India has witnessed a number of reforms in indirect taxes over the last two decades with the replacement of State Sales Taxes by Value Added Tax (VAT) in 2005 marking a watershed in this regard. A Modified Value Added Tax (MOVDAT) was introduced for selected commodities at the Central level in 1986 and subsequently extended to all commodities through Central Value Added Tax (CENVAT). Value Added Tax (VAT) at the State level was introduced in a phased manner during 2003 to 2008. Prior to the implementation of VAT, the indirect tax structure in the country was considered somewhat problematic due to the "cascading effect of taxes" whereby an item is taxed more than once from the production stage to the final retail sales stage. Exporters were also becoming less competitive in the international market due to the relatively higher input costs involved in the earlier sales stage.

To address this problem, VAT was introduced so that taxes are paid on the "value added portion" by each producer and the hurdles of the cascading effect are done away with. But shortcomings have been noticed in the VAT structure as well and efforts have been made to further rationalise the system. For instance, a number of Central taxes like duties, surcharge etc. were not included in Central Value Added Tax (CENVAT) while indirect taxes at the State level such as entertainment and luxury taxes were left out of the purview of VAT. While the "White Paper on State-Level Value Added Tax" by the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (ECSFM), Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India emphasized that, in general, all the goods would be covered under VAT and would get the input tax credit benefit, still many goods like liquor, lottery tickets, petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel, motor spirit etc. were kept outside VAT since their prices are not fully market determined.

To address this problem, VAT was introduced so that taxes are paid on the "value added portion" by each producer and the hurdles of the cascading effect are done away with. But shortcomings have been noticed in the VAT structure as well and efforts have been made to further rationalise the system. For instance, a number of Central taxes like duties, surcharge etc. were not included in Central Value Added Tax (CENVAT) while indirect taxes at the State level such as entertainment and luxury taxes were left out of the purview of VAT. While the "White Paper on State-Level Value Added Tax" by the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (ECSFM), Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India emphasized that, in general, all the goods would be covered under VAT and would get the input tax credit benefit, still many goods like liquor, lottery tickets, petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel, motor spirit etc. were kept outside VAT since their prices are not fully market determined.

The taxation of services was initiated in India on July 1, 1994; it is said to have taken "giant leaps" over the years both in terms of coverage and increased tax rate. However, over the years, the newer additions to the existing list of services raised issues of overlaps, confusing whether some activities were being taxed for the first time. The hitherto Constitutional provision does not allow both the Central and State Governments to tax both goods and services in an inclusive manner. The government has therefore recognised the need for harmonisation of goods and services tax so that both can be levied in a comprehensive and rational manner in a new taxation regime - namely, Goods and Services Tax (GST). While preparing the Union Budget for 2007-08, the then Finance Minister P. Chidambaram had announced that GST would be introduced from April 1, 2012, in order to have a tax structure where goods and services tax can be unified in a comprehensive manner. However, since then it has been realised that introducing GST is not an easy task as reflected in the repeated postponement of deadlines of GST implementation.

Issues like addressing States' concerns, GST rate structure, tax specific sectors (like food, petroleum, electricity, land and real estate), and the Constitutional amendment needed have been among the major hurdles. Country case studies regarding GST reflect that socio-economic conditions of countries differ; hence, a GST framework successful in any particular country may not necessarily be successful in other countries. Though GST has a number of administrative, compliance and other benefits, to what extent such a tax regime would be suitable in the socio-economic context of the Indian economy, is a matter of debate. From country experiences, it can be observed that GST is particular suitable for countries with homogeneous commercial and demographic features. The socio-economic conditions of the States in India are much different than the countries of the European Union. Hence, it is argued that before implementing GST there should be a comprehensive analysis whether there would be a net benefit for the Indian economy and/or whether Indian economy is ready to absorb the benefits of the GST regime. For instance, it is argued that a single GST rate is best for administrative efficiency. However, considering both the aspects of fiscal federalism as well as State revenue implications, a single rate is not feasible in India. Given the vertical inequalities of State Governments relative to the Central Government and horizontal inequity among State Governments in India (i.e. the inequity in revenue mobilisation capacity), a single rate of GST is difficult to implement in the absence of compensation for States (for revenue loss, if any). However, if the amount of compensation is huge and have to be paid for a long time, it might put fiscal strain on the Centre. Such possibilities should be reviewed carefully. The Vijay Kelkar Task Force suggested to levy GST at two levels - Centre and State, comprising two rate components, viz. Central GST(CGST) and State GST(SGST) respectively. A dual GST model for the country has also been proposed by the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (ECSFM) in their first Discussion Paper on GST. Under this model, GST would have two components viz. the Central GST to be levied and collected by the Centre and the GST to be levied and collected by the respective States. Central Excise duty, additional excise duty, service tax, and additional duty of customs (equivalent to excise), State VAT, entertainment tax, taxes on lotteries, betting and gambling and entry tax (levied by local bodies) would be subsumed within GST.

New Zealand is an example of a country where GST operates very successfully, but that success was not achieved in a short time; it was a consultative process that took long time to settle considerable issues. In New Zealand, the GST model comprises a low uniform rate and zero exemptions. It took time to convince economic agents about the necessity of zero exemptions. In the context of the political economy of India, more time should be provided to sort out such issues. Hence, consultative processes pertaining to GST are important even if such processes take time.

The writer works with Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA).

E-mail : sankhan@cbga.org

---

JOB HIGHLIGHTS

**UPSC**
- Union Public Service Commission
- Notifies National Defence Academy & Naval Academy Examination (I), 2014.
  **Last Date : 20.01.2014**

**RAILWAY**
- North Western Railway requires 917 Trackman, Gateman, Helper/Khalasi etc.
  **Last Date : 13.01.2014**

**BANK**
- Gramin Bank of Aryavart, Lucknow requires 463 Officer Scale III, Officer Scale II, Officer Scale I and Officer Asst. (Multi-purpose)
  **Last Date : 06.01.2014**

**AIMS**
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi requires Staff Nurse Gr. II, Lab, Attend., Hospital Attendant Gr. III etc.
  **Last Date : 30.12.2013**

---

WEB EXCLUSIVES

Following item is available in the Web Exclusives section on www.employ-
mentnews.gov.in:
- National Identification Authority of India Bill, 2013

---

CAREER IN EVENT MANAGEMENT

Are you the one remembered when a ceremony has to be organised at home? Was the cultural programme you organised for your college a hit? The job commands you to interact with various domains like advertising, logistics, public relations. So, there is a huge demand for experienced event managers. The job of an event manager is to organise events successfully. On the job, the responsibilities range from visualising and planning to budgeting and organising the event. Managing an event is an intensive undertaking. It requires expertise from multiple domains like advertising, logistics, sales, security, operations and public relations. So, to organise an event, you need the support of professionals from various fields. Similarly, you have to maintain good relations with technicians and different vendors to ensure timely flow of quality supplies. For instance, to organise a wedding, you have to coordinate with florists, sound technicians, venue planners, musicians, caterers and so on.

The job introduces you to various kinds of activities and provides enormous scope for learning. As part of your job, you will get to meet people from different professions, work with them and understand their approach to work. Your job commands you to organise a variety of events; on your way to meet the expectations of your clients, you will pick up a variety of practical skills. Interestingly, you will also get a chance to observe various cultures.

The job of an event manager brings out the best of creativity in you. Sometimes, you would be required to organise an event in a location that is

---

Continued on page 64
CAREER IN ...

Continued from page 1

not familiar to you. You should be quick and skillful enough to connect with vendors in that place and organise the event.

At times, you may have to coordinate with celebrities and discuss their payments. To organise some events, you may have to connect with government officials concerned and seek their permission. Sometimes, you are even expected to arrange media promoters. So, in simple terms, this career will expand your network of contacts exponentially and hone your aptitude in multiple dimensions.

Skills required

To start as an event planner, you need to acquire a number of skills. At the top in the list are communication skills and people management skills, because you have to deal with several people every day. As an event manager, you have to think on your feet, and visualise an event that not only meets the expectations and purpose of the client but also stands out. More importantly, you should be able to communicate your ideas and vision to the client and your team.

A comprehensive understanding of project management is the next important requisite. Organising skills, flexibility, problem-solving skills, calm temperament, attention to details, ability to work under pressure and aesthetic sense are some more factors that contribute to an event manager's success. Also, to stay ahead in the competition, you should keep yourself updated about the latest technological developments and incorporate them into your work.

The event management industry is facing a dearth of event management professionals with strong technical skills. To deal with this situation, the industry is acquiring professionals from a vast array of other fields. However, they can deal with specialised areas of events. However, professionals with comprehensive understanding of the event management industry and its operations too are required. The industry needs creative and result-oriented event managers.

A career in event management provides immense job satisfaction. After all it is a great fun and exciting job. You will find it worth it when your clients appreciate you at the end of the day.

To begin your career in the event management industry, you can pursue a course in event management. However, graduates from allied fields like public relations and marketing, can also find challenging opportunities in the field. The success mantra of top event managers is willingness to learn. Gaining cross-functional exposure is inevitable to grow in the event management industry.

Important Notice:

The DAVP Rates for advertisements published in Employment News is revised to Rs. 190.44 per sq. cm. The rate shall be applicable w.e.f. 7 December 2013 issue of ENERS. All the advertisers are requested to take note of this and make payment accordingly.

BECOME A SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEUR

• 100% Grant to training Institutions for skill training to Handicapped persons.
• Also stipend of Rs. 1000/- per person per month.
• Visit our website: www.nrhfd.nic.in

National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation

(Dept. of Disability Affairs, Ministry ofSocial Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India)

Red Cross Bhabha Society, Sector-12, Faridabad-121007

Ph.: 0129-2287512, 0129-2287513, Tele/Fax: 0129-2284371
E-mail: rhfd77@gmail.com, Website: www.nrhfd.nic.in

EN 383

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has completed issuance of 51 crore Aadhaar numbers by November end. With generation of about 11 lakh Aadhaar numbers every day, the programme appears to have completed its mandate of covering 60 crore population in the next few months. (details see web exclusive)

The Union Cabinet has approved the reserve price for auction of spectrum in 1800 MHz band for all service areas and for 900 MHz band in Metro service areas of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata on the recommendations of the Empowered Group of Ministers. The reserve price for 1800 MHz band has been approved at Rs. 1765 crore per MHz Pan India. The reserve price for 900 MHz band would be Rs. 399.80 crore per MHz for service areas of Delhi, Rs. 60.94 crore per MHz for service areas of Mumbai and Kolkata respectively. The decision is expected to result in further efficient utilization of the scarce natural resource of spectrum facilitating expansion of telecom services in the country.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has approved Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for implementation during the 12th Plan with an outlay of Rs. 16,840 crore, a centrally sponsored scheme. Out of this, State governments will be contributing a sum of Rs. 866 crore in 12th Plan. (NHRC) has approved NHM (MIDH) sub-scheme implemented. Implementation of MIDH is expected to achieve a growth rate of 7.2 percent in the horticulture sector during the 12th Plan, besides generating skilled and unskilled employment opportunities in rural and urban areas.

In the recently concluded Assembly elections in five states, Congress party won 30 of the 39 seats for which elections were held. This is Congress fourth victory in a row after its victory in 2002, 2007 and 2009. The victories seem to have been a result of the party's effective campaign and strong organisation in the states.

Implementing the Disabled

Entrepreneurship

Nirbhay Pandey

(General Manager cum Chief Editor)

Nalini Rani Sr. Editor

(Science and Editorial)

Dr. Mamta Rani (Editor)

Irish Ali (Editor)

Circulation

Afzal Ahmed Ehsan (Editor)

V.K. Meena

(Joint. Director (Production)

P.K. Mandal

(Scientific Editor)

K.P. Manilal

(Accounts Officer)

E-Mail: newswdt@yahoo.com

Editorial Office

Employment News
East Block-IV, Level-5
R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066

Telephone: 26104284

Telex: 26193012

Tele-Fax: 26170405

Mobile: 98113179

Circulation: 26175516

Mobile: 98910270