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GST Council to...

on December 31 in Delhi, an official said, adding that it will be an extension to the pre-budget meeting with state finance ministers on December 30.

The Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation will submit report to the Council. The panel has reviewed items under an inverted duty structure to help minimise refund payout.

Besides, the Fitment committee, comprising tax officers from states and the Centre, has made many "sweeping" recommendations to the GoM regarding slab and rate changes and taking items out of the exemption list.

Currently, GST is a four-tier slab structure of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent. Essential items are either exempted or taxed at the lowest slab, while luxury and demerit items attract the highest slab. On the top of the highest slab, a cess is levied on luxury and demerit goods.

There have been demands for merging the 12 and 18 per cent slabs as also taking out certain items from the exempt category to balance the impact of slab rationalisation on revenue.

West Bengal's former finance minister Amit Mitra has urged the Union finance minister to roll back a proposed hike in textile from 5 per cent to 12 per cent saying this would lead to closure of around one lakh textile units and 15 lakh job losses.

Telangana Industries Minister K T Rama Rao has also urged the Centre to withdraw its proposed plan to increase GST rates.

Industry has also opposed the rise in tax from five per cent, citing higher compliance cost especially for the unorganised sector and MSMEs besides making the poor man's clothing expensive.

Modi to release...

the money transfer is in line with Modi's continued commitment and resolve to empowering grassroots farmers.

Under the scheme, a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year is provided to eligible farmer families, payable in three equal four-monthly installments of Rs 2,000.

The fund is transferred directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. In this scheme, an amount of Rs 1.6 lakh crore has been transferred so far.

During the programme to be held through video-conference, the prime minister will also release equity grant of more than Rs 14 crore to about 351 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), which will benefit over 1.24 lakh farmers. He will also interact with FPOs during the event and deliver a speech as well.

NIA files charge...

co-conspirators for the supply of heroin and channelising the proceeds of the sale of narcotics, the official said.

Nasir, a Pakistan-based trafficker, was involved in the smuggling of heroin into India in the garb of export of rock salt granules through Attari border, the NIA official said, adding that further investigation in the case continues.

J&K sees over...

according to the officials. Fourteen patients were discharged from hospitals, taking the total number of recoveries to 20,707, they said. Another 1,092 sample reports in Ladakh showed negative results, they said.

CRIME REPORT

44 bovines rescued, 11 smugglers arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/KATHUA: Police on Wednesday foiled bovines smuggling bids by rescuing 44 bovines and arrested 11 smugglers.

As per details, police rescued 28 bovines including 14 bovines by Nagrota police, 10 bovines by Jhajjar Kotli police and 8 by Sidhra police from three different places during Naka checking under the jurisdictions of Police Stations Nagrota, Jhajjar Kotli and Police Post Sidhra respectively. Four vehicles, one vehicle bearing registration number JK02AK/7167 was seized by Nagrota police while vehicle bearing registration number JK03B/3738 was seized by Jhajjar Kotli police and two vehicles (JK02BA 5286 & JK02CP 2486) were seized by Sidhra police. In this regard, two FIRs 471/2021 and 474/2021 under sections 188 of IPC and 11 of PCA was registered at Police Station Nagrota. FIRs under relevant sections were registered at Police Station Jhajjar Kotli and Police Post Sidhra. Ten accused were arrested. Rafiqat Ahmed, son of Mohd Sharif, resident of Sangar Laru District Anantnag; Haroon Ahmed, son of Abdul Majid Kasana, resident of Qazi Gund Anantnag; Rajinder Choudhary, son of Darshan Lal Choudhary, resident of R S Pura and Pottu, son of Jamal Din, resident of Beli Charana Jammu were arrested by Nagrota police while Afraz Ahmed Khatana, son of Mohd Sharif Khatana, resident of 74-Keharpura PO KokarNag Anantnag and Jameel Ahmed, son of Gulzar Ahmed, resident of Bajipura Tehsil and District Anantnag were arrested by Jhajjar Kotli police. Further, Mumtaz Ahmed, son of M Fareed Ahmed, resident of Kashmard Narsanger Anantnag; Mohammad Iqbal, son of Abdul Rashid, resident of Alchiwara Hillar Arhama Achabal Anantnag; Jaffar Ahmed, son of Fareed Ahmed, resident of Ragoora, Jammu and Imran Ahmed, son of Liqat Ali, resident of Lower Munda Dooru were arrested by Sidhra police. The arrest and recoveries were made by SHO Nagrota Insp Vishav Pratap Singh, SHO Jhajjar Kotli Insp Devinder Singh and Incharge Police Post Sidhra SI Shakil Ahmed in their respective jurisdictions under supervision of SDPO Nagrota Parupkar Singh. The overall operation was done under the guidance of SP Rural Sanjay Sharma. Meanwhile, a police team led by Insp Amit Sangra SHO Rajbagh under the supervision of SDPO Border Sachit Mahajan while performing regular vehicle checking duty at NH Rajbagh noticed a truck (JK02AL-2627) moving towards Kashmir Valley. During checking of vehicle, 12 bovines were found laden it, which were rescued while driver, Sajad Ahmed, son of Khadem Hussain, resident of Sidhra, was arrested and vehicle was seized. FIR No. 272/2021 under section 188 of IPC and 11 of PCA was registered at Police Station Rajbagh.

Cash snatching case solved, Rs 6.5 lakh recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

HIRANAGAR: Police on Wednesday solved a snatching case which took place in Jandi Morh, Hiranagar and recovered Rs 6,50,000 snatched cash from accused person within 48 hours.

As per details, on December 27, 2021, acting on written complaint of one Anil Sangral, Branch Head, JK Grameen Bank Sherpur Hiranagar that unarmed guard of Bank Mohit Singh was deputed to deposit cash amounting to Rs 6,50,000 at J&K Bank Branch, Hiranagar Morh but when he reached Bassi -Jamwal near Jandi Morh, his motorcycle was kicked by three miscreants who were coming behind him on a motorcycle and snatched the bag containing cash. On this, SSP Kathua constituted a special team led by Insp Yash Paul Sharma SHO Hiranagar to nab miscreants. The team, after hectic efforts, succeeded to recover entire snatched amount from Mohit Singh (Bank Guard), son of Kuldeep Singh, resident of Sial Tehsil, Rajpura District, Samba. During investigation, it surfaced that unarmed guard of aforesaid Bank Mohit Singh had fabricated a false story and narrated to manager.

Arnia dacoity case solved; Kingpin among 5 accused arrested

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Wednesday solved Arnia dacoity case within 48 hours by arresting kingpin among 5 accused and recovered looted money.

Giving details, SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli said, "A dacoity took place in Arnia for which 5 people were arrested and looted cash amounting to Rs 2.31 lakh was recovered within 48 hours by dedicated police teams." He said that an incident took place in Arnia on December 27, wherein 8 dacoits after conducting proper reccie hatched a criminal conspiracy and attacked a Petrol pump employee Kaku Ram with sharp-edged weapons and snatched Rs 2.31 lakh from him. Soon after the incident, FIR No 93/2021 under sections 120 B, 397, 323 of IPC 4/25 of Arms Act was lodged at Police station Arnia and investigation was set into motion. For speedy and time bound investigation dedicated teams were constituted. SSP Jammu further said, "After receiving reliable information, 3 teams were constituted under SDPO RS Pura Shabir Khan comprising SHO Arnia Tilak Raj Sharma, SHO R S Pura Jai Pal Sharma and SHO Miran Sahib Mirza Sultan which finally zeroed in accused persons." The operation was done under the overall supervision of SP HQs Rammish Gupta. The arrested accused were identified as Gurnam Singh alias Goru, son of Santokh Singh, resident of Village Kolain R S Pura; Subash Kumar alias Pampi, son of Surjit Kumar, resident of Mottey R S Pura; Amrik Singh alias Kaka, resident of Sakna Raipur Gujjar R S Pura; Jagandeep Singh alias Babbel, son of Gurdeep Singh, resident of Tinday Kalan, Miran Sahib and Rahul Kumar, son of Joginder Lal, resident of Koulan R S Pura. Police also recovered looted cash amounting to Rs 2.31 lakh alongwith three sharp-edged weapons, a motorcycle (JK02CC 8783) and a Scooty (JK02CG 7767) used in crime. On further questioning,

IT Deptt relaxes...

can send a physical copy of the ITR filed to the Centralised Processing Centre (CPC) office in Bengaluru.

If the verification process, which is done through ITR-V form, is not complete, then it is considered that the return has not been filed.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in a circular dated December 28, said a large number of electronically filed ITRs for the Assessment Year 2020-21, still remain pending with the Income Tax department for want of receipt of a valid ITR-V Form at CPC, Bengaluru or pending e-Verification from the taxpayers concerned.

"In respect of all ITRs for Assessment Year 2020-21 (fiscal 2019-20) which were uploaded electronically by the taxpayers within the time allowed... and which have remained incomplete due to non-submission of ITR-V Form... the Board... hereby permits verification of such returns either by sending a duly signed physical copy of ITR-V to CPC, Bengaluru through speed post or through EVC/OTP modes.

"Such verification process must be completed by February 28, 2022," the CBDT said.

This relaxation shall not apply in those cases, where during the intervening period, IT department has already taken recourse to any other measure for ensuring filing of tax return by the taxpayer concerned after declaring that the return has not been filed, it added.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said "non-compliant taxpayers would get ample time to come clean and complete the verification process, enabling the tax department to process the returns."

"However, such non-compliant taxpayers would not be compensated for interest for the intervening period under section 244A, as the reasons for delay are attributable to the taxpayer himself."

CBI court summons...

satisfied that prima-facie the accused persons appear to have committed the offence made punishable under Section 420 of RPC read with Section 120-B of Code (Supra) as also for offence under Section 5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Svt, 2006 read with Section 5(1) (d) of the Act (Supra) for which present charge-sheet is laid against them and issued Summons against accused persons and matter is listed accordingly on February 4, 2022 for presence of accused persons and further hearing."

J&K emerges leading...

Education Department while giving information on Wednesday about the development said that a robust and acceptable mechanism is used for measuring performance by NITI Aayog. Data is collected online through a portal maintained by NITI on agreed indicators. The data is then validated through an independent validation agency selected through a transparent bidding process. The importance of this annual tool is reemphasized by MoHFW's decision to link the index to incentives under National Health Mission. This has been instrumental in shifting the focus from budget spending and inputs to outputs and outcomes.

According to the report, the health index comprises three domains -health outcomes, governance and information, and key inputs and processes. In terms of overall health performance, the UT of J&K has moved one position up and is categorized as an aspirant and has substantial scope for improvement, the statement added.

The report was released jointly by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar, CEO Amitabh Kant, Additional Secretary Dr Rakesh Sarwal, and World Bank

accused persons divulged the details of proper reccie, planning and criminal conspiracy of looting. Further investigation of case is going on and more arrests are likely to be made in coming days.

Missing girl recovered from Rajasthan

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Police on Wednesday recovered a missing girl from Rajasthan.

As per details, on December 5, 2021, an application was received at Police Station Batote from a woman, resident of Dharmoud Batote stating that her 19 years daughter went missing from home since December 4, 2021. In this regard, a missing report was registered at Police Station Batote and a special team headed by PSI Harish Kumar was constituted under supervision of Insp Ajeev Singh, SHO Batote and Pardeep Singh Sen, DySP HQs Ramban under the overall supervision of Mohita Sharma, SSP Ramban. The team raided various locations in Delhi, Ghaziabad, Agra, Rajasthan and after connecting various leads and hectic efforts, finally recovered missing girl from Jaipur in Rajasthan.

Excise sleuths conduct raids in Kathua, destroy 750 Kg Lahan

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The sleuths of Excise Department destroyed 750 Kg Lahan during different raids carried out to arrest menace of illicit distillation and sale of illicit liquor in Excise Range Kathua.

On directions of Excise Commissioner, Kishore Singh Chib, and supervision of Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive) Jammu, Kusum Sharma, a team of Excise Eradication/Enforcement Wing led by ETO, Eradication Narinder Singh Anthal, comprising Inspector Mohd Pervaiz, Sub inspectors Mohd Salim, Vikas Khajuria, Kulbhushan Manhas and Excise Guards Karnail Singh & Shahbaz Khan raided Ghati, Upper Satachak and adjoining areas of Kathua district to arrest the menace of illicit distillation of liquor. During raids, 750 Kg Lahan, raw material of illicit liquor was recovered by teams from state land and destroyed on spot.

Man killed in mishap

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: A man was killed in road mishap in Rajouri on Wednesday.

As per details, Vikram Singh, son of Niranjan Singh, resident of Haveli, Pooneh who was riding a bike got hit by a bus in Lamberi area due to which he got injured. He was shifted to hospital where doctors declared him as brought dead. Police has registered a case and started investigation.

Cash snatched from man

STATE TIMES NEWS

R S PURA: Some bike-borne youth snatched cash from a man in R S Pura on Wednesday.

As per details, Pawan Kumar, son of Ishar Dass, resident of Badyal Brahmana, R S Pura who on way to home along with his son after withdrawing Rs 52K from bank, was targeted by some bike-borne youth who snatched money from him. Till the time he raised alarm, the accused managed to flee from the spot. Police has registered a case and started investigation.

Shopkeeper arrested for abusing Tehsildar

STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: A shopkeeper was arrested for abusing a Tehsildar in AKhnoor area on Wednesday.

As per details, during a market checking, a shopkeeper namely Prasad abused a Tehsildar over an heated argument after which he was taken into custody by police and booked under relevant sections of law.

Woman killed, 2 injured as Ambulance turns turtle

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A woman was killed while two others got injured after an ambulance, in which they were travelling, turned turtle in Bakshi Nagar on Wednesday.

As per details, an ambulance carrying a patient was coming from Arnia, d turned turtle near Bakshi Nagar after hitting divider as driver of vehicle lost control over the vehicle. In mishap, three persons got injured and were shifted to GMC Jammu where doctors declared one of them as brought dead. The deceased was identified as Kunti Devi, wife of Pratap Chand, resident of Arnia while injured were identified as Bodh Raj and Nitin Kumar.

Father, son assaulted

STATE TIMES NEWS

BISHNATH: A father-son duo got injured after they were assaulted in Bishnah area in Wednesday.

As per details, during a clash, a youth came to rescue his father but he was also assaulted by miscreants, resulting in injuries to both father and son and one more person. They were shifted to hospital and identified as Jagar Ram, Suresh Kumar and Rakesh Kumar. Police is investigating the matter.

Man crushed under train

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man was crushed under a train in Kunjwani area on Wednesday.

As per details, a man, was who crossing railway-track, came under train and died on the spot. His body was shifted to morgue for autopsy.

Drug peddler nabbed with Charas

STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHWAR: Police on Wednesday nabbed a drug peddler arrested from Chatroo and recovered Cannabis (Charas) from his possession. As per details, a team of Police Station Chatroo developed specific information regarding sale & purchase of drugs in Chatroo area. Acting on tipoff a Naka was established near TRC Chatroo Kishwar by Insp Parvaiz Khanday along with his team under the supervision of Dy.SP DAR Kishwar Zia-Ul-Haq. During checking, police arrested a notorious drug peddler and recovered cannabis like substance (Charas) weighing about 90 gm from his possession. The accused was identified as Mohd Imran, son of Mohd Qasim Gujjar, resident of Karna Chatroo, Kishwar. FIR No. 77/2021 under relevant sections of NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Chatroo.

Fire breaks out in readymade garment showroom

STATE TIMES NEWS

VIJAYPUR: A fire broke out at readymade garment showroom on Wednesday causing loss of lakh of rupees. As per details, fire broke out in a readymade garment showroom located in Vijaypur market on Wednesday morning. On receiving information, two fire tenders were pressed into service which doused the fire, but till then material worth lakhs was reduced to ashes. The cause of the fire is believed to be short circuit. The showroom belonged to Parshuram.

Senior Health Specialist Sheena Chhabra. The report has been developed by NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank, and in close consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

It is pertinent to mention here that, the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir has shown a record improvement in last 3 years in key Maternal and Child health indicators as per the latest report of National Family Healthy Survey (NFHS-5) conducted by International Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai. "If we compare the achievements in key health indicators recorded in National Family Healthy Survey report (NFHS-5) 2019-20 with the NFHS-4 of 2015-16, J&K has recorded 22 points decrease in Neonatal Mortality Rate (NNMR) from 23.1 to 9.8, 16 points decrease in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) from 32.4 to 16.3 and 19 points decrease in Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) from 37.6 to 18.5, which is unprecedented and is the reflection of health status of general population," the statement added. The report also indicated a positive change towards the girl child in Jammu & Kashmir and recorded improvement in Sex Ratio at birth from 923 to 976 females per 1000 males.

Omicron tally in...</h