# Hurdles in goods movement

## What is the issue?

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- 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.
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- However there are other issues to be addressed for smooth movement of goods.
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## What are the other hurdles in this regard?

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- 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.
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- 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.
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- An anomaly exists as to the purpose of this option, because an e-invoice and e-waybill would repeat the same data.
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- Moreover, there are differences between the State and Central governments, and among the States, on the rules and format regarding the e-waybill.
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- 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.
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- There is a need for updating the vehicle number in the e-waybill every time shipments change trucks which is delaying the transport.
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## What are the possible solutions?

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- It is better to insist on all invoices being filed online and using the online invoices as the **de-facto e-waybill.**
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- An e-waybill can use **trucks as reference** for checking goods instead of vehicles, thereby reducing the procedural delays.
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- **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.
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- **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.
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- A modern automated check-point equipped with **weigh-in motion technology** can monitor overloading as the truck passes by.
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- A **taskforce** for the seamless movement of goods has been set up by the Government to consider reforms backed by technology solutions.
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- All physical inspection of goods to be subject to CCTV camera recording and all challans to be issued electronically.
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- Data related to discretionary inspections by officers can be subjected to the RTI Act.
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- Strict **norms** are needed to ensure fairness and transparency of enforcement.
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**Source: BusinessLine**

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