



The PM could change and reprise our first PM's speech on another midnight

Words for the Imminent Tryst with the GST

With the goods and services tax set to be launched at midnight of June 30, 2017, in Parliament with the President and Prime Minister in attendance, it may be fitting to reprise the eloquent words of our first PM at another midnight session 60 years ago, with some alterations. Our humble suggestion:

“Long years ago, we made a tryst with GST. And now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom from dual levies. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the taxed soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance.... Freedom and power bring responsibility. The responsibility rests upon this Assembly. The past is over and it is the future that beckons to us now. Peace has been said to be indivisible; so is freedom, so is prosperity...now in this one country that can no longer be split into isolated tax fragments.... To the people of India, we appeal to join us with faith and confidence in this great adventure. This is no time for petty and destructive criticism, no time for ill-will or blaming others. We have to build the noble mansion of a tax ambiguity-free India where all her children may dwell.”