

Note on The First Discussion Paper on GST held on Friday, 4th December 2009

The meeting began with a welcome by the President

Thereafter Mr.Venkataramani gave a brief insight into the discussion paper on GST and gave his introductory remarks.

Mr.V S Krishnan the guest speaker highlighted the following issues:

- That the rate of tax is likely to be around 16% in a GST regime;
- That CBEC is likely to act as a nodal agency for interstate transactions liable to IGST;
- That introduction of GST will result in approx. 1.5% GDP growth;
- That provision of "supply of services" rules is being drafted;
- That the constitutional amendments will be put in place well in time;
- That there will be a single CGST statute while the main provisions in SGST statute will be uniform throughout India across States;
- That the dispute resolution mechanism is being debated by the JWG;

Apart from the above the discussions and interactive sessions were lucid and was a thorough learning experience for all the delegates.