



Central University of Kerala

केरलकेन्द्रीयविश्वविद्यालय

Established by the Parliament of India vide the Central University Act, 2009(No.25 of 2009)
Tejaswini Hills, Periyar P.O, Kasaragod, Kerala, India, 671 316

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Email:deptcommerce@cukerala.ac.in, Phone:0467 2309150/0467 2309150

**Central University of Kerala cordially invite you for a Special
Lecture on
“GST and Indirect Tax Reforms in India”**

Programme Chart

01.Prayer: University Prayer

**02.Welcome Speech: Dr T. Mallikarjunappa, Academic
Coordinator, Department Of Commerce And International
Business.**

**03. Presidential Address: Prof (Dr) G Gopakumar, Honourable
Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kerala.**

**04.Special Lecture by: Dr. K N Raghavan, Commissioner of
GST and Central Excise, Mumbai Central, Mumbai**

05. Interaction Session:

**06. Vote Of Thanks: Mrs Arunima K V, Guest Faculty,
Department of Management Studies, Central University of
Kerala.**

National Anthem

**Masters of Ceremony: Ms. Nayana C K and Ms. Sruthi M ((IST Year MCom
Students)**

Date: March 09, 2020 (Monday)

Time: 2PM

Venue: Seminar Hall, Sabarmati Block



Central University of Kerala

केरलकेन्द्रीयविश्वविद्यालय

Established by the Parliament of India vide the Central University Act, 2009(No.25 of 2009)
Tejaswini Hills, Periyar P.O, Kasaragod, Kerala, India, 671 316

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Email:deptcommerce@cukerala.ac.in, Phone:0467 2309150/0467 2309150

Brief Profile of Dr. K N Raghavan

Dr. K.N. Raghavan, was born in Kochi, Kerala and had his schooling at Rajagiri High School, Kalamassery. He completed his MBBS from Calicut Medical College in 1988 and joined for post graduate studies in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Trivandrum Medical College. In 1989, he sat for the UPSC Civil Service Exam and joined Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise) in 1990. During the course of his career he has served as Assistant Commissioner of Central Excise at Hosur and Coimbatore (1992-1995), Dy. Director, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Calicut (1995-2000), Managing Director, Kerala Co-operative Rubber Marketing Federation (Rubbermark) and CEO, Co-operative Medical College, Cochin (2000-2004), Additional Commissioner of Customs, JNCH, Nhasasheva (2004-2007) and First Secretary (Commerce) in High Commission of India, Singapore (2007-2011) before returning to Cochin as Additional Commissioner of Central Excise and Service Tax in 2011. Subsequent to his promotion in June 2012, he worked as Commissioner of Customs at Cochin till February 2017. He served on a deputation to Govt of Kerala as CEO of NORKA ROOTS till October 2017. Presently he is working as Commissioner of GST and Central Excise, Mumbai Central, Mumbai.

Dr. K.N. Raghavan qualified to the Ranji Trophy panel of accredited umpires of BCCI in 1991 and to the All India Panel in 1996. He has umpired One Day International (India Vs. Bangladesh at Mohali in 1998) on field and was third umpire in the India Vs. Australia One Day International match at Cochin in April, 1998. He was reserve umpire for three more One Day international matches. Besides, he has umpired numerous Ranji Trophy, Duleep trophy, Deodhar Trophy matches. He retired from the Umpires panel of BCCI in April, 2013.

The first book of Dr. K.N. Raghavan, 'World Cup Chronicle' was published in 1999. Second edition of the said book was published in 2003. His second book 'Dividing Lines - Contours of India- China Conflict' was published in August, 2012. His third book 'Vanishing Shangri La- History of Tibet and Dalai Lamas in 20th Century' was published in March, 2016.

Dr. K.N. Raghavan lives in Kochi with his wife, Dr. Ranjini Raghavan, Consultant ENT Surgeon working in Sunrise Hospital, Kakkannad. They have one daughter Aishwarya, working at Apple Inc., San Francisco.



Central University of Kerala

केरलकेन्द्रीयविश्वविद्यालय

Established by the Parliament of India vide the Central University Act, 2009(No.25 of 2009)
Tejaswini Hills, Periyar P.O, Kasaragod, Kerala, India, 671 316

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Email:deptcommerce@cukerala.ac.in, Phone:0467 2309150/0467 2309150

Report of the Special Lecture on “GST and Indirect Tax Reforms in India”

By Dr K N Raghavan, the Commissioner of GST and Central Excise, Mumbai Central, Mumbai

The programme started with the Central University of Kerala prayer song. The guests, invitees, students and faculty members were welcomed by Prof Dr T Mallikarjunappa, Academic Co-ordinator, Department of Commerce and International Business, Central University of Kerala, Periyar, Kasaragod. Prof Dr G Gopakumar, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kerala, in his presidential address said that GST is one of the most important indirect tax reforms that the Government of India brought in and this has simplified a lot of tax issues.

Dr K N Raghavan, the Commissioner of GST and Central Excise, Mumbai Central, Mumbai, delivered the special lecture on the topic “GST and Indirect Tax Reforms in India”. In his lecture he said that prior to GST, the interstate goods movements involved check posts in each state borders and a lot of trucks carrying the goods across the states had to wait in queue and these trucks had to wait in the check posts for days before they moved to another state. He said that this system of each state checking the goods in their borders led to a loss of man hours and productive time and it was also an inefficient way to transport the goods across the states. These hurdles created inconveniences to all the stakeholders without any value additions. He outlined the indirect tax system before the introduction of GST and said that the central government had the power to impose taxes on the movement of goods across the states, state government had the powers to impose tax on the goods movement within the state, local governments had the powers to impose tax on the goods which entered their markets. The process involved multiple agencies and multiple tax rates for the same goods and services as different states in India levied different rates of taxes. Therefore, you could witness people buying goods in different parts of the country because of the lower tax rates in those states. He emphasized that as the goods and services were taxed at different stages and in different states, it amounted to tax on tax as the taxes were levied on final cost of goods and services at every stage. This resulted in rise in prices of goods and services as there was cascading effect. As a result of all these, the system of taxation became inefficient and therefore, the Government of India thought of bringing in a major reform involving a uniform tax rate for goods and services in the whole country.

However, the exercise was not an easy one as the State and local Governments would not be willing to give up their power to tax the goods and services. However, the Government of India, had set the goal of tax reform and therefore, they started initiating discussions with the state governments and convinced them the necessity of major tax reform like the GST. The state which expressed their apprehension that they will lose their revenue were assured that the Central Government will compensate the states by way of passing on the revenue to the state governments. The then Finance Minister of the country, Mr Arun Jaitely, held several rounds of discussions with the state finance ministers before the GST was rolled out. Ultimately the GOI took the bold decision of introducing the GST in July 2016. As the earlier system of central and state governments determining the tax rates was given up, a new body called GST Council was created with the responsibility of determining the rates of taxes on different goods and services. The council is headed by the Union Finance Minister and the finance ministers of all the states



Central University of Kerala

केरलकेन्द्रीयविश्वविद्यालय

Established by the Parliament of India vide the Central University Act, 2009(No.25 of 2009)
Tejaswini Hills, Periyar P.O, Kasaragod, Kerala, India, 671 316

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Email:deptcommerce@cukerala.ac.in, Phone:0467 2309150/0467 2309150

are the members of the council which meets at periodic intervals and discusses the tax rates for all goods and services in the country. He said that the GST Council has met several times and addressed the different issues arising out of the evolving situation. He said GST Network was created to help the assesseees to file the returns. He said initially there were problems in the GSTN and over a period of time, these issues have been addressed.

The lecture was followed by discussions. During the discussion the students asked the questions relating to the existence of multiple rates and why not a single rate like what Singapore has. The students also asked the speaker why the rates of tax in India are higher and in other parts of the world they are lower and why do we have multiple rates and in other countries they have a single rate. The students cited the example of Singapore. The speaker said that while the rates of taxation in India are higher and there are more slabs in India than in other countries, the rates and the number of slabs will come down once the buoyancy in tax collection is ensured and the tax compliance increases. He also said that a lot of reforms has taken place in the taxation system in India and the current structure is a much more improved version of taxation than what was existing earlier. Another student asked why there is a 12% GST on the sanitary napkins when it is an essential commodity. The speaker agreed to the view and said that if there are representations, the PM and FM may consider these and in the past the tax rates have undergone changes based on the representations and the ground realities. However, he said that India has a lot more issues to address like the basic wash room facilities and these are the priorities and after these issues are met, the question of rates will be taken care.

To a query by a faculty member that there is a criticism that GST was brought in without making proper preparations and anticipated problems with the implementation of the GST, Dr Raghavan said that although there is a perception that preparations were not adequate, a lot of discussions and debates had taken place and the Government of India had also made elaborate preparations before the implementation of the GST. He also said that at any time there will be some unanticipated problems and the administration has to address these issues.

To another query by another faculty member that some of the formers and traders started withdrawing their applications for brands as the GST envisaged taxing the branded goods at a higher rate than the unbranded goods, the speaker said that people pay higher price for the brands because the quality of the products is associated with the brands and therefore, our focus should be on building quality through brands rather than focusing on reducing the GST rates. Quality consciousness will be built through brands and therefore, there is a justification in taxing the branded products at a higher price than the unbranded products.

One of the researchers asked whether GST will help bringing down the level of fiscal deficit. The speaker said that if the expected GST collections materialise, it would lead to reduction in fiscal deficit as the governments will have more flexibility in budget management. He said FRBM has brought discipline in the government spending and GST collection increasing will give the flexibility in spending and this should eventually take care of fiscal deficit. He said it may not happen immediately but in the long run this is likely to happen.



Central University of Kerala

केरलकेन्द्रीयविश्वविद्यालय

Established by the Parliament of India vide the Central University Act, 2009(No.25 of 2009)
Tejaswini Hills, Periyar P.O, Kasaragod, Kerala, India, 671 316

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Email:deptcommerce@cukerala.ac.in, Phone:0467 2309150/0467 2309150

The programme ended with vote of thanks by K V Arunima, faculty member, Department of Management Studies. At the end national anthem was sung.

The students, researchers, faculty members from the Departments of Commerce and International Business, MBA, MBA (Tourism and Travel Management) and Economics participated in the programme.

