

'T' app to address GST cup of woes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: It is not only businesses that are struggling to cope with the nitty-gritty of the new Goods & Services Tax (GST) regime. Consumers too have their fair share of woes with regard to numerous bills they have to pay at various establishments as many a time they feel they are being overcharged. In order to address this issue and also bring in more transparency, the Telangana government is set to launch an app - TGST - to empower citizens.

The app, which is in the beta version, is being developed in partnership with IIT-Hyderabad and is expected to be rolled out soon, said Telangana principal secretary (commercial tax and excise) Somesh Kumar, adding that Telangana will probably be the first in the country to come up with such an app. Kumar said, "You just have to download the app...and all you need to do is to take a pho-



Former CBEC chairman Dutt Majumder (left) greets principal secretary (CT & Excise) Somesh Kumar at a national conference on 'GST-Post Implementation Issues' jointly organised by FTAPCCI and Assocham in the city on Thursday

to of the bill, which gets automatically uploaded to our server. We process it and give you feedback if the correct taxes have been levied, whether the dealer is enrolled with us or not etc. It will also help us know what business the dealer has done. You have paid the bill/taxes but if that has been accounted for by the dealer in his returns or not is something we don't know. So

the app will bring more transparency." On the tax collections by the state post GST, Kumar, who was speaking at the sidelines of a conference on 'GST - Post Implementation Issues' organised by FTapcci here, said that Telangana has collected around ₹2,800 crore (which includes state GST and integrated GST that goes to other states) in the first two

months and expects collections to "stabilise" in the coming two months. "In Telangana, 83,000 new tax payers came into the tax bracket Under GSTR - 3B, which is the main return (form) in which payments are made. We had 55 lakh people file their returns for the month of July. It is no mean achievement. If you look at Telangana earlier, during VAT... out of 2.2 lakh registered dealers, there were only 77,000 dealers who used to pay tax...", he said. Kumar agreed that businesses are facing glitches while filing returns on the GST network (GSTN) for which the government has set up a council that is looking into all the issues. However, he urged tax payers not to wait till the eleventh hour to file returns on GSTN as it caused a lot of stress. He said the GST Council must try to further streamline tax on government contracts, which are now being taxed at 12%.

Keep track of the GST you pay

Telangana government to launch GST mobile app soon

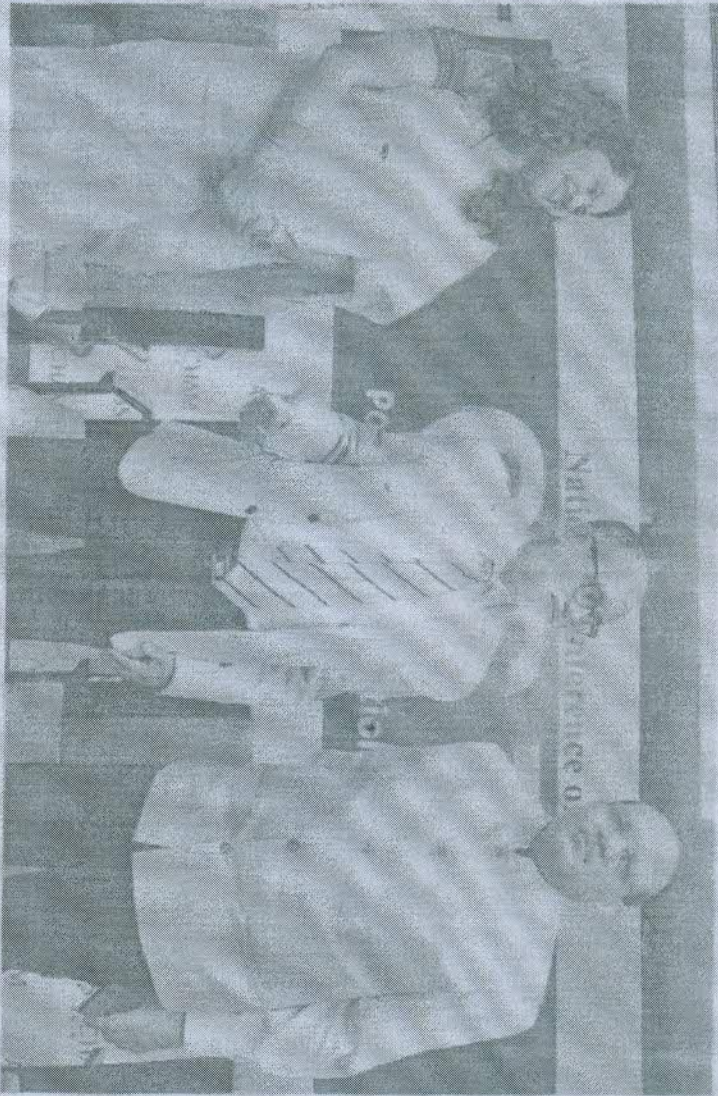
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

A mobile app to help consumers verify the rate of GST levied on the product they purchase, or the service they access, and to assist the tax authorities in crackdown on enterprises retaining the tax they collect, is to be launched soon by the Telangana government.

The Commercial Taxes Department and IIT-Hyderabad have developed the TGST app and its beta version is available. Principal Secretary-Commercial Tax and Excise Somesh Kumar said here on Thursday.

Explaining the benefits, Mr. Somesh Kumar said a consumer needs to merely upload a photo of the bill issued to them by an enterprise on the app. The photo gets "automatically uploaded to the server and then (the bill) is processed by us. The consumer gets a feedback on whether the enterprise was enrolled under GST and was charging the correct rate."

It would bring in more transparency and act like a feedback mechanism. The app would also provide information on whether the enterprise had opted for the composition scheme under



Somesh Kumar, Principal Secretary-Commercial Tax and Excise, S. Dutt Majumder, former Chairman of CBEC and Manjula D. Hosmani, Additional Commissioner-GST (Ranga Reddy), at a conference of GST in the city on Thursday. •K.M.S. GIRI

GST, he said. Firms that have opted for scheme are not supposed to levy tax, including a hotel. Mr. Kumar said in an interaction with press persons on the sidelines of a conference on 'GST - Post Implementation Issues'. Earlier, addressing the conference organised by industry body ASSOCHAM, the senior official said it has been 100 days since the roll-

out of GST and revenue income was improving. The GST Council, he added, was addressing issues concerning the exporters as well as small and medium enterprises. In two months, ₹2,800 crore had been collected in the State, he said.

Additional Commissioner-GST (Rangareddy) Manjula D. Hosmani said at the conference that the government was aware and reacting proactively to the concerns related to GST. As of October 5, of the 2.21 lakh registered assesses under GST, around 1.37 lakh had filed their GSTR-3B, she said, advising them to avoid last minute rush in filing returns. Former Chairman of CBEC S. Dutt Majumder said GST is a work in progress and the glitches were being addressed.

For transparency

Commercial Taxes Department and IIT-Hyderabad developed the TGST app

Its beta version already available

HOW DOES IT WORK?

A consumer has to upload a photo of the bill issued to them by an enterprise on the app

The photo gets automatically uploaded to the server and the bill is processed by the Commercial Taxes Department

The consumer gets a feedback on whether the enterprise has enrolled under GST and is charging the correct rate

The app to also provide information on whether the enterprise has opted for the composition scheme under GST

