

GST UPDATE



Delhi, Pune, Bangalore

Key GSTN Changes: What Your Business Needs to Know

These developments indicate a clear shift towards data-driven compliance under GST. The introduction of invoice-level validation in refund claims and enhanced tracking mechanisms within the e-Way Bill ecosystem suggest that GSTN is increasingly relying on system-based controls rather than manual verification. Businesses should focus on strengthening reconciliations, master data governance and ERP readiness to minimise compliance risks and operational disruptions.

1. New Offline Utility for Refund Applications (Annexure-B)

Businesses filing GST refund claims involving accumulated Input Tax Credit (ITC) must now use a new offline utility to submit Annexure-B. This replaces the earlier practice of uploading a PDF attachment.

Who Is Affected?

This change applies to refund claims arising from:

- Export of goods or services without payment of tax
- Supplies to SEZ units or developers without payment of tax
- Inverted duty structure scenarios

What Has Changed?

Instead of a PDF upload, businesses must now enter invoice-level details of inward supplies through the prescribed offline utility and upload in the specified format. The utility separates reporting into three categories – inputs, input services and capital goods – and validates entries against data available in GSTR-2B.

Why This Matters

Since invoice data will now be validated electronically against GSTR-2B, any mismatch between your purchase records and what is reflected in GSTR-2B could trigger processing delays or a query from the department. Proactive reconciliation before filing is now essential, not optional.

Failure to identify mismatches before filing may result in refund processing delays, departmental queries or additional reconciliation requirements.

Action Points

- **Reconcile purchase invoices with GSTR-2B:** before filing any refund application
- **Classify ITC correctly:** inputs, input services and capital goods must be reported separately
- **Run a trial:** test the offline utility before submitting large-value refund claims
- **Update internal SOPs:** revise your refund filing process to incorporate the new upload format

Read the Full Advisory : [Annexure B Advisory](#)

2. Enhancements to the E-Way Bill System (Effective June 2026)

GSTN has announced two significant upgrades to the e-Way Bill portal aimed at improving end-to-end traceability of goods movement. System readiness from all stakeholders is required before these go live.

A. 'Ship-To GSTIN' Becomes Mandatory

In Bill-To / Ship-To transactions, the Ship-To GSTIN field will become a mandatory input when generating an e-Way Bill.

This change is intended to improve the accuracy of consignee data and strengthen tracking within the GST ecosystem. Businesses using ERP-integrated e-Way Bill generation will need to ensure their systems can capture and transmit this field.

- **Audit your ERP / billing system:** confirm that the Ship-To GSTIN field is captured at the transaction level
- **Handle unregistered buyers:** set up a default workflow to input "URP" in relevant cases
- **Test before go-live:** run test transactions to verify the field is passed correctly to the e-Way Bill portal

B. New Voluntary E-Way Bill Closure Facility

GSTN has introduced a facility to voluntarily close an e-Way Bill once goods have been successfully delivered – addressing the long-standing issue of active e-Way Bills remaining open after movement is complete.

Who can close an e-Way Bill?

- Supplier
- Recipient
- Transporter
- Authorised person or driver (via registered mobile number)

Closure can be done on the date of delivery or the immediately following day. Both EWB-wise and date-wise closure options are available. An API facility is also available for businesses with automated integrations.

Expected benefits: fewer unused active e-Way Bills, better transaction tracking, and stronger audit trails.

Read the Full Update : [E-way Bill Updation](#)

Summary

The key changes, their applicability, and the expected implementation timelines are summarized below:

Change / Amendment	Applicability	Effective Date
Annexure-B Offline Utility for Refund Applications	Taxpayers claiming ITC refunds on exports, SEZ supplies without tax payment, and inverted duty structure cases	Already live – applicable for all relevant refund applications
Mandatory Ship-To GSTIN in Bill-To / Ship-To E-Way Bills	All taxpayers generating e-Way Bills in Bill-To / Ship-To scenarios	15 June 2026 (proposed)
Voluntary E-Way Bill Closure Facility	Suppliers, recipients, transporters and authorised persons involved in goods movement	15 June 2026 (proposed)

Our Assessment

Taken together, these updates reflect GSTN's continued push toward system-driven scrutiny, automated validations and end-to-end transaction visibility. The direction is clear: manual and paper-based processes are being systematically replaced by structured digital workflows.

Businesses with significant refund exposure or high-volume e-Way Bill operations are most at risk of disruption if these changes are not addressed proactively. We recommend treating both updates as priority items in your compliance calendar for June 2026.

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OUR LOCATION

DELHI

A-15, Second Floor, Hauz Khas,
New Delhi- 110016
Tel: +91-11 41655801
41655802

PUNE

B-609, Nyati Empress, Viman
Nagar, Pune 411014
Ph: +91 20 30492191

BANGALORE

No. 5A, Second Floor, 6th Main,
KHB Colony, Basaveshwaranagar,
Bangalore - 560079
Tel: +91 80 42064178

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