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18 lakh new taxpayers in state after GST's roll-out

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Patna: Over 18 lakh new taxpayers in Bihar have registered themselves since the goods and services tax (GST) rolled out in the country on July 1, 2017, chief commissioner of GST and central excise (Bihar and Jharkhand) Sheo Narayan Singh said on Monday. He said more new registrations were being made on regular basis.

Addressing media persons on the completion of one year of the new taxation regime, Singh said, "The central taxes collected in the state in 2017-18 fiscal is Rs4,503 crore, compared to Rs2,598 crore the previous year. More than 63% people have filed the returns. Besides, 18,913 notices have been issued to defaulters."

Patna commissioner (GST & central excise) Ranjit Kumar said one year of GST was remarkable for the stakeholders, but Bihar lagged behind other states in terms of providing Internet connecti-



Chief commissioner of GST and central excise (Bihar and Jharkhand) Sheo Narayan Singh and others at a press conference on Monday

ty. "We have already made efforts in this regard by collaborating with IT-based companies. We assure more ease in filing returns as the year progresses," he said and added that the state government would work on improving the Internet accessibility across the state for the people facing difficulties while working online in rural areas.

Recalling the GST journey in the state, commercial taxes commissioner-cum-secretary Pratima S Kumar said, "GST was new for everyo-

ne. So, training was imparted to our officials to ensure its smooth implementation. There are certain loopholes that remain unidentified at the time of introduction of any new scheme. Similarly, there were many challenges we had to face in the initial months of GST implementation. But we conducted more than 2,000 outreach programmes to train around 60,000 stakeholders with the help of Bihar Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Bihar Industries Association."

K M Sharma