

## Hurdles in goods movement

### What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- Post-GST, the elimination of checkposts by almost all states has resulted in a significant reduction in waiting time and increase in road transport efficiency.

\n

- However there are other issues to be addressed for smooth movement of goods.

\n

\n\n

### What are the other hurdles in this regard?

\n\n

\n

- e-waybill is an electronic way bill for the movement of goods across the country. Under GST, a registered person who intends to initiate a movement of goods of value exceeding Rs 50,000 should generate an e-Way bill.

\n

- While earlier businesses had an option to have an e-invoice or a physical invoice for the goods transported, under GST the e-waybill is mandatory.

\n

- An anomaly exists as to the purpose of this option, because an e-invoice and e-waybill would repeat the same data.

\n

- Moreover, there are differences between the State and Central governments, and among the States, on the rules and format regarding the e-waybill.

\n

- Trucks are not stopped only by tax-related check-posts but a host of other transport regulations is also a reason why trucks are stopped and inspected.

\n

- There is a need for updating the vehicle number in the e-waybill every time shipments change trucks which is delaying the transport.

\n

\n\n

## What are the possible solutions?

\n\n

\n

- It is better to insist on all invoices being filed online and using the online invoices as the **de-facto e-waybill**.

\n

- An e-waybill can use **trucks as reference** for checking goods instead of vehicles, thereby reducing the procedural delays.

\n

- **Integration of VAHAN** (a database of the ministry of road transport with all the relevant data related to the vehicles) **and e-waybill** (with details of goods) would simplify the checks and inspections.

\n

- **RFID-enabled e-waybill** and **RFID chip-enabled number plate** of the vehicle tagged to the VAHAN database can serve to be a modern automated check-point.

\n

- A modern automated check-point equipped with **weigh-in motion technology** can monitor overloading as the truck passes by.

\n

- A **taskforce** for the seamless movement of goods has been set up by the Government to consider reforms backed by technology solutions.

\n

- All physical inspection of goods to be subject to CCTV camera recording and all challans to be issued electronically.

\n

- Data related to discretionary inspections by officers can be subjected to the RTI Act.

\n

- Strict **norms** are needed to ensure fairness and transparency of enforcement.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: BusinessLine**

\n



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*