



GST Conclave 2025 Held in Kochi Ahead of 8th GST Day Celebrations

Posted On: 16 JUN 2025 5:28 PM by PIB Thiruvananthapuram

As part of the upcoming 8th GST Day celebrations on 1st July 2025, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Thiruvananthapuram Zone, organised GST Conclave 2025 on 16 June 2025 at Taj Vivanta, Marine Drive, Kochi. The conclave was a key event of the nationwide GST Pakhwada (16–30 June 2025), being observed with the objective of engaging with taxpayers and strengthening compliance facilitation across India.



The Chief Guest, Shri R. Venkataramani, Attorney General of India, addressed a distinguished gathering comprising legal experts, members of trade and industry, professional bodies, and taxpayers. In his keynote address, Shri Venkataramani reflected on the evolving role of GST law in shaping India's taxation system, and provided a comparative overview of global taxation frameworks, emphasizing the

influence of economic, cultural, and political contexts on tax design. He highlighted the challenges India overcame in implementing the Goods and Services Tax, after years of deliberations, and lauded it as a revolutionary step towards eliminating complexities in the previous indirect tax regime. Underscoring the vision of "One Nation, One Tax, One Market", he noted that GST is not just a fiscal reform, but a transformative step for economic unification.



Shri Venkataramani also stressed the importance of continued efforts in legal clarity, enforcement, and administrative reform. He observed that while discussions on ease of doing business are important, the true test lies in translating them into action. He concluded by stating that India's democratic framework, which guarantees liberty and freedom, played a significant role in enabling such large-scale policy innovation. He invoked historical perspectives, referencing Kautilya and ancient economic thought, and traced how taxation systems have evolved globally. He acknowledged that the journey of GST in India has not been without pitfalls and criticisms, but stressed the importance of moving forward with optimism, viewing GST as a tool not only for domestic economic consolidation, but also for addressing global challenges and inequalities.

The Guest of Honour, Shri Rajendra Kumar P., Chairman, Indirect Taxes Committee, ICAI, highlighted the need for further simplification of compliance procedures under GST. He reiterated ICAI's role in capacity building for professionals and taxpayers and its ongoing contribution to nation-building through knowledge dissemination and support.

A special address was delivered by Shri Shailendra Kumar, CEO and Founder Editor of Tax India Online (TIOL), focusing on the theme of the GST Day: "GST – Simplifying Taxes: Empowering Citizens." He reflected on the evolution of tax discourse in India, stressing the value of constructive criticism in shaping tax reforms. His session included a critical look at tax exemptions and their impact on equity within the tax system.

The conclave opened with a welcome address by Shri S.K. Rahman, Chief Commissioner, Central Tax, Central Excise & Customs, Thiruvananthapuram Zone. His address set the tone for an interactive and insightful day, bringing together various stakeholders in India's taxation ecosystem.

The conclave saw enthusiastic participation from around 200 stakeholders, including taxpayers, legal counsels, trade bodies, industry associations, and departmental officers. It served as a platform for meaningful dialogue and reaffirmed the collective commitment of government institutions, industry bodies, and civil society towards strengthening the GST framework in India.
