



All India Federation of Tax Practitioners

(An Association of Advocates, Chartered Accountants & Tax Practitioners of India)

Regd. Office : 215, Rewa Chambers, 31, New Marine Lines, Mumbai 400 020.

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Ref. No.

To,

- 1) The Hon'ble Finance Minister,
Ministry of Finance, Govt of India,
North Block, New Delhi – 110001.
- 2) The Secretary, Deptt. of Revenue,
Ministry of Finance, Govt of India,
North Block, New Delhi – 110001.
- 3) The Chairman, CBIC,
Govt. of India,
North Block, New Delhi-110001.
- 4) The Pr. Commissioner (GST-1),
GST Policy Wing, Deptt. of Revenue,
North Block, New Delhi-110001,
- 5) GST Council,
5th Floor, Tower-II,
JeewanBharti Building,
Janpath, New Delhi-110001.

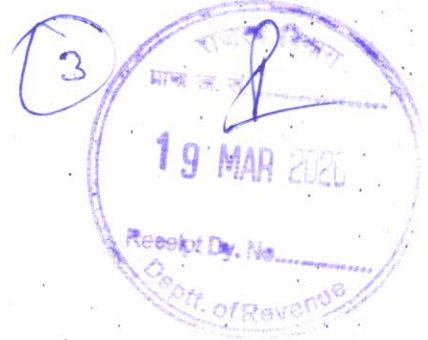
Hon'ble Madam / Sir,

Sub: Suggested instructions to stop spread of Corona Virus and containment of its adverse impact on the day to day working and compliances.

Respectfully, we submit as follows:

All national and state level authorities have issued guidelines following the declaration of COVID 19 as pandemic by WHO.

Date: 18th March, 2020



GOODS & SERVICES TAX COUNCIL
5th Floor, Tower-II, Jeevan Bharti Building,
Connaught Place, New Delhi
19-3-2020



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Date.....

The number of cases is increasing on a daily basis in the entire country with the pandemic fast approaching its 3rd stage which will put communities at risk.

The governments of all states have issued directives for closure of schools, colleges, cinema halls, malls, parks etc. till 14th April, 2020.

Hon'ble Supreme Court has also issued notification dt.13.03.2020 in the interest of all.

Hon'ble High Courts of almost all the states have decided to hear only bail matters or urgent matters. All the regular matters stand adjourned automatically and no ex parte order to be passed by any court for non-appearance of the counsel.

Even lower courts and tribunals have followed in the footsteps of the Supreme Court and the High Courts and have decided to hear only the urgent matters.

The advisory restricting travel to bare minimum has had an adverse impact on the overall business and profession.

Owing to the advisory on social distancing, most of the private companies, business houses, professionals like CAs, Advocates etc. have also asked their staff to work from home to whatever extent possible. It will not only prevent the travel using public transport but also enable people to be in self-isolation environment.

In view of the above, it is desired that the govt. departments adopt & implement following measures:

- 1) It is imperative to extend the time limit for the proceedings getting time barred by 31st March, 2020 to 31st July, 2020.
- 2) Stringent recovery measures must be put on hold. Directions be given to the lower authorities to not take recourse to measures like



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attachment of bank accounts etc. in such difficult times and sympathy be shown in cases where accounts have already been attached. Such accounts, considering merits of the case, be released if such a request is received from an assessee or his counsel.

3) In cases where revenue authorities have given summons requiring personal appearance to explain mismatch of ITC or for other tax disputes, the officials/executives may not be in a position to appear as they are working from home. The authorities should therefore be allowed to accept the self-attested scan statements keeping the final hearing for an appropriate time in future. No adverse orders raising any demand be passed by such authorities.

4) A very important step is to extend the time limit for all time bound Indirect Tax compliances like GSTR-1, GSTR-3B (monthly/quarterly) etc. to 30th April, 2020.

The need for it arises from the fact that sufficient staff is not available at business places or with the professionals, making it impossible to meet these prescribed deadlines.

We have learnt from the media that globally revenue authorities have postponed the return filing dates or given extensions to comply with certain regulations.

We humbly request hon'ble Madam / Sirs to please consider the above suggestions in the interest of public at large.

With highest regards,

For All India Federation of Tax Practitioners

CA H.L. Madan
(CHAIRMAN)

(Indirect Tax Representation Committee)