

'Games' agents, promoters must get registered'

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He said that earlier the state government used to levy tax on GGR which was susceptible to manipulation by the promoter or the service provider. He said that the promoter of the game or its agents will also be required to get registered with the government.

The development came almost two months after UP promulgated ordinance to levy tax on online gaming industry. Earlier, the government was imposing 18% GST on online gaming which was shared equally between the state and the Centre. The ordinance followed the Centre's direction to impose higher tax from October 1. Since the house was not in session, the UP government promulgated an ordinance. The issue had cropped up before GST council more than two years ago. Subsequently, the matter was taken up by a Group of Ministers which formally decided to levy higher tax. Khanna said the decision initiated at the call of the UP government. The Centre asked states to implement the measure either by promulgating ordinance and also by getting a bill passed in the state legislatures. This way UP has joined the league of 21 states which have got it passed by respective legislatures.

SP MLA from Naugaon Sadat in Amroha Samar Pal Singh demanded that the online gaming industry be completely banned in the state. Khanna, however, maintained that 'it was not possible' to arrest the fast emergence of the online gaming system.