

# Bill that paves an 'e-way' for

The roll out of an e-Way Bill system in the country was announced last year. Through the bill the logistics sector will monitor inter-state and intra-state movement of goods and cut transportation time by reducing loss of time at check posts. Industry experts discuss the positives and challenges of the initiatives.

 KALPANA LOHUMI

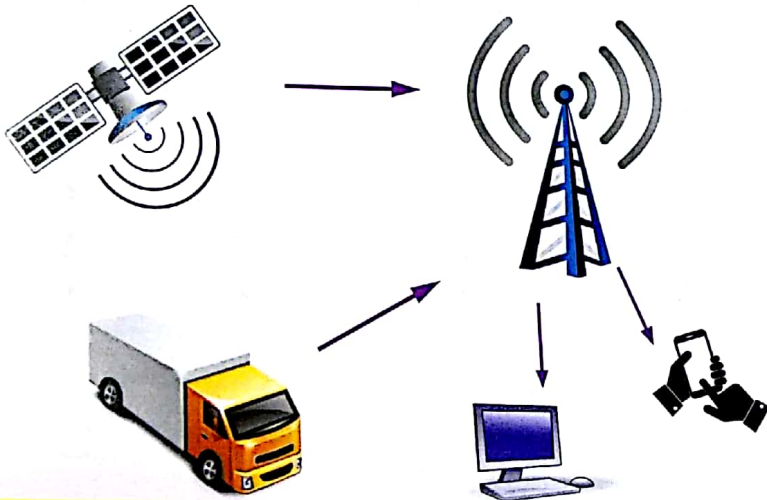
**Samir J Shah**  
Partner  
JBS Group of Companies



## POSITIVES

Any standardisation is always good. There could be a time gap for users to adapt to the changes. A single mandatory document is the right step in improving speed, efficiency and ease of doing business. India is a large country; technology and standards together alone would bring about the desired change. If there is a proper mix of technology and standards the multiple states or the cross-cultural working styles cannot be impediments in smooth transportation. Ease of doing business would initiate lesser controls and a standard operating process. Technology

would replace the processes. Reduction of processes results in reduced human interface and consequently have lesser chances of misinterpretation or different interpretations.



**Vineet Agarwal**  
Managing Director, TCI Group

## POSITIVES

Electronic way bill primarily pushed by all states, is an effort to identify the place of consumption and thus the GST implication. This initiative will enable clear visibility to all the stakeholders boosting proper collection of GST and avoid any shortcuts. This digital documentation process will ensure accountability and easier verification. Recording of every stock transfer and sale will be done through the system linkages to physical movement of trucks and storage in warehouses and there will be transparency across all transactions.

## CHALLENGES

Coming to the challenges part: verification of e-way bill and necessary documentation can lead to delays at various points. Secondly, it is challenging for unorganised players to get oriented to the new system. The timeline or the validity of the e-way bill is not practical in some circumstances. Following, several modes of transports are used by E-com retailers and large commodity players and manufacturers for right time delivery and in such case fresh e-way bill must be generated every time depending on the mode of transport which will end up maintaining multiple bills. Lastly, the process of audit and checking process is not clear; it may lead to bureaucratic hurdles.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Standardisation is always good.
- A single mandatory document is the right step in improving speed, efficiency and ease of doing business.
- Electronic way bill primarily pushed by all states, is an effort to identify the place of consumption and thus the GST implication.
- It is challenging for unorganised players to get oriented to the new system.
- Audit and checking process is not clear; It may lead to bureaucratic hurdles.
- The true success of GST goal would only show post e-way bill implementation. With the e-Waybill provision, the logistics industry will move in a better direction.
- There would not be problem for a transporter in following its compliances, provided one has always followed a clean systematic internal process in origination.
- It will prevent the unorganised players from evading tax due to reporting and compliance.