GOODS AND SERVICES TAX NETWORK

PRESS RELEASE

GSTN opens up the doors for GST Suvidha Provider's (GSPs)

Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) making a remarkable development, today announced the final roadmap, process guidelines and implementation framework for IT/ITES/BFSI companies to become GSPs.

Marked as a remarkable development by GSTN, today the GSTN Chairman Shri Navin Kumar announced the completion of policy formulation and laying out of implementation framework for all the deserving IT/ITES/BFSI companies to become GSPs. The detail implementation framework can be perused publically on website at www.gstn.org/ecosystem/index.php.

It is expected that the GSPs shall provide the tax payers with all services mentioned above in addition to maintaining their individual business ledgers (sales ledger and purchase ledger) and other value added services around the same. Another important service expected from GSPs is the automatic reconciliation of purchase made and entered in the purchase register and data downloaded in the form of GSTR-2 from the GST portal. In additional there will be sector-specific or trade specific needs which the GSPs are expected to fulfil.
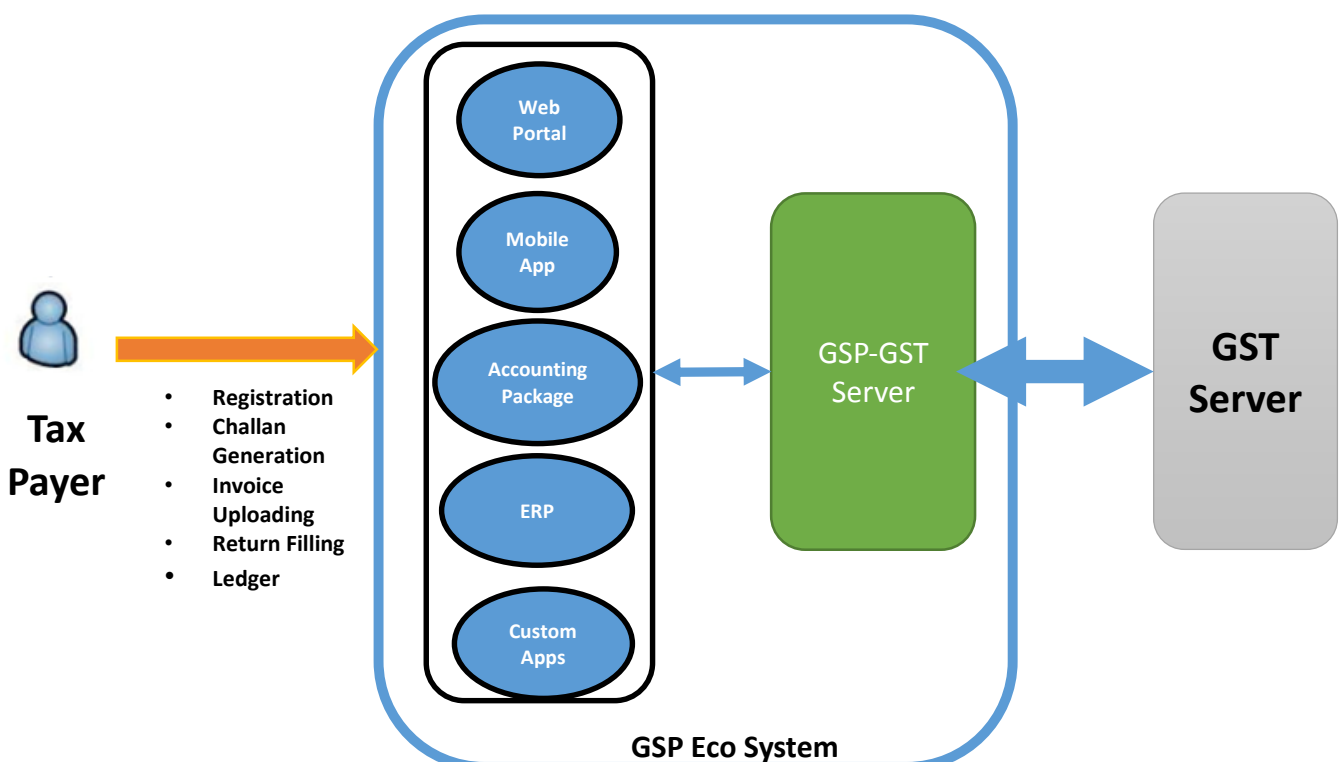
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The GST System is going to have a G2B portal for taxpayers to access the GST Systems, however, that would not be the only way for interacting with the GST system as the taxpayer via his choice of third party applications, which will provide all user interfaces and convenience via desktop, mobile, other interfaces, will be able to interact with the GST system. The third party applications will connect with GST system via secure GST System APIs. All such applications are expected to be developed by third party service providers who have been given a generic name, GST Suvidha Provider or GSP. The GSPs are envisaged to provide innovative and convenient methods to taxpayers and other stakeholders in interacting with the GST Systems from registration of entity to uploading of invoice details to filing of returns. Thus there will be two sets of interactions, one between the App user and the GSP and the second between the GSP and the GST System. It is envisaged that App provider and GSP could be the same entity. Another version could where data in required format directly goes to GSP-GST Server.

Tax payers' convenience will be a key in success of GST regime. The tax payer should have a choice to use third party applications which can provide varied interfaces on desktops, laptops and mobiles and can connect with GST System. The GSP developed apps will connect with the GST system via secure GST system APIs. Majority of GST system functionalities related to taxpayers' GST compliance requirements shall be available to the GSP through APIs. GSPs may use GST APIs and enrich and enhance the tax payers' experience.

Navin Kumar, Chairman, Goods and Services Tax Network

Implementation Framework to become a GSP

Selection and On-boarding of GSPs
Any prospective applicant for GSP will need to meet a pre-qualification criteria for GSPs. GSPs who meet the pre-qualification criteria will sign a contract with GSTN to become an authorised GSP.
On signing of the contract, GSPs will get a unique license key for accessing the GST system. GSPs will be authenticated using this license key (Client id + Client Secret) provided by GSTN. GSP will have a provision to generate multiple License keys as per its need.

Who Can Become a GSP?
The organisations and entities who are expected to sign up as GSPs are visualised to be as under:
   o   Registered companies in India in the IT / ITES / BFSI domain. More details on pre-qualification are given at www.gstn.org/ecosystem/index.php.

How to Become a GSP?
GSPs will need to sign up a contract with GSTN. The draft of this contract is uploaded on our GSTN website www.gstn.org/ecosystem/index.php.

FAQs
A set of FAQs can be found at www.gstn.org/ecosystem/index.php.

Feedback

Feedback on any aspect of the GSP Eco system can be given via filling and submitting a form placed at:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdAnrt3iFoqvBGUbhAuM9v6hn7F4Ryh8lkfnBNqp0ZH47LfeA/viewform

Discussion forum on GSPs at Google Group

Technical members of the applicant GSPs who wish to interact continuously with GST System team may do so by joining the discussion forum on Google groups. Those desirous may send a request to email id: ea.svpit@gstn.org.in.

With the GST rollout date (1st April 2017) soon approaching, this is considered to be a big step towards enabling the IT companies to come up with the applications to provide services to our taxpayers and communicate with GST core system directly using APIs.

Below Functionalities will be available for GSPs through API:

- GST System will have following main Modules
    - Registration of Tax Payer and Tax Consultant
    - Returns (GSTR1 upto GSTR12)
    - Payments
    - Ledger Maintenance
    - Miscellaneous
- For Tax professionals
    - Consolidated view of all clients
    - Ability to upload invoice data etc. from his dashboard
    - Get update on their taxpayers from GST System

Draft Rules governing these functions are available at http://www.cbec.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/gst/draft-rules-format

The Goods and Services Tax constitutional amendment having been promulgated by the Govt of India, the rollout of the GST Bill will be a collective effort of the Central and State Governments, the tax payers and the IT platform provider i.e. GSTN, CBEC and State Tax Departments. Besides these main participants there are going to be other stakeholders e.g. Central and States tax authorities, RBI, the Banks, the tax professionals (tax return preparers, Chartered Accountants, Tax Advocates, STPs etc.), financial services providing companies like ERP companies and Tax Accounting Software Providers etc.

Goods and Services Tax Network, (GSTN) is a Section 25 (not for profit), non-Government, private limited company. It was incorporated on March 28, 2013. The Government of India holds 24.5% equity in GSTN and all States of the Indian Union, including NCT of Delhi and Puducherry, and the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC), together hold another 24.5%. Balance 51% equity is with non-Government financial institutions. The Company has been set up primarily to provide IT infrastructure and services to the Central and State Governments, tax payers and other stakeholders for implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The Authorised Capital of the company is Rs. 10,00,00,000 (Rupees ten crore only). GST is a broad-based, comprehensive, single indirect tax which will be levied concurrently on goods and services across India.