

## **Simplifying GST Registration: Addressing the Address Proof Conundrum**

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GST Council has a tendency to apply stringent provisions indiscriminately, penalizing innocent taxpayers alongside fraudulent dealers. This approach, akin to burning both dry and wet leaves together, has a detrimental impact on lakhs of honest buyers daily.

Instead, the Council should adopt a more targeted approach to apprehend offenders, utilizing stringent methods and potentially creating a separate wing to tackle hawala and fake dealers. Honest taxpayers, on the other hand, deserve appreciation and incentives for their compliance. One of such instance is GST registration

The GST registration process is particularly daunting for unregistered individuals, especially when it comes to address proof. Documents like property tax and city survey documents often lack precise address details, making electricity bills the sole viable option. However, these bills frequently contain incomplete or inaccurate addresses, failing to meet the GST department's requirements.

This leads to a cumbersome process, where applicants must navigate the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. (MSEDCL) to correct their address, causing delays of up to a month. Consequently, registration applications may be dismissed, and businesses face disruptions, losing valuable input tax credits due to the Urp (Unregistered Person) period.

To simplify the process, we propose issuing RC numbers subject to the condition that applicants submit proper address proof within 30 days. This would enable smooth business operations, encourage voluntary registration, and increase the number of registered persons.

While concerns about fake dealers exist, the department can implement measures to monitor and apprehend them, such as scrutinizing initial returns. It's crucial to strike a balance between vigilance and ease of registration, avoiding unnecessary hurdles for genuine registrants while maintaining vigilance against fraudulent activities. By adopting a more positive approach, the government can foster a more compliant and efficient tax ecosystem.