UNIT 5 LAWS, PERMITS AND LICENSES IN EVENT MANAGEMENT

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5.0 OBJECTIVES

Every event is an experience that is carefully designed to deliver an impact on the audience. With each passing day the number of events being professionally managed is increasing. Thus, there is a growing need to regulate events and event companies. While we understand that laws, rules, regulations are created to protect people, to enforce rights and to solve conflicts; breaking them or not following them leads to a punishable offence. In this Unit, we will study the laws associated with event management, licenses, permits and no objection certificates from different agencies. After reading this Unit, you should be able to:

- Learn about various laws influencing event management;
- Become familiar with different licenses required during event execution; and
- Understand the permissions and NOCs required to be obtained.

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Organizing an event is a huge task. It takes months of planning, fund raising, coordination, and networking. There are unprecedented heights of customers' and other stakeholders' expectations. Hence majority of the activities at the event are outsourced for proficiency. In the light of these, it is very essential to discuss legal issues which are of concern to the entrepreneurs in the field of event industry. These primarily consist of Goods and Services Tax (GST), government permits and licenses. The documentation work is in the form of approvals or NOCs (No Objection Certificates) from different departments. To ensure the smooth running of an event, the event organizers must make sure that all legal procedures are followed.

This Unit will help in understanding the basic rules and regulations which are necessary to satisfy authorities such as local government, police, and the department of the environment while organising an event. The laws are intended

to prescribe guidelines for event organisers to ensure that venues and event activities are safe and do not disturb neighbouring community. These make events safer, identify basic standards necessary to satisfy authorities and provide a consistent approach to events at the state level. However, rules and regulations must be interpreted keeping the size and complexity of the event in consideration so that appropriate information is utilised from the guidelines.

Many times the venue owner provides event organisers with the list of licenses, which they need to obtain before the event begins. Each event has its own set of activities and requirements. Therefore approvals required will depend upon the type of event. Event organisers must visit the local authorities to determine the required permissions in the area for the event. When the event is to happen in an area or a premise that has a permanent approval for events then the number of approvals required by event organisers reduces. However, risk management and other matters outlined within these guidelines still need to be addressed.

5.2 LAWS RELATED TO EVENT MANAGEMENT

Venue / Property related Laws

The selection of venue is influenced by many factors. Event planners have to select a venue which perfectly matches with the needs of the event to be hosted. However, to hold an event at the selected venue needs either buying or owning the venue or acquiring it for the purpose of holding an event there. It has been observed that the most popular mode of gaining access to event venue is by acquiring it. However, here we will briefly study about three modes to get a venue for hosting an event and the laws related to them.

- 1) Owning a Property for hosting an event through Sale Section 5 of the Transfer of Property Act 1882 describes the term sale as a transfer of ownership in exchange for a price paid or promised or part paid and part promised. A sale of immovable property for value more than INR 100 can only be made through a registered instrument which in normal terms is known as a sale deed. The essential elements of a sale are:
 - Parties: Normally there are two parties a buyer and a seller.
 - The subject matter: The subject matter is the land / venue for hosting the event.
 - The transfer of conveyance: There are two recognized modes of conveyance, the delivery of possession and registration of sale deed.
 - The sale price or consideration: The price is the essence of the contract of sale and unless the price is there the contract of sale cannot be enforced under law.
- 2) Acquiring access to property to hold an event through License According to the Indian Easement Act 1882, a license is when one person grants to another, or to a definite number of other persons, a right to do, or continue to do, in or upon the immovable property of the grantor, something which would, in the absence of such right, be unlawful, and such right does not amount to an easement or an interest in the property. This right is called a license. So an event planner has to seek license from the owner of the property

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to use the venue for hosting the event. Here it is worth mentioning that it is the duty of the event manager to ensure that the venue which s/he has hired for hosting the event is as per the needs and demand of the event.

Acquiring access to property to hold an event through Lease - As per the transfer of Property Act 1882 - A lease of immovable property is a transfer of a right to enjoy such property, made for a certain time, express or implied, or in perpetuity, in consideration of a price paid or promised, or of money, a share of goods, service or any other thing of value, to be rendered periodically or on specified occasions to the transferor by the transferee, who accepts the transfer on such terms.

Lessor, lessee, premium and rent defined: The transferor is called the lessor, the transferee is called the lessee, the price is called the premium, and the money, share, service or other things to be so rendered is called the rent.

Usually event managers holding events of similar nature apply for a lease of the venue for a certain period. They enter into an agreement with the owner for the lease of the venue. Event managers who host events like marriage parties, fundraising, gala dinners, birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries, take lease of venues like lawns and marriage halls for conducting these ceremonies.

It is the responsibility of the event company to find out and comply with all pertinent rules, regulations and license requirements. It is worth mentioning that the event managers must make it a practice to pay particular attention to work place health and safety regulations.

Some of the relevant regulations which a public event must comply during buildup or break down of the venue as per event requirements are:

Environmental Protection Act, 1986

It is often seen that big events pose threat to the environment and to the people living in vicinity. There are dangerous risks of pollution, spills, effluent leakage and of some indirect concerns like wastes and garbage disposal of the event. Some events like festivals and 'melas' (fairs) create a lot of pollution which may be harmful to the environment as well as dangerous to people. In such cases any event organized by a professional event manager should comply with the provisions of Environmental Protection Act, 1986, with respect to water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution etc. It should be the duty of the event manager to take proper care that events which pollute the environment such as burning of effigies in 'Ramlila' festival and submerging effigies in water during 'Vinayak Chaturti' festival must not cause damage to land, water and air leading to pollution and affecting people.

Pollution Check Measures: There are certain guidelines given by the environmental committee which need to be followed by the event manager before hosting an event. These guidelines can be procured from the respective police units; for example in Delhi it is the Delhi police unit. Here the event manager needs to obtain a permit from the licensing unit of the Delhi police before organizing an event which has threats to the environment.

The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000

Regulating and controlling noise producing sources is necessary to maintain the ambient air quality standards with respect to noise. The contributors of noise levels in public places are from sources such as industrial activity, construction activity, generator sets, vehicular horns, loud speakers, public address systems, music systems, and other mechanical devices. Since increasing noise pollution has harmful effects on human health and the psychological well being of people, the government makes rules for regulating and controlling noise pollution. For example, a loud speaker in public event or a public address system can only be used after obtaining permission from the authority. It is mostly not allowed to be used at night (between 10:00 pm to 6 am), except in closed premises, for communication within for example auditoria, conference rooms, community halls and banquet halls.

Electricity Regulation Act

The act consolidates the laws relating to generation, transmission, distribution, trading and use of electricity. This also enables the regulators to take measures conducive to development of electricity industry, promoting competition therein, protecting interest of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas, rationalization of electricity tariff, ensuring transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally friendly policies and for connected matters. States may vary from each other when it comes to transmission, distribution, use of electricity and electricity tariff. The event organiser must collect thorough information on these aspects when organising events in different states or nations.

Building Regulations Act

Building Regulations is a set of rules that specify the minimum standards for constructed objects such as buildings and non-building structures. The prime objective of these regulations is to protect public health, safety and general welfare in the context of the construction and occupancy of buildings and structures. Regulations also provide specific requirements applying to special construction objects such as canopies, signs, pedestrian walkways, parking lots, radio and television antennas and minimum standards for sanitation, water supply, light, ventilation, fire prevention and control, energy efficiency, stairs and halls, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, site drainage and storage, appliance, lighting, fixtures standards, occupancy rules, swimming pool regulations and so on.

Fire Precautions Regulation Act

The act deals with safety from fire. It specifies the demarcation of fire zones, restrictions on construction of buildings in each fire zone, classification of buildings based on occupancy, and types of building construction according to fire resistance of the structural and non-structural components. The act also deals with other restrictions and requirements necessary to minimise danger to life from fire, smoke, fumes or panic before the buildings can be evacuated. The event organisers must keep all these specifications in mind while constructing the event premise. Also, the fire protection techniques have to be based on the fire behaviour characteristics of different materials and structural elements used in venue designing.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The Goods and Service Tax (GST) in India was introduced on 1st July 2017. After the introduction of GST, the entire tax legislation has undergone a paradigm shift. Former taxes levied by central and state government including - value added tax (VAT), service tax, excise duty, additional custom duty tax, state level entertainment tax, entry tax and surcharges have now got subsumed (included) into the GST legislation. However customs duty collected by the Central Government on import of goods into India and entertainment tax levied by local bodies (such as panchayats and municipalities) continue to remain outside the ambit of GST legislation and shall be applicable as separate levies, over and above GST. The GST bill has a four-tier structure, namely 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent. This means that tax will be levied at rate baskets ranging from 5 to 28 per cent. Events come under GST legislation as they are classified as a supply service under GST.

The GST has the following implications on the event industry:

- Sponsorships which form a significant chunk of revenue generation for any event is subject to GST under the reverse charge mechanism.
- The event organiser has to specifically obtain GST registration to incur location-specific expenses in the state where the event will happen and such expenses will take place.
- For mega event companies, overall, GST has a positive impact because the entertainment tax on events has got subsumed in GST. For example, earlier when one was watching an IPL match, s/he was paying 25 per cent entertainment tax and 15 per cent service tax; this was almost 40 per cent on the ticket price. However, with GST, it will go down to 28 per cent.
- Most of the third party services have been capped at 28 per cent tax which will free the MICE Industry of India from the burden of multiple taxation systems.
- Credit of GST levied on supplies of food and beverages and outdoor catering, beauty treatment services and rent a cab is specifically disallowed under the GST legislation, eventually resulting in cost inflation for event organizers.

Local Body Entertainment Tax (LBET)

With the introduction of the GST legislation, entertainment tax levied by the states has been subsumed into GST legislation. However, the entertainment tax to the extent levied and collected by local bodies such a panchayats and municipalities has been kept outside the purview of GST.

Therefore LBET shall continue to apply as a supplementary tax over and above GST. LBET shall be levied on amounts charged for allowing entry into the place where the entertainment is being held. Entertainment tax rates on events differ from state to state, as legislations governing the entertainment tax law differ from state to state.

How to Meet GST Compliance?

According to Ernst & Young, and the Event and Entertrainment Management Association (2017), some key things to be done by event organisers to meet the GST compliance are as follows:



- Register under GST and enable / assist key vendors also to register, so they can avail input credits and keep costs lower.
- Update accounting systems to enable purchase invoice entry and sales invoice processing.
- Revise formats of all the documents such as invoices, goods, transfer notes and reimbursement slips to accurately capture GST elements and amounts.
- Evaluate each event being conducted across different states to determine the need for local GST registration, local sourcing and / or change in agreement terms with clients or vendors.
- An important factor for marketers when selecting event and activation vendors is event companies following the GST well.
- Explain to potential clients the benefits of sourcing from event companies rather than directly sourcing elements of each event. e.g. venue cost and stage set up.
- Ensure that vendors are updating their sales transactions in a timely manner and paying taxes on the transactions within the stipulated timelines.

Customs Duty

Customs duty is levied on import of goods into India. Events such as exhibitions and musical shows entail import of various goods into India. All imports are liable to customs duty depending upon the description of the product and its classification under the internationally accepted classification nomenclatures.

Civil and Tortuous Liability and Related Laws

Duty of care: It is a fundamental legal principle which normally applies to all events, of taking reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions that could injure employees, contractors, users, participants and visitors. This is called the duty of care and is covered by the area of law known as 'torts.'

Torts as we understand are a breach of duty owed to other people and imposed by law, and in this it differs from the duties arising from contracts, which are agreed between contracting parties. Unlike criminal law, which is concerned with punishment and deterrence, the law of torts is concerned with compensation.

In the context of event management duty of care means taking actions that will prevent any foreseeable risks of injury to people who are directly affected by, or involved in the event. This would include the event staff, volunteers, the performers, the audience or spectators and the public in the surrounding areas. It is the duty of the event manager to take essential care of the event stakeholders and any breach of such duty because of which any person or persons suffer damages, may result in negligence on the part of the event coordinator. The duty of care towards stakeholders is not only a moral duty but also a legal duty.

The law of torts in India says that if the person (here the event coordinator) at the time of the act or omission of the act could reasonably foresee any injury to her / his stakeholders, then s/he owes a duty to prevent that injury and failure to do that makes her/him liable. In India to decide culpability we have to determine what a reasonable person would have foreseen and thus form an idea of how s/he

would have behaved under the circumstances. Thus any negligence by the event coordinator which results in injury, and could be foreseeable but the coordinator showed lack of observance of duty of care, will make her / him liable for the damages.

Health and Safety at Work

Health and safety of the employees is a key factor in any organisation. It ensures smooth functioning and effective output at the organizational level. Such an act allows creating an accident-free industrial environment. The organizations giving adequate attention to safety measures and welfare of the employees are able to yield high returns by improving employee morale, reducing absenteeism and enhancing productivity, minimizing potential of work-related injuries and increasing the quality of manufactured products and rendered services.

Developed countries like U.K. have placed in position umbrella legislation and an apex institution to cover health and safety of workers in all the sectors and have devised sound mechanism for achieving significant development results. The broad objectives of the Health and Safety at Work Act (1994), U.K., are stated as follows:

- Securing the health, safety and welfare of persons at work.
- Protecting persons, other than persons at work, against risks to health or safety arising out of or in connection with the activities of persons at work.
- Controlling the keeping and use of explosive or highly inflammable or otherwise dangerous substances, and generally preventing the unlawful acquisition, possession and use of such substances.
- Controlling emission into the atmosphere of noxious or offensive substances, which comes under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

It is imperative that India also adopts a similar approach within a compressed time frame. However, currently there is legislation on occupational health and safety which is applicable to factory workers and few other labour reforms. Meaningful legislations and institutions need to be placed in position to ensure safe and healthy working conditions for the working population everywhere in the country and also for the public in general.

Check Your Progress I Note: Use the space provided for your answer 1) Name the different laws pertaining to Event Management. Write about any two laws in detail.

2)	How does the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 impact the execution of event?
3)	What is GST? Give any two implications that GST has on the event industry.

5.3 LICENSES AND APPROVALS

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Intellectual Property as we understand is a property that is the creation of human mind. It is a property created by the intellect of a human being. Every human being has a right over her / his property, to use it or to restrict it from being used by other person. The laws related to IPR need to be considered in events especially for the following:

- 1) To play music: An event manager needs valid licenses and permissions to play music especially by live performers. In case one does not have a valid license from an authorised organisation to play their music, an event can be sued under IPR laws.
- 2) Use of trademarks and logos: Under Trademarks act, the registered logos and trademarks cannot be used in any event without prior permissions.
- 3) Use of Designs and Art work: The copyright Designs and Patents Act ensures that patented designs (any type) cannot be used by any other person.

Any company owning any logo or trademark sign would like to protect its claim and would not like it to be used by others. The protection of trademark ownership

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is generally covered within legislation, including Trademarks Act, the Copyright Designs and Patent Act. The legislation prevents any other party from the use of logo, motto and related word by another party without the owner's permission. It is quite expected that the event company should be aware of the risks of misrepresenting their event. When an event is promoted with its exaggerated benefits, there is always a threat of legal action taken by unhappy consumers because of advertising for an event which made false claims.

PPL (Phonographic Performance Limited) License

The law protects music rights in different ways. This means that businesses and organisations playing recorded music in public (whether live or via CDs, radio/TV broadcasts, background music systems or other sources) will usually need to obtain PPL. The license allows the event organisers to use other artistes' music with freedom at the event. Playing music in public without the appropriate licenses in place is copyright infringement and is unfair to the members (performers, record companies, songwriters, composers and music publishers).

IPRS (Indian Performing Right Society Limited) License

This license is required for playing / performing non-recorded music in public. It is a license 'for the artists, of the artists.' For instance, in India, when a popular artist performs live, the event will require an IPRS license. Also, the artist needs to be a registered member of IPRS. Unlike PPL, IPRS issues licenses to the music users. It collects royalties for the artists, from the artists on behalf of its registered artist members (such as lyricists, composers, publishers and performers of music) and distributes the royalty to the music owners / members.

Excise License

Excise license is the license which the event organizer needs to procure in order to serve alcohol in a live or recorded music event in India. However, when the event is organized at an 'alcohol on-licensed premise', the organizer is not required to procure the license. In excise license, apart from obtaining the license the event organizer is also required to ensure that the event attendees are of legal drinking age (LDA). Usually, identity cards are compulsory at the event to verify and confirm their age.

Loudspeaker License

Any event held in any public or private venue needing to use a loudspeaker requires a loudspeaker license. The permission needs to be obtained from the local police authorities. Depending on the nature of the event, the authorities may limit the size and number of speakers to be used at the event.

Premise License

A license of the premise allows the event organisers to carry out all the permissible activities at the venue. The activities include late night entertainment between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m., large-scale events allowing an audience of over 500 people, selling alcohol as well as serving food and beverages during specific timings and so on. The license can be obtained from the municipal authority under which the venue falls.



Performance License

This is the license which allows a child (anybody below 18 years of age) to take part in a musical event and make a paid performance. Again, the license can be obtained from the local authority. So, if the event has a performance made by a child and is a paid performance, the event organizers are required to procure performance license from local authority.

Public Works Department License

You need to get this when you have a generator at your event.

Foreign Artist Permission

Whenever you have people from another nationality performing at your event, you require to get a license for it separately.

5.4 PERMISSIONS AND NOC

NOC (No Objection Certificate) is a written document obtained as approval from the local authority. In case of organising an event, the event organiser needs to obtain NOCs from different departments. The list is as follows:

- No Objection Certificate from the Additional Collectors office
- No Objection Certificate from the Local Police Station
- No Objection Certificate from the Traffic Police Department
- No Objection Certificate from the Fire Brigade
- No Objection Certificate from the Electrical Inspector
- No Objection Certificate from the Health Department
- Police Commissioners Note
- No Objection Certificate from the Rangabhumi Parinirikshan Mandal (for Maharashtra only)
- Certificate regarding fitness of the machinery (in case of amusement rides)

Event application details when writing to authorities:

1) Event / Venue Details

- Event Location
- Brief history of the event/venue
- Duration of the event (schedule and timing)
- Expected number of people
- Admission arrangement (open to public / by invitation / with tickets)
- Details of activities and how / when / where they will take place
- Event management structure (set out the key management personnel)
- Functions of key personnel (event controller, safety officer, and health and sanitation in-charge)

- Event control and communications (location of central control room, who will be there, and what means of communication will be used) for reporting
- Any particular arrangements (for spectators with special needs with any or disability, pre-lunch ceremonies etc.)
- Overview of large equipment and temporary structures (like staging, sanitary, facilities and lighting)
- Contact details of event organisers / administrators and venue owner
- 2) Site Plan: The site plan must include maps showing location and details of:
 - Transportation hubs (like bus-stops, railway stations, and taxi stands)
 - Places of stay
 - Information kiosks
 - Places of interest at the venue / event
 - Meeting points
 - Entry or exit points at the venue / event
 - Meeting points
 - Holding area(s), queue complex(s), routes for movement
 - Watch towers at vantage locations for observing and monitoring the crowd.
 - CCTV coverage at all vulnerable locations to be monitored at the control room.
 - Sector wise deployment of policemen with sector wise responsibility and wireless communication network between watch towers, CCTV control room and deployment inside the crowd.
 - Police 'chowkies'/ stations
 - Reporting places for lost / stolen / found items, missing persons etc.
 - Parking lots
 - Health facilities
 - Shopping areas
 - Food joints
 - Hazard points
 - Emergency exits
 - Emergency assembly points
 - First aid services
 - Emergency services (fire, ambulance)
 - Emergency operations center and incident command posts

In the next Unit we shall be learning about contracts in event management and their management.



Check Your Progress II		
Note: Use the space provided for your answer		
1)	How is PPL different from IPRS?	
2)	Cive all the details that should be included while deafting a letter to	
2)	Give all the details that should be included while drafting a letter to authorities for obtaining NOCs.	
3)	What are the departments from which the event organisers might require	
	to obtain NOCs before carrying out the event?	

5.5 LET US SUM UP

Laws and regulations are important in all sectors and very much so in the event industry. These not only protect the rights of stakeholders including the audience but also set a code of conduct for event organisers. With the events becoming more and more professional in their execution requiring most of the activities to be outsourced, a great demand has been created for regularising the event industry. The Unit discusses about the acts, GST legislation licences, approvals and no objection certificates required to conduct an event.

5.6 KEYWORDS

Sale deed

: A sale of immovable property for value more than Rs.100, when made through a registered instrument which in normal terms is known as a sale deed.

Easement

: An easement is a right which the owner or occupier of certain land possesses, as such, for the beneficial enjoyment of that land, to do and continue to do something, or to prevent and continue to prevent something being done, in or upon, or in respect of certain other land not his own.

Lease

: Written or implied contract by which an owner (the lessor) of a specific asset (such as a parcel of land, building, equipment, or machinery) grants a second party (the lessee) the right to its exclusive possession and use for a specific period and under specified conditions, in return for specified periodic rental or lease payments.

Rationalization

The cognitive process of making something seems consistent with reason or is based on reason. Sometimes rationalization means the way you justify your action.

Subsidies

Money that is paid usually by government to keep the price of a product or service low or to help a business or organization to continue to function

Tariff of Electricity:

Tariff refers to the amount of money the consumer has to pay for making the power available to them at their homes.

Societies Registration Act : The act was established for the promotion of literature, science, or the fine arts, or for the diffusion of useful knowledge or for charitable purposes. It says that any seven or more persons associated for any Literary, Scientific, or Charitable purpose, may, by subscribing their names to a Memorandum of Association and filing the same with the Registrar of Societies form themselves into a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Hospitality industry:

Hotel, motels, inns, or such businesses that provides transitional or short-term lodging, with or without food.

Torts

: A tort, in common law jurisdictions, is a 'wrong' that unfairly causes someone else to suffer loss or harm, resulting in legal liability for the person who commits the tortuous act

Ambient Air Quality: Ambient air quality refers to the quality of outdoor air in our surrounding environment. It is typically measured near ground level, away from direct sources of pollution.

Rangabhumi

: Maharashtra Rangbhoomi Parinirikshan Mandal or the Parinirikshan Mandal Maharashtra State Performance Scrutiny Board is the Board for Prior Scrutiny of Tamasha (Theatre). Theatre groups have to submit two copies of the script to the Board for clearance before it can be staged. The Board acts as a watchdog, because some scripts can have elements that can upset society. The cleared script had to then obtain a performance license from the Mumbai Police's license department.

5.7 REFERENCES AND SUGGESTED READINGS

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5.8 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS - POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Check Your Progress I

- 1) Laws pertaining to event management are: Venue / Property related Laws, Environmental Protection Act, 1986, The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, Electricity Regulation Act, Building Regulations Act, Fire Precautions Regulation Act, Goods and Services Tax (GST), Local Body Entertainment Tax (LBET), Customs Duty, Civil and Tortuous liability and related laws and Health and Safety at Work. Following two laws have been discussed in detail-
 - **Building Regulations Act** The prime objective of these regulations is to protect public health, safety and general welfare in the context of construction and occupancy of buildings and structures. Regulations provide specific requirements applying to special construction objects such as canopies, signs, pedestrian walkways, parking lots, radio and television antennas and minimum standards for sanitation, water supply, light, ventilation, fire prevention and control, energy efficiency, stairs and halls, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, site drainage and storage, appliance, lighting, fixtures standards, occupancy rules, swimming pool regulations and so on.
 - *Fire Precautions Regulation Act* The act deals with safety from fire. It specifies the demarcation of fire zones, restrictions on construction of buildings in each fire zone, classification of buildings based on occupancy, and types of building construction according to fire resistance

- of the structural and non-structural components. It also deals with other restrictions and requirements necessary to minimise danger to life from fire, smoke, fumes or panic before the buildings can be evacuated.
- 2) Noise controlling rules and regulations determine the usage of loud speakers in public event or public address system. These can only be used after obtaining permission from the authority. The authority can reduce the number of loud speakers to be used in the event after assessing the nature of the event. Also, these cannot be used at night (between 10:00 pm to 6 am) except in closed premises for communication within for example auditoria, conference rooms, community halls and banquet halls.
- 3) The Goods and Service Tax (GST) was introduced on 1st July 2017. After the introduction of GST, the entire tax legislation has undergone a paradigm shift. Former taxes levied by central and state government including-value added tax (VAT), service tax, excise duty, additional custom duty tax, state level entertainment tax, entry tax and surcharges have now got subsumed (included) into the GST legislation. However custom duty collected by the Central Government on import of goods into India and entertainment tax levied by local bodies (such as panchayats and municipalities) continue to remain outside the ambit of GST legislation and shall be applicable as separate levies, over and above GST. The GST bill has a four-tier structure, namely, 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent. This means that tax will be levied at rate baskets ranging from 5 to 28 per cent. Events come under GST legislation as they are classified as a supply service under GST.

Two implications that GST has on the event industry are as follows:

- Sponsorships which form a significant chunk of revenue generation for any event is subject to GST under the reverse charge mechanism.
- The event organiser has to specifically obtain GST registration to incur location-specific expenses in the state where the event will happen and such expenses will take place.

Check Your Progress II

- 1) PPL (Phonographic Performance Limited) License is required by the organisations to play recorded music. The license allows the event organisers to use other artistes' music with freedom at the event. While IPRS (Indian Performing Right Society Limited) License is the license required for playing/performing non-recorded music in public, a license 'for the artistes, of the artistes.' For instance when a popular artiste performs live in India, then the event will require an IPRS license. Also, the artiste needs to be a registered member of IPRS. Unlike PPL, IPRS issues licenses to the music users. It collects royalties for the artistes, from the artistes on behalf of its registered artiste members (such as lyricists, composers, publishers and performers of music) and distributes the royalty to the music owners / members.
- 2) The event application should contain following details of the event while writing to authorities.

Event / Venue Details

• Event Location

- Brief history of the event / venue
- Duration of the event (schedule and timing)
- Expected number of people
- Admission arrangement (Open to public / by invitation / tickets etc)
- Details of activities and how / when / where they will take place
- Event management structure (Set out the key management personnel)
- Functions of key personnel (event controller, safety officer and health and sanitation in-charge)
- Event control and communications (location of central control room, who will be there, what means) of communication will be used for reporting
- Any particular arrangements (special needs spectators, pre-lunch ceremonies etc.)
- Overview of large equipment and temporary structures (staging, sanitary, facilities, lighting etc.)
- Contact details and of event organisers / administrator and venue owner

Site Plan: The site plan must include maps showing location and details of:

- Transportation hubs (bus-stops, railway stations, taxi stands etc)
- Places of stay
- Information Kiosks
- Places of interest at the venue / event
- Meeting points
- Entry or exit points at the venue / event
- Meeting points
- Entry and exit points at event venue
- Holding area(s), queue complex(s), routes for movement
- Watch towers at vantage locations for observing and monitoring the crowd.
- CCTV coverage at all vulnerable locations to be monitored at the control room.
- Sector wise deployment of policemen with sector wise responsibility and wireless communication network between watch towers, CCTV control room and deployment inside the crowd.
- Police chowkies / stations
- Reporting places for lost / stolen / found items, missing persons etc.
- Parking lots
- Health facilities
- Shopping areas
- Food joints

- Hazard points
- Emergency exits
- Emergency assembly points
- First Aid Services
- Emergency Services (Fire, Ambulance)
- Emergency Operations Center, Incident Command Posts etc.
- 3) NOCs should be submitted to following authorities:
 - No objection Certificate from the Additional Collectors office
 - No Objection Certificate from the Local Police Station
 - No Objection Certificate from the Traffic Police Department
 - No Objection Certificate from the Fire Brigade
 - No Objection Certificate from the Electrical Inspector
 - No Objection Certificate from the Health Department
 - Police Commissioners Note
 - Certificate regarding fitness of the machinery (in case of amusement rides)



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