VERIFIED ANALYSIS · SEPTEMBER 2026

Ten stone suppliers, *checked against the register.*

A buyer in Dubai or Düsseldorf cannot walk into a factory in Kishangarh. What can be established about an Indian supplier from eight thousand kilometres away, using nothing but public records and ninety seconds?

PUBLISHED	RECORDS CHECKED	SAMPLE	SOURCES
September 2026	**8 September 2026**	**10 suppliers**	**Public GST register**

Sol Gravitas™ took ten stone suppliers advertising on an open Indian trade directory and checked each one against India's public Goods and Services Tax register. Not to expose anyone. No supplier is named in this note, and none was found to be fraudulent. The question was narrower and more useful: **what can a foreign buyer actually establish before wiring money, and what do the fields mean once they find them?**

Scope, stated plainly. Ten suppliers, drawn from marble and granite listings with Rajasthan locations on a single open directory, checked on 8 September 2026. This is not a study of Indian suppliers, of the stone trade, or of the directory. It is ten records on one day.

Findings decay. Registration status and filing history change weekly, and every figure below is true only of the date it was checked. Nothing here should be read as a conclusion about any individual business.

The first finding came before any checking

To look up a supplier at all, a buyer needs its GSTIN, the fifteen-character tax registration number. Sol Gravitas searched for a published GSTIN for sixteen suppliers, using each company's own website and directory profile.

Ten published one that could be found in under two minutes. Six did not: four displayed no tax number anywhere on their own site, and two had websites that would not load at all.

> Before verification becomes a question of whether a supplier is genuine, it is a question of whether they can be checked at all. Six of sixteen could not be, from outside India, without picking up a telephone.

That is not evidence of anything improper. A business is under no obligation to publish its tax number. But it is the practical position a foreign buyer occupies, and it deserves stating before any more sophisticated finding: more than a third of the suppliers approached were, in effect, unverifiable from a desk.

What the ten records showed

CHECKED AGAINST THE GST REGISTER	OF TEN
Registration status Active	9
Registration status Suspended	1
Declared goods include genuine stone categories	10
Trade name on the register matches the directory listing	9
Directory name absent from the tax record entirely	1
Registered as an individual proprietorship	7
Registered as a partnership firm	1
Registered as a limited company	2
Carrying commodity codes outside stone	2
Tax returns filed and current	9

The headline is the one that did not happen. **All ten declare genuine stone commodity codes on their tax registration.** Every supplier in the sample is registered to trade in the category it advertises. Whatever else the record shows, these are real businesses in the stone trade, and any account of this exercise that led with fraud would be false.

The gap that matters

One supplier in the ten holds a registration recorded as **suspended, effective two weeks before the check date**. Its directory listing carried the platform's verification badges and twenty-one years of listing history, with no indication of the change.

The register does not state why a registration is suspended, so neither does Sol Gravitas. Suspension arises for several reasons, including non-filing and application by the taxpayer, and it can be revoked. The finding is not about that business. It is structural:

> A badge records a check made at some past moment. A tax register records the position today. For a buyer about to transfer money, the distance between those two things is the entire question.

A second supplier presents a subtler version of the same problem. The name under which it advertises appears nowhere on the tax record attached to the GSTIN published on its own website. The registration carries a different trade name, and the register lists no additional trade names against it. There are ordinary explanations: a trade-name field never updated, an unregistered trading style, a number published loosely. But a buyer who contracts with a name that does not appear on the registration they were given may find, if a shipment goes wrong, that their paperwork and their counterparty do not correspond.

Four things the record tells you, free, in ninety seconds

1. The GSTIN already tells you what kind of entity you are dealing with

Characters three to twelve of a GSTIN are the holder's PAN, and the fourth character of that PAN, the sixth character of the GSTIN, encodes the entity type. **P** is an individual or sole proprietor. **F** is a partnership firm. **C** is a company. **T** is a trust, **H** a Hindu Undivided Family, **A** an association of persons.

Sol Gravitas tested this against every record in the sample. It matched the constitution shown on the portal in ten cases out of ten, across all three entity types present. A buyer handed a GSTIN can read off whether their counterparty is a company or one individual before opening a browser.

2. Constitution decides who you can actually pursue

Seven of the ten are sole proprietorships. The legal entity is a person; the business name is a trading style over the top of it. That is entirely normal in this trade and says nothing about quality. The most meticulous filing record in the sample belongs to a proprietorship.

But it changes the counterparty. There is no limited liability, no company filings, no audited accounts, and if a dispute arises the contract is with an individual. Two of the ten are limited companies. A buyer who assumes they are dealing with a corporation, because the listing carries a trading name that sounds like one, is assuming something the register would have corrected in one line.

3. The commodity codes say what they told the government they sell

Every GST registration lists the HSN commodity codes the taxpayer declared. Codes beginning 2515 and 2516 are raw and cut marble and building stone; 6801 and 6802 are worked and finished stone. This is the closest thing to an official answer to whether a supplier is really in the business it advertises.

Two of the ten carry codes well outside stone, in one case food preparations and textile articles, in another cereals, alongside genuine stone codes. Traders legitimately deal across categories and this is not a defect. It is, however, a different proposition from a dedicated stone processor, and worth knowing before assuming specialisation.

One supplier additionally holds service codes for trade conducted on a fee or commission basis, meaning it may act as an agent on some transactions rather than as owner of the material. For a buyer, whether the counterparty owns the stone or arranges it is not an academic question.

4. Filing history is the only live signal there is

The register publishes which returns have been filed and when. Nine of the ten are current, several filing within days of the due date, month after month. That regularity is itself informative: a business filing on time is a business with functioning administration.

It also has a limit worth stating. One field, the declared nature of business activities, proved unreliable and Sol Gravitas will not build on it. A company with "Export House" in its registered legal name does not list export among its declared activities. Whatever that field measures, it is not whether a business trades internationally.

What could not be determined

Eight of the ten registrations show an effective date of 1 July 2017, the day GST commenced in India. That is not the age of the business; it is the age of the tax. For those eight the register cannot corroborate or contradict a claim of long trading history, and Sol Gravitas records the question as unanswered rather than resolved. Only two records carried genuine later dates, and both were consistent with the trading history claimed.

Registered addresses matched the listed city in all ten cases, though three sat in a different locality within the same city. The register also cannot say whether a company can produce to specification, meet a delivery window, or be relied on commercially. It establishes existence, category, identity and administrative currency. It does not establish competence, and no document should imply otherwise.

How to repeat this

01 Find the supplier's GSTIN, usually printed in the footer of its own website or on its directory profile. If there isn't one, that is your first data point.

02 Read the sixth character of the GSTIN for the entity type before you look anything up.

03 Enter the GSTIN at the Indian government's Search Taxpayer facility. No account, no login, no fee. Read the status, the constitution, the principal place of business, the trade name and the commodity codes.

04 Open the return filing view on the same result and check the most recent period filed against today's date.

05 Record what you could not determine separately from what failed. They are not the same thing, and treating them as the same is how a check becomes a prejudice.

Ninety seconds a supplier, on records the Indian government publishes deliberately so that counterparties can be checked. Nothing in this study required privileged access, paid data, or a relationship with anyone.

A note on what this document is not. No supplier is named. No business is described as fraudulent, dormant or a shell, and no inference is drawn about the intention behind any record. Every statement reflects what a public register displayed on 8 September 2026, and registers change.

The purpose is to show a buyer what is checkable and what each field means, not to reach a verdict on ten businesses that were selected precisely because they were ordinary.

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