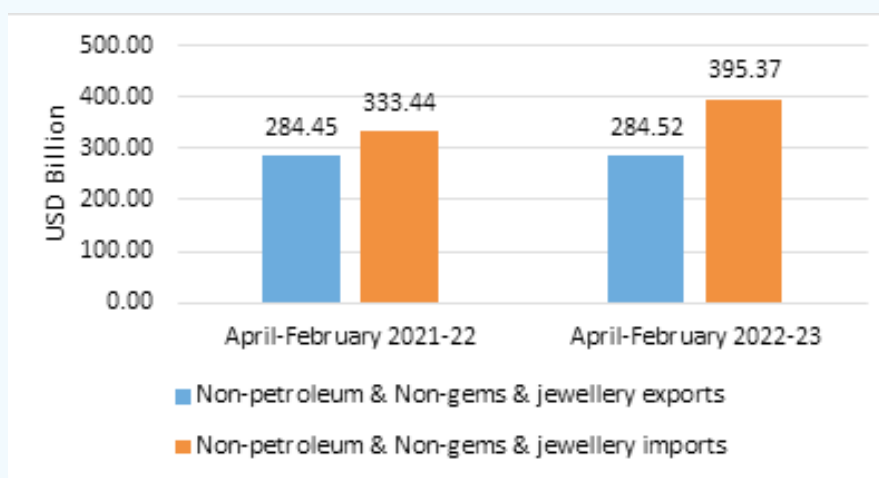
- Non-petroleum and non-gems & jewellery exports during April-February 2022-23 was USD 284.52 Billion, as compared to USD 284.45 Billion in April-February 2021-22.
- Non-petroleum, non-gems & jewellery (gold, silver & precious metals) imports were USD 395.37 Billion in April-February 2022-23 as compared to USD 333.44 Billion in April-February 2021-22.

Table 4: Trade excluding Petroleum and Gems & Jewellery during April-February 2022-23

	April-January 2022-23 (USD Billion)	April-January 2021-22 (USD Billion)
Non- petroleum export	319.73	319.77
Non- petroleum imports	459.99	409.30
Non-petroleum & Non Gems & Jewellery exports	284.52	284.45
Non-petroleum & Non Gems & Jewellery imports	395.37	333.44

Note: Gems & Jewellery Imports include Gold, Silver & Pearls, precious & Semi-precious stones

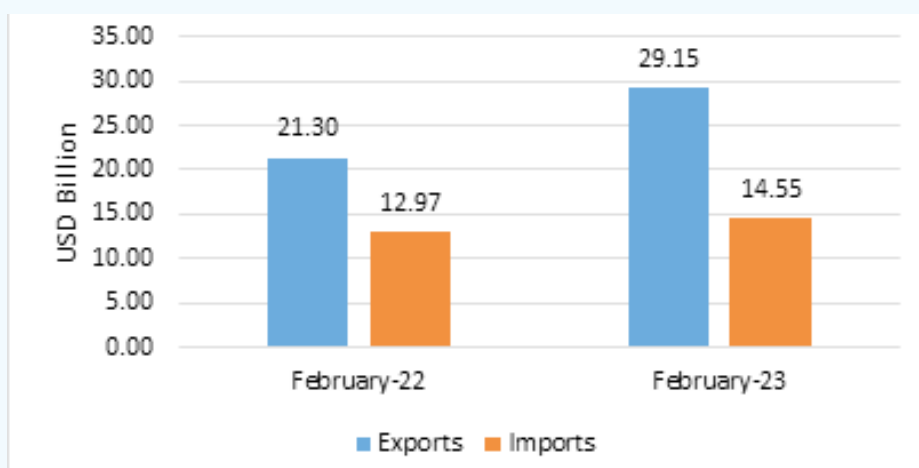
Fig 6: Trade excluding Petroleum and Gems & Jewellery during April-February 2022-23



SERVICES TRADE

- The estimated value of services export for February 2023* is USD 29.15 Billion, as compared to USD 21.30 Billion in February 2022.
- The estimated value of services import for February 2023* is USD 14.55 Billion as compared to USD 12.97 Billion in February 2022.

Fig 7: Services Trade during February 2023*

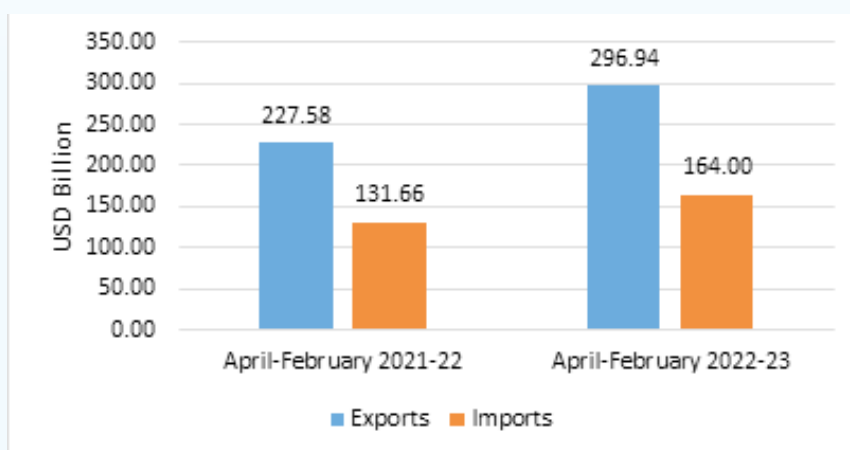


The estimated value of services export for April-February 2022-23* is USD 296.94 Billion as compared to USD 227.58 Billion in April-February 2021-22.

The estimated value of services imports for April-February 2022-23* is USD 164.00 Billion as compared to USD 131.66 Billion in April-February 2021-22.

The services trade surplus for April-February 2022-23* is estimated at USD 132.95 Billion as against USD 95.92 Billion in April-February 2021-22.

Fig 8: Services Trade during April-January 2022-23*



- In spite of strong global headwinds, with one month remaining in the current financial year, India's overall exports is projected to grow at 16.18 percent during April-February 2022-23 over same period last year (April-February 2021-22).
- Under merchandise exports, 14 of the 30 key sectors exhibited positive growth in February 2023 as compared to same period last year (February 2022). These include Oil Meals (220.96%), Iron Ore (51.37%), Spices (30.85%), Electronic Goods (29.85%), Fruits & Vegetables (17.42%), Gems & Jewellery (13.76%), Rice (11.75%), Ceramic Products & Glassware (11.5%), Other Cereals (10.65%), Oil Seeds (9.4%), Cereal Preparations & Miscellaneous Processed Items (5.22%), Marine Products (4.96%), Drugs & Pharmaceuticals (4.72%) and Mica, Coal & Other Ores, Minerals Including Processed Minerals (2.97%).
- Under merchandise exports, 17 of the 30 key sectors exhibited positive growth during April-February 2022-23 as compared to the same period last financial year (April-February 2021-22). These include Electronic Goods (49.54%), Petroleum Products (49.5%), Oil Meals (44.12%), Tobacco (34.3%), Cereal Preparations & Miscellaneous Processed Items (16.12%), Rice (15.88%), Oil Seeds (13.36%), Other Cereals (12.15%), Fruits & Vegetables (11.16%), Leather & Leather Products (11.08%), Tea (10.03%), Coffee (8.17%), Ceramic Products & Glassware (7.62%), Organic & Inorganic Chemicals (3.91%), Rmg of All Textiles (3.28%), Marine Products (3.19%) and Drugs & Pharmaceuticals (3.14%).
- Exports of Electronic goods increased by 29.85 percent during February 2023 at USD 1.93 Billion as compared to USD 1.48 Billion in February 2022. During April – February 2022-23 electronic goods exports were recorded at USD 20.70 Billion as compared to USD 13.84 Billion during the same period last year registering a growth of 49.54 percent.
- Effect of duty withdrawal on Iron Ore is visible on India's exports of the item which have exhibited positive growth of 51.37 percent during February 2023 over the same month in 2022.

- Textiles, Plastic & Linoleum exports continued to decline in February 2023 because of subdued demand due to recessionary effects in major economies.
- Under merchandise imports, 16 out of 30 key sectors exhibited negative growth in February 2023. These include Silver (-97.31%), Fertilisers, Crude & Manufactured (-59.29%), Sulphur & Unroasted Iron Pyrites (-54.27%), Gold (-44.92%), Metaliferrous Ores & Other Minerals (-30.16%), Cotton Raw & Waste (-26.47%), Dyeing/Tanning/Colouring Materials (-23.15%), Pearls, Precious & Semi-Precious Stones (-20.86%), Leather & Leather Products (-15.38%), Textile Yarn Fabric, Made-Up Articles (-12.29%), Electronic Goods (-11.09%), Organic & Inorganic Chemicals (-5.55%), Petroleum, Crude & Products (-4.27%), Vegetable Oil (-2.48%), Pulses (-0.13%) and Non-Ferrous Metals (-0.05%).
- Under merchandise imports, 5 of the 30 key sectors exhibited negative growth in April-February 2022-23 as compared to the same period last financial year (April- February 2021-22). These include Gold (-29.71%), Sulphur & Unroasted Iron Pyrites (-25.83%), Pulses (-15.66%), Medicinal & Pharmaceutical Products (-10.54%) and Dyeing/Tanning/Colouring Materials (-1.52%).
- Gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit, declined by 44.92 per cent to USD 2.63 Billion in February 2023 in comparison to USD 4.78 Billion in February 2022. Similarly, silver imports slumped by 97.31 percent from USD 0.48 Billion in February 2022 to USD 0.01 Billion in February 2023.
- Merchandise exports growth for the period April-February 2022-23 remain impressive at 7.55 percent as against the same period last financial year (April-February 2021-22).
- Services exports remain strong and projected to grow at 30.48 percent during April-February 2022-23 over same period last year (April-February 2021-22)



GST

VAT

MADRAS HIGH COURT JUDGMENTS IN

VAT CST GST



Shri V.V. Sampathkumar
Chairman, Indirect Taxes Sub-Committee, ACC

APPEAL, DELAY IN FILING : Appellate Authority cannot entertain the statutory appeal if the said appeal has been filed by the petitioner beyond the maximum period of 60 days as per the TNVAT Act 2006. Only due to the technical glitches in the web portal of the respondents, petitioner was unable to file the statutory appeal within the prescribed maximum time limit of 60 days. The Court directed the petitioner to file the statutory appeal within a period of one week from the date of receipt of a copy of this order along with the mandatory pre-deposit statutory amount. **S.Jayaraman vs 1.ADC(ST), Chennai (East) 2. AC(ST), Adyar Assessment Circle W.P. No.6050 of 2023 DATED: 28.02.2023**

ATTACHMENT OF PROPERTY : Giving due consideration to Section 19-B of the TNGST Act that, only in cases where the Company has been wound up, the properties belonging to the Directors of the said Company can be attached or proceeded with vide DB Judgment of this Court in **R.Vasinathan and Others Vs. CTO (FAC), Ambattur Assessment Circle, Chennai and Another [2009 (23) VST 82 (Mad)]. 1.Shanthamanie 2.S.R.Ramakhanthun Vs. 1.AC (ST), Thudialur Assessment Circle, (Allotted to AC (ST), Perinaickenpalayam Circle, Coimbatore). 2.Sub**

Registrar, Perinaickenpalayam, 3.Manager, City Union Bank, Pappanaickenpalayam Branch, W.P.No.29869 of 2019 DATED: 27.02.2023

RECTIFICATION : Impugned orders passed u/s 84 of the TNVAT Act, 2006. There is no enhancement of assessment or penalty and therefore, there is no necessity for the respondent to adhere to the principles of natural justice as claimed by the petitioner in these WPs. **K.Subramani Vs. AC (ST), Singanallur North Circle, Coimbatore.W.P.Nos.4796 and 4800 of 2023 DATED :27.02.2023**

WP AGAINST NOTICE : Respondents submitted that the present WP is not maintainable on the ground that the petitioner has challenged the show cause notice(SCN) even without submitting a detailed reply to the same and that the contention of the petitioner as raised in this WP can be considered only after they send a reply to the impugned SCN and not before that. Stating so, this WP was disposed of by directing the petitioner to submit an additional reply to the respondents, within 3 weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. **M/s.Liberty Clothing Company Vs 1.Union of India, 2.State of TN, 3.DC, CGST and CE, Tirupur Division W.P. No.2924 of 2023 DATED : 03.02.2023**



NO VIOLATION OF PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL JUSTICE:

This Writ Petition filed challenging an order, levying interest and penalty on the petitioner. Petitioner has challenged the impugned order stating that the impugned order is contrary to the principle laid down in the Judgment rendered in W.P.No.4468 of 2020 in the case of M/s.Maansarovar Motors P Ltd Vs. AC, Poonamallee Divn, Chennai Outer Commissionerate, Chennai and Others; The Court ruled that as there is no violation of principles of natural justice. Hence, the Writ Petition is not maintainable. When Petitioner submitted that they are willing to file the Statutory Appeal as against the impugned order, if time is granted to file the same. Hon'ble Court granted one month time to the petitioner to file the Statutory Appeal with directions. **M/s.Makesh Kumar Mills Pvt Ltd., Vs. AC (ST), Tiruppur Central-II Circle. W.P. No. 4923 of 2023 DATED : 21.02.2023.**

GRANTING AN OPPORTUNITY OF HEARING : Proviso to Section 84 of the TNVAT Act, 2006 makes it clear that only in cases where the authority decides to revise the assessment, there is a necessity for granting an opportunity of hearing. In the case on hand, the authority, while deciding the petitions filed under Section 84(1) of the TNVAT Act, 2006, has not revised the earlier assessment orders passed by the respondents and therefore, has rightly not granted any opportunity of hearing. First respondent has also observed that having not exercised the statutory appeal as directed by this Court in its order dated 18.06.2019 passed in W.P. No.6309 of 2017, the petitions filed u/s 84(1) of the TNVAT Act, 2006, seeking for rectification of the assessment orders cannot be entertained under any circumstances whatsoever. This Court does not find any merit in this WP and the consequential Auction Notice dated 07.02.2023, which is impugned in this WP also does not deserve any interference. **M/s. Poovai Amman Agencies vs 1.STO, Kallakurichi. 2.Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd, Credit Recovery and Management Dept, Kumbakonam-1 W.P. No.4788 of 2023 DATED: 20.02.2023**

BANK ACCOUNT ATTACHMENT : When an appeal has already been filed. It is still pending. Statutory pre-deposit amount has also been made by the petitioner and that too, when the first respondent has already recovered the tax liability amount from the petitioner, as per the assessment orders, no further sums can be recovered by the first respondent from the petitioner. Hence, this WP was disposed of by directing the third respondent to pass final orders on merits and in accordance with law on the petitioner's statutory appeal dated 13.04.2021 filed challenging the assessment orders within a period of 12 weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. Till the final orders are passed by the statutory appellate authority, no coercive steps shall be taken against the petitioner pursuant to the impugned proceedings dated 13.02.2023 for the recovery of the amounts mentioned therein. Since the first respondent has already recovered the tax liability amount and that too, when the statutory appeal is pending consideration, by the third respondent viz., statutory appellate authority, the attachments effected on the petitioner's bank account maintained with the second respondent is directed to be lifted and the petitioner is permitted to operate their bank account maintained with the second respondent bank. **Hotel Sakithyan vs. 1.AC (Sales Tax), T.Nagar Assessment Circle 2.Branch Manager, IOB, Chennai-17. 3.Appellate DC of CT, Chennai (East). (R3 impleaded Suo Motu vide order of Court dt 20.02.2023). W.P.No.4976 of 2023 DATED: 20.02.2023**

NATURAL JUSTICE : Since the personal hearing has not been afforded to the petitioner before issuing the impugned proceedings, it is clear that principles of natural justice has been violated by the respondent. Hence, the impugned assessment orders have to be quashed and the matters will have to be remanded back to the respondent for fresh consideration on merits and in accordance with law. **Sri Murugan Electrical Stores Vs. AC (ST) (FAC), Namakkal (Rural) Assessment Circle W.P.Nos.767 etc of 2022 DATED : 20.02.2023**



OPPORTUNITY : A decision rendered by a learned Single Judge of this Court on 31.08.2020 in W.P.(MD).Nos.8133 of 2020, etc., batch, while interpreting Section 75 (4) of the TNGST Act, 2017, it has been observed that only after a reply is sent by the assessee, the Authority can apply its mind and if they contemplate an adverse decision they must provide an opportunity of hearing. Learned Single Judge has also observed that issuing a personal hearing notice even prior to the receipt of the explanation from the petitioner cannot be said to be in compliance of Section 75 (4) of the TNGST Act, 2017. Hence, the Hon'ble Court ruled that the principles of natural justice has been violated by the respondent before passing of the impugned assessment order. Stating so, the impugned assessment orders were quashed and the matters are remanded back for fresh consideration on merits and in accordance with law. **Shree Shyam Granites and Marbles Vs. AC (ST) (FAC), Hosur (South) - III Circle W.P.Nos.4105, 4110 and 4108 of 2023 DATED : 13.02.2023**

NON-SPEAKING ORDERS : No personal hearing was afforded to the petitioner and by a non-speaking order, the impugned assessment orders have been passed and the respondents have levied tax and penalty on the ground of short reporting by the petitioner in their monthly return under the TNVAT Act 2006. The impugned assessment orders, having been passed by violating the principles of natural justice and being non-speaking orders with regard to the contentions of the petitioner as seen from their reply, were

quashed and the matters remanded back to the first respondent for fresh consideration, on merits and in accordance with law. **M/s.Scope International P Ltd vs.1.CTO (ST), Nungambakkam Assessment Circle, 2.AC, Nungambakkam Assessment Circle, 3.Commissioner of CT, Chennai-5. W.P. Nos.3662 and 3663 of 2023 DATED: 10.02.2023.**

ORDERS GOES BEYOND SCN : Proposal notices sent to the petitioner on different dates were for different amounts, but in the impugned Assessment Orders, the tax liability of the petitioner is much more than the figure mentioned in the proposals sent to the petitioner. The petitioners' submitted that a clarification Circular, dated 20.04.2001 (para 13) issued by the Commissioner of CT stated that the order shall not be passed assessing a turnover different from the one proposed in the notice. If the Assessment Order goes beyond the show cause notice, the said Assessment Order is bad in law. Court held that principles of natural justice has been violated before passing of the impugned Assessment order and the impugned Assessment Orders were quashed and the matter remanded back for fresh consideration on merits and in accordance with law. **M/s.Eagle Earth Movers vs 1. STO, Tiruchengode Town Assessment Circle, 2.AC (ST) (FAC), Tiruchengode Rural Assessment Circle, W.P. Nos.10294, 10337 and 10350 of 2020 DATED: 09.02.2023**

(The views expressed are solely of the author)



GI TAG FOR VELLORE BRINJAL AND RAMANATHAPURAM MUNDU CHILLI



Mr. R R Padmanabhan
*Chairman, Foreign Trade and Skill Development
Sub-Committees of the Chamber.*

In my posts on Indian agriculture, I have always been arguing for getting Geographical Indications (GI) tag for our products. Our products are unique, have distinct taste and characteristics. These should be made available to world markets through appropriate market linkage. Both Vellore Brinjal and Ramanathapuram Chilli are from Tamilnadu and have been granted GI tag recently.

Vellore Brinjal is spiny allover, pink in colour with little green on the crown is quite distinct for its soft pulp that goes inside our mouths like butter. Weighing 40 grams approximately, it has a shelf life of 3 days in room temperature and 8 days in refrigeration. Known locally as elavambadi Mullu (thorny in English) brinjal, it is native to the Vellore district. Vellore district is known for sunny weather almost year-round and is water starved. The vegetable is drought resistant and suitable for similar weather condition. Though exact figures are not available at the moment about the extent of land and quantity cultivated, with GI tag in its fold, the cultivation is bound to go up. But market linkage should also be taken up immediately, that assures the farmer a fixed price.



Similarly, Ramanathapuram Red Mundu Chilli also obtained GI tag. It is a low input crop and using seeds of previous crop, a case of circular economy! It is being exported to US, Thailand, Japan, Nepal, Europe and Sri Lanka. It is cultivated in Tiruvadanaï, RS Mangalam, Mudakalathur, Kadaladi and Kamuthi taluks of Ramanathapuram district.

(THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE SOLELY OF THE AUTHOR)

Impact of AI (Artificial Intelligence) & ML (Machine Learning) in your business



Article by **Mr. S. Prakash**
Co-Founder of See change Consulting

AI (Artificial Intelligence) & ML (Machine Learning) are the 2 hot topics that every Business owner needs to grapple with. Whether you like it don't like it, the topic will stare at your face, more and more, in times to come.

Let us look at how AI & ML are going to impact (or, already impacting) your business and what you can do to adapt to this faster.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are transforming the way businesses operate and make decisions. Let us look at some of the ways how AI & ML are impacting businesses today:

Automation : AI and ML are being used to automate repetitive and time-consuming tasks, such as data entry and customer service. This allows businesses to free up their employees to focus on more high-value tasks.

Personalization : AI and ML algorithms can analyze large amounts of customer data to provide personalized recommendations and experiences. This can improve customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Predictive Analytics : AI and ML can be used to analyze large amounts of data and make predictions about future outcomes. This can help businesses make more informed decisions about sales forecasting, inventory management, and marketing strategies.

Fraud Detection : AI and ML can be used to identify fraudulent activity, such as credit card fraud, in real-time. This can save businesses money and protect their reputation.

Supply Chain Optimization: AI and ML can be used to optimize supply chain operations by analyzing data from suppliers, manufacturers, and logistics providers. This can help businesses reduce costs and improve efficiency.

Overall, AI and ML are enabling businesses to become more efficient, effective, and customer-centric. However, businesses must also be mindful of the ethical considerations surrounding the use of these technologies, such as data privacy and bias.

As Business owners, what is that we can do to step up? Here are some key considerations:

Educate yourself : Business owners should take the

time to understand the basic principles of AI and ML and how they can be applied to their business. This includes understanding the potential benefits, risks, and limitations of these technologies.

Identify opportunities: Business owners should identify areas where AI and ML could be applied to improve their business operations. This might involve analyzing existing processes, data, and customer feedback to identify opportunities for automation, personalization, or predictive analytics.

Evaluate vendors: Business owners should research and evaluate AI and ML vendors to identify those that offer solutions that align with their business goals and needs. This includes evaluating vendors based on factors such as their technology capabilities, experience, and track record.

Build a data strategy: AI and ML require large amounts of data to function effectively. Business owners should develop a data strategy that ensures they have access to the data they need and that it is of high quality. This may involve investing in data collection and management tools and developing data governance policies.

Train employees: AI and ML require specialized skills and knowledge. Business owners should invest in training and development programs to help their employees acquire the necessary skills to work with these technologies.

Monitor and evaluate: Business owners should monitor the performance of AI and ML solutions and evaluate their impact on business outcomes. This can help to identify areas where improvements can be made and ensure that the technology is delivering value to the business.

By taking these steps, business owners can prepare themselves and their businesses to adapt to AI and ML technologies and leverage them to improve their operations, customer experiences, and overall performance.

It is still early days and those who jump into this bandwagon faster, would adapt better and keep growing

(The views expressed are solely of the author)

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

NUMBERS FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS (BASE 2016=100)

S. No.	State	Centre	JAN 2023
1	AP	Guntur	140.4
2		Nellore	132.9
3		Visakhapatnam	147.3
4	ASM	Biswanath-Chariali	135
5		Doom-DoomaTinsukia	146.7
6		Guwahati	146.3
7		Labac-Silchar	132.1
8		Numaligarh-Golaghat	137.2
9		Sibsagar	136.5
10	BIH	Munger-Jamalpur	132.5
11		Patna	132.5
12	CHD	Chandigarh	139.3
13	CHS	Bhilai	122.3
14		Korba	137
15		Raipur	128.2
16	DNH	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	124.8
17	DLI	Delhi	128.2
18	GOA	Goa	128
19	GUJ	Ahmedabad	126.2
20		Bhavnagar	128.9
21		Rajkot	133.2
22		Surat	125.8
23		Vadodara	125.7
24	HRY	Faridabad	133.7
25		Gurugram	133.9
26		Yamunanagar	134.2
27	HP	Himachal Pradesh	130.2
28	J&K	Jammu & Kashmir	136.4
29	JRK	Bokaro	126.4
30		Dhanbad-Jharia	136.3
31		Jamshedpur	142.9
32		Ramgarh	135.1
33	KNT	Belgaum	135.8
34		Bengaluru	125.5
35		Chikmagalur	126.2
36		Davanagere	137.6
37		Hubli-Dharwad	128.3
38		Mercara-Kodagu	130.6
39		Mysore	132.7
40	KRL	Ernakulam/Alwaye	134.2
41		Idukki	136.1
42		Kollam	133.2
43	MP	Bhopal	127.8
44		Chhindwara	130.5
45		Indore	125.3
46		Jabalpur	133.1

S. No.	State	Centre	JAN 2023
47	MHR	Mumbai	124.8
48		Nagpur	132.9
49		Nasik	124.4
50		Pune	123.4
51		Solapur	138.9
52		Thane	125.1
53	MEG	Shillong	144.8
54	ODI	Angul-Talchar	142.1
55		Cuttack	140.7
56		Keonjhar	141.3
57	PUD	Puducherry	140.3
58	PUN	Amritsar	126.6
59		Jalandhar	139.5*
60		Ludhiana	137.6
61		Sangrur	132.7
62	RJN	Alwar	127.1
63		Bhilwara	129.9
64		Jaipur	126.7
65	TN	Chennai	131.9
66		Coimbatore	130.0
67		Coonoor	131.2
68		Madurai	138.5
69		Salem	132.4
70		Tirunelveli	141.6
71		Virudhu Nagar	132.5
72	TEL	Hyderabad	132.6
73		Mancheriyal	144.5*
74		Warangal	135.6
75	TRP	Tripura	132.0
76	UP	Agra	136.9
77		Ghaziabad/G.B.Nagar	134.8
78		Kanpur	135.3
79		Lucknow	138.8
80		Varanasi	134.8
81	UTK	Udham Singh Nagar	142.5
82	WB	Darjeeling	125.4
83		Durgapur	134.9
84		Haldia	121.9
85		Howrah	134.7
86		Jalpaiguri	132.2
87		Kolkata	137.8
88		Raniganj	141.2
ALL INDIA INDEX			132.8

1. The CPI-IW for the month of February 2023 will be re-released on 31st March, 2023.

2. E-Mail Address : cpiwcr@gmail.com; website: <http://www.labourbureaunew.gov.in>

* Rounded up from second decimal place.



Picture Gallery

Programme on “Union Budget 2023-24” held on the 3rd February 2023
in Hotel Savera, Chennai.



Program on Union Budget 2023-2024 organised by Andhra Chamber of Commerce, Telangana State Chapter on Friday, February 3, 2023 in Hyderabad



Program on “Union Budget 2023-2024” held on the 4 th February 2023 in Triveni Hall at Hotel Daspalla. Visakhapatnam



Programme on “Tally Prime - (All About E-Way, E-invoicing, Edit Log)” held on the 15th February 2023 @ Chamber’s Conference Hall, Chennai.



Inauguration of Dr V L Dutt Hall in Andhra Chamber of Commerce,
Chennai, on the 22nd February 2023



Programme on MCA – Present & Future held on the 22nd February 2023 at
Dr V L Dutt Hall, Andhra Chamber of Commerce, Chennai



ACC & MMA Joint Session on “Immersive Digital Experience in Metaverse – Applications for Business” held on the 28th February 2023, @V.L.Dutt hall, Chennai.



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AT THUTHIPET

RS No. 129/4, Vazhuthavur Main Road, Thuthipet,
Villiannur Commune, Pondicherry - 605 502.

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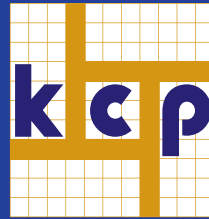
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