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**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUDGET SPEECH DATED 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2017**  
**BY HONOURABLE MINISTER (FINANCE, PLANNING & FOREST)**  
**SHRI SUDHIR MUNGANTIWAR**

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**PART-II**

**(A) Tax Concessions**

1. Sugarcane Purchase Tax for the year 2016-17 exempted to give fair and remunerative price to the farmers. The condition regarding export of sugar for exemption for the year 2015-16 is removed.
2. VAT exemption to Amsul alongwith exemption to essential commodities like rice, wheat, pulses and its flour and also turmeric, chillies, tamarind, jaggery, coconut, coriander seeds, fenugreek, parsley (suva), papad, wet dates.
3. VAT exemption on Solapuri chaddar and towels continues.
4. VAT on Geo Membrane required for farm pond reduced from 6% to 0%.
5. To examine the fertility of soil for farming, VAT on Soil Testing Kit reduced from 13.5% to 0%.
6. VAT on Milk Testing Kit for checking adulteration of milk reduced from 13.5% to 0%.
7. VAT on Aviation Turbine Fuel for flights under the Regional Connectivity Scheme reduced from 5% to 1%.
8. VAT on Card Swipe Machine for cashless transactions reduced from 13.5% to 0%.
9. VAT on Gas and Electric Incinerators reduced from 13.5% to 0%.

**(B) Tax concessions to Industries**

1. VAT exemption on Sweet-Corn processing industry from 1st April 2005 to 31st March 2016.
2. VAT exemption on Textile Processing industry from 8th April 2011 to 30th April 2012. Approximately 200 units would benefit.
3. VAT exemption on Yarn Sizing and Warping industry from 1st April 2005 to 31st March 2016. Approximately 300 units would benefit.

**(C) Increase in Taxes**

1. VAT rate of 23.08% on MRP of country and foreign liquor increases to 25.93%.
2. Tax on weekly lottery increases from Rs.70,000 to Rs.1 lakh.

**(D) Administrative changes**

1. Establishment of three new benches of Maharashtra Sales Tax Tribunal.
2. VAT appeal 10% part payment necessary subject to maximum payment of Rs.15 cr.
3. VAT dues can be recovered from the Directors of private company.
4. Profession Tax assessment for unregistered period reduced from eight years to four years.
5. Profession Tax responsibility of an agent on the organization appointing the agent.
6. Review of fees, fine and court fee amounts under various Acts.

**(E) GST**

1. State ready for the implementation of GST.
2. Compensation under GST on the basis of 14% annual growth rate of revenue for the year 2015-16.
3. Compensation under GST to be available for Mumbai's Octroi and Local Body Tax.

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