

## **Delhi Assembly ratifies GST Bill**

The Delhi Assembly on Wednesday ratified the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill becoming the seventh State and the third non-NDA-led government to do so.

The 122nd Constitution Amendment Bill has already been ratified by Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

Calling the GST a ‘big reform’, Deputy Chief Minister and Delhi’s Finance Minister Manish Sisodia said that GST will be good for the country’s economy.

### **Jibe at Centre**

Mr. Sisodia also took a jibe at the Centre for ‘at least recognising Delhi as a state’. “The GST bill for the first time recognises Delhi as a State under the new Constitutional amendment to Art 366 - step in right direction finally,” he later said in his tweet.

Mr. Sisodia said that with the GST, Delhi’s share in central taxes will go up — a longstanding demand of the AAP government.

Delhi’s share in central taxes has been stagnant at Rs. 325 crore for the last 17 years and it is expected to increase its share in central taxes significantly when the GST is implemented.

“For the last 17 years, Delhi has been getting Rs. 325 crore as its share of central taxes despite contributing as much as Rs. 1,37,000 crore to the country’s GDP. GST is a big reform,” said Mr. Sisodia, while addressing the Assembly after the Bill was ratified.

Mr. Sisodia, however, said there were some concerns over capping the annual turnover.

“There is no clarity on certain issues. Like businessmen in the Capital with a turnover of up to Rs. 20 lakh do not have to pay taxes. It should not be brought down. We are in favour of increasing the threshold to Rs. 25 lakh,” Mr. Sisodia said.

The Deputy CM also suggested that businessmen with a turnover of up to Rs. 1.5 crore should pay taxes directly to the State government. Mr. Sisodia added that Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had also written to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on the GST issue on August 11.

While the Centre and the AAP government are at loggerheads, the latter has supported the GST Bill.

### **Ambedkar University**

Meanwhile, the Delhi Assembly also cleared the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Vishwavidyalaya Amendment Bill. Through the Bill, the government seeks to change the name of ‘Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Vishwavidyalaya with ‘Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi’.

*(The Hindu)*