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## Press Release

Bangalore, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

### **GST Demystified at the PAC Roundtable**

Not-for-profit- Think Tank Public Affairs Centre (PAC) held a Roundtable “New Beginnings” on Goods and Services Tax (GST) as an attempt to discuss the impact the new tax reforms will have on the economy and the complexities in its implementation. Attending the roundtable were Mr Ritvik Pandey, I.A.S., Commissioner for Commercial Taxes, Government of Karnataka, PAC Chairman Justice M N Venkatachaliah, industry associations including chief guest Mr Vinod Kumar, I.R.S., Principal Chief Commissioner, Central Taxes, Government of India.

Highlighting the importance of such events Director of PAC Mr G Gurucharan said, “There is a lot of apprehension among the general public regarding GST, we hope that through debate and discussion we would be able to address many issues that currently surround this landmark initiative by the Government of India.”

Welcoming such roundtables to help clear the air around GST, Mr Kumar said, “Such roundtables are welcome since they bring both industry and the government at the same stage to discuss the smaller nuances of GST. We are hopeful that the GST will reduce the burden from the common man and simplify a complicated taxation structure.”

Bringing about the implications of the GST on the corporate world, Mr Shekar Viswanathan, Vice-Chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor Private Limited, India said, “We partnered with PAC to help bust the myths and misunderstandings surrounding the GST. We feel that the GST will bring the whole country on one platform and which will help reduce prices for many products that will help boost sales.”

Throwing light on the immediate and long term effect and state level impact of the GST in Karnataka was Mr Pandey who said “The road to GST was not an easy one considering the complications involved in simplifying the entire tax system in the country”. Yet he stressed that the GST would to a great extent bring down prices of essentials in the state.

Moderated by noted economist and Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies **Mr Narendar Pani**, the PAC roundtable included a panel consisting of **Mr. R. Sriram**, Commissioner of Central Taxes, Bengaluru East, **Mr. Ravi Prasad**, Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Government of Karnataka, CA. **Mr. V. Raghuraman**, representative, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) - Bangalore Branch, **Mr. Praveen William**, Partner - Indirect taxes, KPMG and **Ms. Jayashree Parthasarathy**, Partner - Tax and Regulatory Services, E&Y.

The organising of this Roundtable was supported by Toyota Kirloskar Motor Private Limited.

**About PAC:** *Public Affairs Centre (PAC) is a not for profit think tank, established in 1994 with a mandate to improve the quality of governance in India. The creation of PAC was perhaps the first civil society-led institutional initiative to mobilize a demand for good governance in India. The focus of PAC is primarily in areas where citizens and civil society organizations can play a proactive role in improving governance. PAC undertakes and supports research, disseminates research findings, facilitates collective citizen action through awareness raising and capacity building activities, and provides advisory services to state and non-state agencies. For more information log onto: [www.pacindia.org](http://www.pacindia.org)*