



PLUTUS IAS

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1. What is HSN Code?

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has made it mandatory to mention the 8 digit HSN code in tax invoices for 49 chemical-based products while issuing GST invoice. The move is expected to reduce tax evasion. HSN or Harmonized System of Nomenclature code is a system for classification of goods across the world. This classification is used to help with taxation i.e. helps identify which tax rate is applicable to a product.

What is HSN code?

HSN is Harmonised System of Nomenclature. The HS code is called the HSN code in India. HS code is a six-digit identification code. The first two digits in the code denote the HS chapter, the next two digits are the HS heading and the last two digits are the HS subheading. The HS is "Harmonised System". It was developed by the World Customs Organization. It is a multipurpose International product nomenclature. The code is called the universal economic language for goods. The code comprises of more than 5000 commodity groups.

In India the code uses 8 digits.

The HSN code consists of 21 sections, 99 chapters, 1,244 headings and 5,224 subheadings. For instance, HSN of onion is 07031010. The '07' denotes the chapter of "Edible Vegetables", '03' denotes headings in the chapter such as onions, garlic, shallots, leeks. The rest denote the subheading. Here the subheading is fresh or chilled.

Application

The HSN code is mainly used for taxation purpose. It helps to identify the rate of tax applicable to a product in the country.

The codes are used by statistical Agencies, customs authorities and other government regulatory bodies to control the import and export of commodities. The code mainly finds its application in custom tariff, collection of internet access, collection of International Trade statistics, transport tariffs and Statistics, areas of custom control and procedures, monitoring of controlled goods such as narcotics, Chemical Weapons, endangered species, Ozone layer depleting substances and wildlife trade.

Why is the HSN code important?

Around 200 countries use the system for gathering international trade statistics, custom tariffs and to monitor goods and make trade policies. Therefore, the system helps to harmonize trade procedures and ultimately reduces costs in international trade.

Importance of HSN in GST

It makes GST systematic and globally accepted. By using HSN codes, there is no need to upload detailed descriptions of the goods. This helps in automation of GST returns. Thus, it helps to save money and time for the tax authorities.

2.Indigenous Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant: Key Facts

The Indigenous Aircraft Carrier is set to be commissioned into service by end of 2021 or early 2022. The project is significant in light of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative as 75% of its materials and onboard equipment are indigenously developed. The carrier is in the final stages of its construction at Cochin Shipyard Ltd. The basin trials, which is the testing of the machinery and equipment in floating conditions, were successfully carried out recently. This is to be followed by sea trials in early 2021.

INS Vikrant

It is also known as Indigenous Aircraft Carrier One. It is under construction at the Cochin Shipyard, Kerala for the Indian Navy.

What is the motto of INS Vikrant?

The motto of INS Vikrant is "Jayema Sam Yudhi Sprdhah". It was taken from Rig Veda. It means " I defeat those who fight against me".

What is the project cost of INS Vikrant?

The project cost of INS Vikrant was escalated to 3.5 billion USD in 2014. In 2019 an additional 420 million USD was authorised for a phase 3 of the project.

About INS Vikrant

It works on Short Take Off But Arrested Recovery Mechanism (STOBAR). This mechanism is very much similar to the mechanism in the present carrier INS Vikramaditya. INS Vikrant is powered by 4 General Electric gas turbines.

INS Vishal

It is also called Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Two. It is a proposed aircraft carrier that is to be built in Cochin Shipyard Limited. It is to be built on CATOBAR (Catapult based Aircraft Launch Mechanism). This is similar to that of the US Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS)

STOBAR

STOBAR combines elements of vertical landing and short take off. It is a system used to launch and recover an aircraft from an aircraft carrier. These systems are simpler to build as compared to that of CATOBAR. Also, it is less expensive. The major limitation of STOBAR is that it works only with fighter aircrafts that have a high thrust to weight ratio. Some fighter jets with high thrust to weight ratio are MiG-29K and Su-33.

3.Varanasi Annapurna Idol:

The Varanasi Annapurna idol is being brought back to India after a century from Canada. It was stolen from a Varanasi temple about a century ago. This 18th century sculpture is carved in the 'Benares style' and is a representation of the goddess of food. The goddess is represented as holding a bowl of kheer and a spoon in her hands. Annapurna is also the deity of Varanasi city.

The idol will be put under the custody of ASI after it is brought back to India. The ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) is the official custodian of such repatriated artefacts.

How did the Annapurna Idol reach Canada?

Annapurna is the Goddess of food. Annapurna Idol is an 18th century Idol and was a part of the University of Regina. Divya Mehra, a Winnipeg based artist was invited to stage an exhibition at the MacKenzie art gallery. While she was researching the collection, she found that the Annapurna Idol was stolen from an inactive temple in the banks of Varanasi in 1913. It was acquired by MacKenzie.

Other repatriated Objects from the West

Union culture minister Prahlad Patel recently returned the bronze Idol of Lord Ram, Lakshman and goddess Sita to the Tamil Nadu Government. The bronze Idol was brought back from the UK.

About the Bronze Idol

According to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism the idol was stolen from India over twenty years ago. In September 2020, the London Metropolitan police handed over the statue to the high commission of India after they have recovered it.

The idol was stolen from a temple that was built in Vijayanagara period in Tamil Nadu In the last six years, the Government of India has identified around forty Indian idols in different countries that were stolen between 1977 and 2014. The Archaeological

Survey of India records say that 13 of these antiquities have been brought back to India.

4.Cyclone Burevi

The cyclone Burevi, named by Maldives, hit the Karaikal coast of Tamil Nadu 7 days after cyclone Nivar. This is the third cyclone formed within the last 10 days in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea put together.

Why is Cyclone Burevi not as strong as Cyclone Nivar?

As the new cyclone Burevi comes just days after Cyclone Nivar, its impact is set to be more subdued. This is because when consecutive systems develop in the same region of the sea, the first system leads to a process called 'upwelling'- i.e. cooler water from the deeper parts of the ocean moves towards the upper layer and produce less friendly conditions for cyclones.

Cyclone Burevi

Cyclone Burevi is the third cyclone to hit Tamil Nadu in two years after Cyclone Gaja in 2018 and Cyclone Nivar recently. It is the fifth cyclone that has taken shape in the North Indian ocean region in 2020. The other four cyclones were Cyclone Gati, Cyclone Nisarga, Cyclone Nivar and Cyclone Amphan.

Cyclone Gati made landfall in Somalia in November 2020.

Cyclone Nisarga

Cyclone Nisarga made its landfall in Maharashtra in June 2020. The name was suggested by Bangladesh. Nisarga was a severe cyclonic storm and the strongest tropical cyclone that struck Maharashtra since 1891.

Cyclone Amphaan

It was named by Thailand. It made landfall between Sagar Islands of West Bengal and Hatiya Islands of Bangladesh. The cyclone affected Odisha, West Bengal and Bangladesh. It was the second pre monsoon cyclone to form in the Bay of Bengal after Cyclone Fani.

Cyclone Fani

Cyclone Fani hit the eastern coast of India in May 2019. It created four new mouth in Chilika Lake. Before the cyclone hit the coast of Odisha, the Chilika Lake had only two active mouths. Mouths of the lake are the points where it meets the sea. The mouths were formed due to the wave energy. Due to the opening of new mouth in the lake a lot of marine waters are entering the Lake and is increasing the salinity of Chilika Lagoon. Chilika Lake has brackish water, that is, mixture of fresh and saline water.

It was the longest lived cyclone in the Bay of Bengal ever observed. The Cyclone stayed in the sea for 11 days before it made a landfall.

5. Theremin turns 100

The Theremin musical instrument will turn hundred years old in 2020. It has revolutionised the music industry by being the predecessor of the modern synthesizer.

What is Theremin?

Theremin is a musical instrument. It is considered as the world's first electronic instrument and it turned 100 years old in 2020. It was developed by Leon Theremin. It generates sound by modulation of electromagnetic waves and this is done without the player having to even touch the instrument. It has a vertical antenna for controlling the tone and a looped antenna for controlling the volume.

How was Theremin discovered?

Leon Theremin was a scientist during the period when radio waves was still a new phenomenon in technology. While he was experimenting with radio waves in his laboratory, he discovered that operators working on radio waves made strange sounds when he moved his hands around it. Being a classical musician and trained in Cello the sounds stimulated his interests. He then realised that he has created a new musical instrument that played without touching. This was the first electronic instrument in the world and was called Theremin. The instrument turned hundred years old in 2020. The invention of the instrument revolutionized music. It has its history tied to the prisons of Siberia, world war and Hollywood films of the 20th century.

How is Theremin played?

It has a vertical antenna and a loop antenna. The musicians modulate the electromagnetic field in the instrument by moving their hands and fingers around the space. When the musician moves around the vertical antenna he can increase or decrease the tone. When he moves around the loop antenna, he can control the volume.

About Leon Theremin

Leon Theremin is credited with a variety of discoveries from early drum machines to US airplanes. He is also known for inventing a bugging device that was placed in the office of US ambassador to the Soviet Union and was uncovered only after 7 years.

6. What is Emergency Use Authorization?

Recently, several drug makers are seeking Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) for the COVID-19 vaccine. Pfizer has applied for the EUA in the UK and has been approved by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency of the country. Also, the Serum Institute of India and Moderna have also applied for the Emergency Use Authorisation of COVID-19 vaccine.

What is Emergency Use Authorisation?

Vaccines, medicines, diagnostic tests and medical devices require approval for their usage from a regulatory authority, which is the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation in India. This approval is granted after assessing its safety and effectiveness. This is generally a prolonged process. The emergency use authorization (EUA) is a mechanism used by the regulatory bodies to grant interim approval in case of emergencies. This is done only when there is sufficient evidence. The final approval, however, is given after completion of trials.

When can Emergency Use Authorisation be granted?

In the United States of America, the Food and Drug administration grant the Emergency Use Authorisation only after it has been proved that the potential benefits of the vaccine outweigh the potential risks. In other words, the Emergency Use Authorisation is provided only after sufficient efficacy data has been generated at the end of Phase III trials. The Emergency Use Authorisation cannot be provided based on the data provided from Phase 1 or phase 2 trials.

For covid-19 vaccine, the Food and Drug administration of United States has specified that it will consider an application for Emergency Use Authorisation only if the Phase 3 data proves at least 50% efficacy in preventing the disease. The data has to be generated from more than 3000 volunteers.

Emergency Use Authorisation in India

The drug regulations in India do not have provisions for Emergency Use Authorisation. However, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has been granting restricted emergency approval to Covid-19 drugs. For instance, the CDSCO granted restricted emergency approval for Favipiravir and Remdesivir in June and Itolizumab in July.