

Small online intra-state traders to get TCS relief

The GST Council has decided to spare the need for a 1% tax to be collected at source

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mall traders who will be allowed to sell through online platforms without goods and services tax (GST) registration from January will be spared the need for a 1% tax to be collected at source, said a person familiar with the fine print of the decision taken earlier this week by the GST Council.

Currently, e-commerce operators have to collect tax at 1% while making payments to traders and remit it to the government. With the Council's decision to bring online and offline retailers on a par with respect to GST registration requirements, traders with less than ₹40 lakh sales in goods will not require GST registration for online trading within the state. An important relief that will come along with this is the exception from the 1% tax collection at source (TCS), explained the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"E-commerce players are collecting TCS on behalf of the seller and crediting it to our account. Now, they need not collect it in the case of those exempted from GST registration from January," said the person.

The GST Council gave time till I January to implement the scheme as the government has to make rules and e-commerce players have to modify their systems and software.

"For example, an e-commerce operator who is selling through an online platform without GST registration in Punjab cannot sell it to a customer in Haryana. The e-commerce operator has to capture the pin code of the buyer," said the person.

An email sent to the finance ministry and the GST Council on Thursday seeking comments on the story remained unanswered at the time of publishing.

Around 120,000 traders are expected to benefit from the move to exempt registration requirements in the case of those selling goods worth up to ₹40 lakh and those into services trade worth up to ₹20 lakh, according to an official estimate.



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invites the tender on behalf of TSECL for procurement of following item :

would be a big support for small sellers. "We welcome the decision by the GST Council as this will provide a big thrust to small sellers such as local shops and kiranas in the adoption of e-commerce through our programs. Amazon is deeply $committed \ to \ enabling \ the \ growth \ of \ small \ and$ medium businesses in India," the spokesperson said on Thursday.

The Council's decision to provide relaxation

BIG STEP FOR SMALL TRADERS

A spokesperson for Amazon said the move would be a big support for small requirements

> to micro, small, and medium enterprises will go a long way in improving their livelihood, according to an industry representative.

The registration requirement is waived off in the case of small traders, but it is unlikely to affect government revenues as taxes would be paid to the government in the case of a product up to the retail level in the supply chain, and only a marginal tax element on the margins of the retail trader may go out of the net.

Policymakers believe the current norm of compulsory GST registration for online sellers, irrespective of their sales, comes in the way of small businesses reaching a larger customer base

The registration waiver is significant given that a large part of the Indian economy is informal, and could benefit from going online. India has more than 6.3 million unincorporated, non-farm micro, small and medium businesses accounting for a third of its economic output.

Industry body Nasscom welcomed the Council decision and said in a state ment on Thursday that taxpayers who have signed up for a presumptive tax

scheme-called the composition schemewould now be allowed to make intra-state sales through e-commerce operators subject to riders.

This, according to the industry body, will provide additional avenues of growth to small sellers and let them sell across the country without having a physical principal place of business in each state.

IT'S ABUNDANT! PERFECT! PRIME!



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ne thing I love about mathematics is the variety of names mathematicians have given to numbers. Here are a few, to give you an idea. Numbers can be natural, real, happy, perfect, square, rational, polygonal ... you get the idea.

Also, numbers can be abundant. I don't mean that there are a lot of them, which there certainly are. I mean there is a specific mathematical definition that classifies only certain numbers as "abundant". This is it: For any given integer, list its "proper divisors" - that is, its factors apart from the number itself. Add these factors. If the sum is greater than the original number, that original number is abundant.

As an example, take 10. Its factors are 1, 2 and 5, for a total of 8 - so 10 is not abundant. Maybe 11? It has just one proper divisor, l. Not abundant either. Check 12: factors are 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, totalling 16 - so 12 is abundant! In fact, it is the smallest abundant number. The next few are 18 (factors 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 for a total of 21), 20 (factors 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, total 22) and 24 (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, total 36).

Something may already have struck you about these first four abundants: they are all even. That's one intriguing thing about these numbers. Make a list from the smallest one (12) on up and you could start to believe that abundants are always even. You'll run through 100, then 150, then 200 abundants - in fact, 231 consecutive abundants before you hit the first odd one, 945.

This abundance of even abundants might have you wondering: is 945 the only odd abundant? Or are there just a few? Well, actually, there is an infinite number of abundant numbers, even and odd. One way you will believe this is if every multiple of an abundant is itself abundant - because obviously any number has an infinity of multiples. But is this so?

In fact, it is. Here's an intuitive way to grasp this. Take 30, which is abundant because its proper divisors are 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10 and 15, adding to 42. Now, pick any multiple of 30 - 60, 270, 1410 - and call it M. Clearly M will have the above factors of 30 as its own factors, in addition to some more. Thus M/2, M/3, M/5, M/6, M/10 and M/15, whatever those numbers are, are also proper divisors of M. Totalling just these, we note first that

M/2 + M/3 + M/6 = M

And if we add M/5, M/10 and M/15 to this, we already have a number greater than M. Thus M is abundant.

So, if 945 is the first odd abundant, all its multiples are also abundant - and every alternate multiple is odd So, even if we find no odd abundants other than 945 and its odd multiples, we know there's an infinite number of them. (Though there are indeed odd abundants unconnected to 945.)

Take another nugget about abundants: every integer greater than 20,161 can be expressed as the sum of two abundant numbers. What's special about 20,161, except that it's prime? I don't know as I write this, but I can't wait to find out. But in playing with numbers this way, other links to primes also emerge. Wait for that.

Now, if we have abundants, we also have deficient numbers Their principal divisors sum to less than the number itself. There's 9, whose factors are 1 and 3, adding to 4. There's 33, factors 1, 3, 11, for a total of 15. And of course, every single prime number is deficient. After all, each has only one principal divisor, I. And as you can imagine, there are the occasional numbers whose factors sum to the number itself. Neither abundant nor deficient, these are called perfect. 6 is the smallest such, because its factors are 1, 2 and 3, which add to 6. That's followed by 28,496 and 8128 and they quickly get much larger.

Ancient Greek mathematicians knew about perfect numbers. The great Euclid spelled out a relationship between the powers of 2 and perfect numbers that involves, yes, primes: what we now call Mersenne primes. These are prime numbers that are one less than a power of 2. If you have one such, said Euclid, multiply it by that power of 2 and divide by 2: you get a perfect number. (Try it with 32, the fifth power of 2 - you get 496.)

The largest primes we know of are Mersennes, and the continuing search for the next Mersenne is one of

Every integer over 20,161 can be expressed as the sum of two abundant numbers

the great collaborative mathematical efforts of our time. As of May 2022, the largest of them all is 282589933 - 1. a monster that has 24,862,048 digits. Yes: That monster too produces a perfect number. Yet, here are two simple things we don't know about perfect numbers: one, are

they infinite? And two, is there an odd perfect number? How odd that we know there are odd abundants and deficients, but we don't know if there's even one odd perfect! There are compensations: mathematical circles were abuzz recently, when a student at Oxford proved a conjecture that the stellar Paul Erdös made, involving primes and perfect numbers. That story, another time.

But it's just more evidence of the endless connections you'll find in the fabric of number theory. Abundant evidence, really.

Finally: Two thousand years after Euclid, the equally great German mathematician Leonhard Euler proved that all even perfect numbers have the particular link to Mersennes that Euclid found. That's the Euclid-Euler theorem for you. That name is a tribute to two remarkable minds separated by two millennia, but a tribute too to the enduring charm and mystery of mathematics.

Once a computer scientist, Dilip D'Souza now lives in Mumbai and writes for his dinners. His Twitter handle is @DeathEndsFun.

कर्मण्यकर्म यः पश्येदकर्मणि च कर्म यः। स बुद्धिमान्मनुष्येषु स युक्तः कृत्स्नकर्मकृत्।।



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ABOUT 120,000 traders could benefit from the move to exempt registration

REGISTRATION waiver is significant given that a large part of the Indian economy is informal

