

Q: What is GST?

A: Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a single, destination-based tax on the supply of goods and services, which replaced multiple indirect taxes (VAT, service tax, excise) in India from July 1, 2017.

Q: What are the types of GST in India?

A: There are four components:

CGST (Central GST) on intra-state supplies, collected by the Centre

SGST/UTGST (State/Union Territory GST) on intra-state supplies, collected by the State/UT

IGST (Integrated GST) on inter-state supplies, collected by the Centre and shared with States

CESS on certain goods (e.g. tobacco)

Q: Who must register under GST?

A: Any business with aggregate turnover above ₹40 lakhs (₹20 lakhs for special category States) in a financial year must register. Services-only businesses register if turnover > ₹20 lakhs (₹10 lakhs in special States).

Q: What is the GST Composition Scheme?

A: A simplified scheme for small taxpayers (turnover up to ₹1.5 crores) to pay a fixed percentage of turnover as tax (e.g. 1% for manufacturers) and file quarterly returns; they can't claim Input Tax Credit.

Q: What is Input Tax Credit (ITC)?

A: ITC lets a registered taxpayer reduce the tax paid on purchases (inputs) from their tax liability on sales (outputs), provided they have a valid tax invoice and the supplier has paid the tax.

Q: What are the main GST return forms?

A:

GSTR-1: Outward supplies (sales) details, filed monthly/quarterly

GSTR-3B: Summary return of liabilities and ITC, filed monthly

GSTR-9: Annual return summarizing all transactions

Q: When are GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B due?

A:

GSTR-1: 11th of the next month (or quarter for small taxpayers)

GSTR-3B: 20th of the next month

Q: What is an HSN code?

A: Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) is an internationally recognized classification that assigns 4- to 8-digit codes to goods to harmonize tax treatment across borders.

Q: What is a Tax Invoice under GST?

A: A GST tax invoice is a document issued by a registered supplier containing details like supplier/recipient GSTIN, invoice number & date, HSN/SAC codes, taxable value, and tax breakup (CGST/SGST/IGST).

Q: What is the Reverse Charge Mechanism?

A: Under reverse charge, the recipient, instead of the supplier, must pay GST on specified supplies (e.g. services from an unregistered person).

Q: What is the penalty for late GST return filing?

A: For GSTR-3B, late fee is ₹50/day per Act (CGST+SGST) up to ₹5,000 total. For GSTR-1, ₹200/day under CGST+SGST up to ₹10,000.

Q: What is e-invoicing under GST?

A: Businesses with turnover > ₹10 crores must generate invoices through the Invoice Registration Portal (IRP) so that each invoice has a unique Invoice Reference Number (IRN) and QR code.

Q: How do I cancel my GST registration?

A: A taxpayer can apply for voluntary cancellation in FORM GST REG-16 if they stop business; the proper officer cancels in FORM GST REG-19 after verification.

Q: What happens if I don't file GST returns?

A: Non-filing attracts late fees and interest; prolonged non-compliance can lead to cancellation of GST registration and recovery proceedings.

Q: How can I check my GSTIN status?

A: Go to <https://www.gst.gov.in/> → Search Taxpayer → Enter the 15-digit GSTIN to view registration status and return filing history.