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Tax Trends

Top Tax News This Week

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Govt extends GST Appellate Tribunal appeal filing deadline to July 31 after portal rush

The Central Government has extended the due date for filing appeals before the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) from 30 June 2026 to 31 July 2026 for appeals filed under Section 112(1) read with Section 112(3) of the GST law. The extension has been granted in view of technical issues on the GSTAT portal caused by a significant surge in appeal filings. Taxpayers are advised to file their appeals well before the revised deadline to avoid last-minute portal-related issues.

The Economic Times

Biz bodies write to FM, seek lower GST on paper, paperboard

The Federation of Corrugated Box Manufacturers of India (FCBM), Eastern India Corrugated Box Manufacturers' Association (EICMA), and the Bharat Chamber of Commerce have urged the GST Council to reduce the GST rate on paper and paperboard used in the manufacture of corrugated cartons, boxes and cases from 18% to 5%. The industry has highlighted that while the GST rate on corrugated boxes was reduced to 5%, the GST on paper and paperboard stands at 18%, resulting in an inverted duty structure and increased tax costs. The matter is expected to be considered at the upcoming GST Council meeting in Kolkata.

The Times of India

GST on subscription ride-hailing platforms like Rapido and Bharat Taxi may hit driver earnings: Report

The Esya Centre has recommended that the GST liability under Section 9(5) of the CGST Act should not be extended to subscription-based ride-hailing platforms, such as Rapido and Bharat Taxi, where drivers pay a fixed subscription fee, negotiate fares directly with passengers, and collect payments themselves. The report highlights that, unlike commission-based aggregators, these platforms neither determine fares nor collect consideration, making compliance with Section 9(5) impractical. It further cautions that imposing GST liability on such platforms could reduce drivers' take-home earnings, increase ride fares, adversely affect passenger demand, and create regulatory uncertainty. Accordingly, the report recommends restricting the applicability of Section 9(5) to platforms that are involved in fare determination and payment collection.

The Economic Times

Duty waiver on petrochemical products extended till July 15

The Central Government has extended the full exemption from Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on the import of select petrochemical products till 15 July 2026. The extension aims to ensure the continued availability of critical raw materials at lower costs, support domestic manufacturing, and mitigate the impact of supply chain disruptions caused by the West Asia conflict. The measure is expected to benefit sectors such as plastics, packaging, textiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and automotive components by helping contain input costs.

The Economic Times

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