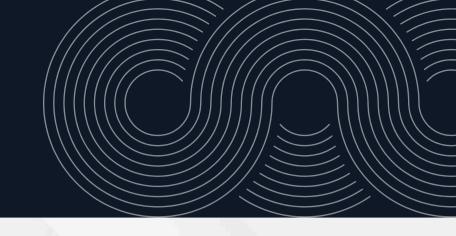


E-NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2025

Website: www.hydicai.org

Email: hyderabad@icai.org

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Professional Colleagues,

Festival Greetings from the Hyderabad Branch of SIRC of ICAI to all our **Members and Students!**

September must have been a hectic month for our members in practice, yet I am confident that each of you discharged your responsibilities with utmost sincerity and dedication. This commitment to excellence is the hallmark of our professional fraternity, known for delivering performance with precision and perfection.

Members may have had some relief as the deadline for furnishing Tax Audit Reports for Financial Year 2024–25 (Assessment Year 2025–26) has been extended from 30th September 2025 to 31st October 2025.

This month also marks the 156th Birth Anniversary of the Father of our Nation, Shri Mahatma Gandhi ji. His life teaches generations the values of truth, non-violence, simplicity and reminds us of his tireless efforts to secure freedom for our great country. On the same day, we also celebrate the birth anniversary of the second Prime Minister of India, Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri ji, whose simple living and inspiring slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" continues to resonate with every Indian. I extend my heartfelt greetings on Gandhiji's and Shastriji's Jayanti.

October 2025 promises to be a month full of festivals. The celebrations begin with Ayudha Puja on 1st October, a day to worship tools, vehicles, and instruments of work in gratitude for our livelihood. Dussehra (Vijayadashami) follows on 2nd October, celebrating the triumph of good over evil. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, falls on 21st October, illuminating homes and hearts with lamps, sweets, and joy.



CA. CHINNA SITA RAMI REDDY A
- CHAIRMAN

Wishing all our members and their families a month filled with prosperity, positivity, and festive cheer!

Programmes Conducted - September 2025

For Members:

A series of professional development programmes and workshops were successfully conducted during September 2025, aimed at enhancing knowledge, skills, and professional growth. Key events included:

- Project Finance and Financial Modeling (Women's Study Circle) – 1st September 2025
- Exemptions Division of the Income-Tax Department Session – 4th September 2025
- Teacher's Day Celebrations 5th September 2025
- Condolence Meeting of Late CA Shantilal Ji Daga, Past Central Council Member, ICAI – 9th September 2025
- MCS Valedictory Session 13th September 2025
- Half-Day Conference on "Opportunities for Professional Services Providers at GIFT-IFSC" - 18th September 2025

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

For Students:

Various educational and training programmes were organized to support academic growth, practical learning, and skill-building. Key events included:

- National Talent Search Programme for CA Students Chess, Checking, Drama, and Instrumental Music competitions held on 14th September 2025 at Branch Premises
- Webinars on Industrial Training Conducted on 13th and 20th September 2025

Major Forthcoming Events

Don't Miss the Opportunity!

Join us for the upcoming **GCC Summit - 2025** where eminent subject experts will share **valuable** insights across a wide spectrum of topics designed to inform, inspire, and connect.

Key Takeaways & Sessions:

- Backroom to Boardroom: Real Journeys from Shared Services to Strategy
- Infrastructure The 4Ps: Place, People, Platform, Private Equity
- Future GCC: Connect, Engage, Inspire & Network
- GCC Setup and Opportunities in India
- Plugged In & Powered Up: AI, Cloud & Data Privacy in Global Finance
- Accounting GCCs: The Global Finance Backbone
- Global Trade Realities: Tariffs, Regulations, and Business
- Unlocking Hyderabad's Potential: A Gateway for GCC Investments
- Strategy for Future-Ready Finance
- Talent & Leadership: Enabling Next-Gen GCC Growth
- Real Estate Readiness: Catalyst for GCC Expansion
- Unlocking Growth Potential in GCCs: The Role of Funding and Investment Incentives

Be part of the conversation shaping the future of GCCs in India!

I would like to conclude with the memorable words of Mahatma Gandhiji:

"An ounce of patience is worth more than a tonne of preaching."

Thanking You,

CA. Chinna Sita Rami Reddy A
Chairman
Hyderabad Branch of SIRC of ICAI

MEET THE TEAM!

MANAGING COMMITTEE (2025-26) OF HYDERABAD (SIRC)



CA. A Chinna Sita Rami Reddy (Chairman)



CA. Girdhari Lal Toshniwal (Vice- Chairman)



CA. Rama Rao Karumanchi (Secretary)



CA. S N Harshavardhan Reddy (Treasurer)



CA. Mukkara Sai Charan Reddy (Chairman - SICASA)



CA. Gonugunta Murali (Co-Chairman - SICASA)



CA. Uppalapati Saran Kumar (Committee Member)



CA. Shailesh Khandelwal (Committee Member)



CA. Kumar Pal Tated (Committee Member)

EX- OFFICIO COUNCIL MEMBERS (2025-26)



CA. Dayaniwas Sharma (Central Council Member)



CA. Muppala Sridhar (Central Council Member)



CA. Bhanu Narayan Rao Y V (Treasurer - SIRC)



CA. Chengal Reddy R (Member - SIRC)



CA. Deepak Ladda (Member - SIRC)



CA. Mandava Sunil Kumar (Member - SIRC)



CA. Yarra Tirupathaiah (Member - SIRC)

SUB -COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE FOR MEMBERS IN INDUSTRY

CA. Shailesh Khandelwal
CA. A Chinna Sita Rami Reddy
CA. Seelam Naga Harshavardhan Reddy
CA. Gonugunta Murali
CA. Srikanth Bhakkad
CA. Manu Sharma

CA. Shailesh Khandelwal

Member Ex-Officio

Member Co-opted

Member Co-opted

TAXATION COMMITTEE

CA. Kumar Pal Tated
CA. A Chinna Sita Rami Reddy
CA. Seelam Naga Harshavardhan Reddy
CA. Gonugunta Murali
CA. Akshaye Surana
CA. Komal Chhajed

CA. Kumar Pal Tated

Member Ex-Officio

Member Ex-Officio

Member Co-opted

Member Co-opted

CPE COMMITTEE

CA. Girdhari Lal Toshniwal
CA. A Chinna Sita Rami Reddy

Member Ex-Officio

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

CA. Shailesh Khandelwal
CA. A Chinna Sita Rami Reddy

Chairman

Member Ex-Officio

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) COMMITTEE

CA. Uppalapati Saran Kumar
CA. A Chinna Sita Rami Reddy

CA. Wember Ex-Officio

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

CA. Rama Rao Karumanchi
CA. A Chinna Sita Rami Reddy

Chairman

Member Ex-Officio

HYDERABAD (SIRC)





The Chartered Accountants' Benevolent Fund (CABF) was established in December, 1962 with the main objective to provide financial assistance for maintenance, and other similar purposes to needy members of the Institute, their wives, widows, children and dependent parent(s).

During the Financial Year 2024-25, CABF has given assistance of Rs. 2.54 Crore to 145 beneficiaries. The available funds with CABF is not sufficient to continue to support all the beneficiaries. To meet the demand, Management Committee of CABF desires to augment funds through a "SPECIAL DRIVE". The contributions can be made by ICAI Members and CA Firms.

All Contributions of more than Rs.10,000 will receive congratulatory letter from the President, ICAL

Category of Contribution

Rs. 1 Lakh and

Rs. 5 Lakh and

Rs. 11 Lakh and above

Rs. 25 Lakh and

Rs. 51 Lakh and

Shield Award

Bronze plated Shield

Silver plated Shield

Gold plated

Shield

Special Gold-plated Shield

Platinum plated Shield

Presentation of Shield

Regional Council/Branch Chairman at major members seminar/conference at branch/region.

Regional Council/Branch Chairman at mega members seminar/conference at branch/region.

President/Vice President at Regional conference.

President/Vice President at International conference.

President/Vice President at International conference.

Acknowledgement/ Recognition

To be published in ICAI Journal, Regional Newsletter and branch newsletter.

To be published in ICAI Journal, Regional Newsletter and branch newsletter.

To be published in ICAI Journal, Regional Newsletter and branch newsletters with photograph.

To be published in ICAI Journal, Regional Newsletter and branch newsletters with photograph.

To be published in ICAI Journal, Regional Newsletter and branch newsletters with photograph.

The Contribution is eligible for tax exemption under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act

Link for Contribution as Life Member: https://cabf.icai.org/lifeMember

Link for Voluntary Contribution: https://cabf.icai.org/voluntaryMember

Contribution can also be made by scanning the QR code or directly through NEFT/RTGS

Name of A/C : Chartered

Accountants

Benevolent Fund

Name of Bank

& Branch : Axis Bank Ltd.,

Swasthya Vihar Branch

A/C No. : 913010046844303

IFS code : UTIB0000055

CABF - A WAY TO SUPPORT PEERS IN DISTRESS

cabf.icai.org





ETHICAL STANDARDS BOARD CA CONNECT PORTAL

One Portal for CA services. By ICAI. (caconnect.icai.org)

The objective of this Portal is to provide an effective platform for listing to Individual Practitioners/ Firm of Chartered Accountants. CA Connect Portal enables the Chartered Accountants to be connected and get engaged professionally across the globe and acts as a bridge between the chartered accountant and the prospective client

WHO CAN ENROL

- 1- Members holding certificate of practice.
- 2-Firm of chartered Accountants

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION

Two areas of specialization

Register Now!!! Its free Link CLICK

https://caconnect.icai.org/



HOW THE CLIENT CAN SEARCH THE CA?

City-wise: Location of CA Office.

Service-wise: Nature of services offered by CA.

BENEFITS OF PORTAL 2 Ensure Confidentiality and privacy.

Compliant with

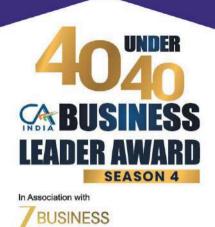
Code of Ethics

Trustworthy-Provided by ICAI

For any queries, please write to

caconnect@icai.in/esb@icai.in

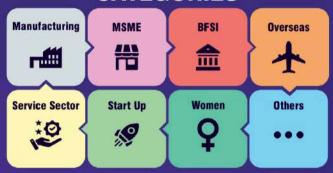




NOMINATIONS OPEN



CATEGORIES



Celebrating Excellence and Inspiring Leadership

Nominations Open -

ICAI 40 Under 40 - CA Business Leader Awards Season 4
Recognizing the brightest minds under 40 who
are shaping the future of our profession

Why to Nominate

Honor outstanding professionals who've made remarkable contributions.

Inspire the next generation of Chartered Accountants.

Simple and quick nomination process.

NOMINATE TODAY!

Launch Date 18th August, 2025 Nomination Close Date **30th October**, **2025**

Scan to register







Nation Building to Global Collaboration: Strengthening Trust, Enabling Growth

REGISTRATION DETAILS & FEES

#

VALUE OF		Non-Member		
ALLI	Member	Host Country	Emerging Nations	Developed Nations
Limited Seats Early Bird Fee Upto 10th November 2025	INR 8,000	INR 10,000	USD 150 / INR 13,200	USD 250 / INR 22 ,000
From 11th November – 31December, 2025	INR 9,500	INR 12,000	USD 200 / INR 17,600	USD 400 / INR 35,200
From 1st January 2026 onwards	INR 13,000	INR 15,000	USD 250 / INR 22,000	USD 500 / INR 44,000
*Accompanying Person (Non - Member)	INR 6,500	INR 6,500	USD 100 / INR 8,800	USD 100 / INR 8,800

Register by 10th November 2025 and avail early bird discount

- # Accompanying person can be a Non-Member only and is entitled to attend only social events (including meals) for all three days.
- #Delegate charges are to be paid in Indian Rupees (INR) only, equivalent charges as per local bank exchange rate will be applicable in your local currency.

in Indian Rupees (INR) only, equivalent age rate will be applicable in your THEMATIC ISSUES

- ➤ Ethics, Integrity & Global Trust in the Digital Era
 - Sustainability, Climate Action & Social Impact

Plus Applicable 18% GST. Host Country: India

Contact us at wofa@icai.in,

Digital Transformation, AI & Innovation

To Register, Visit www.wofa.icai.org

- Cy Leadership
- Resilient Leadership, Wellness & Work-Life Balance
- ➤ Global Collaboration & Cross-Border Partnerships
- Youth & Women-led Development for Global Leadership
- Public Financial Management & Nation-First Governance
- Entrepreneurship & Economic Growth through SMEs and Startups
- Development
 Next-Gen Skills for a Future-Ready Profession

ABOUT THEME

Thetheme of WOFA2.0 reflects the journey of the Chartered Accountancy profession from being a cornerstone of nation building to becoming a vital force in global collaboration. Chartered Accountants have long safeguarded trust, upheld ethics, and enabled growth within national economies.

Today, as the world navigates rapid change driven by technology,

Today, as the world navigates rapid change driven by technology, artificial intelligence, and sustainability, the profession is expanding its role on a global stage. Chartered Accountants are not only guardians of financial integrity but also catalysts for innovation, inclusion, and responsible growth.

This theme highlights our collective mission: to strengthen trust, embrace emerging opportunities, and create value that resonates far beyond borders shaping a resilient and forward-looking profession for the future.

PROJECT FINANCE AND FINANCIAL MODELING (WOMEN'S STUDY CIRCLE)

HELD ON 01ST SEPTEMBER, 2025



The session was led by CA. Arpitha Mettu, who provided valuable insights into the principles of project finance, practical aspects of financial modeling, and their importance in evaluating business viability and investment decisions. The event was highly informative and helped participants enhance their understanding of financial structuring and analysis.



RESOURCE PERSON: CA. ARPITHA METTU

EXEMPTIONS DIVISION OF THE INCOME- TAX DEPARTMENT

HELD ON 04TH SEPTEMBER, 2025





The session was addressed by Smt. Sumitha Paramata, IRS, Additional Commissioner of Income Tax (Exemptions), and Sri. Thorat Suraj Raosaheb, IRS, Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax (Exemptions), Hyderabad. They provided valuable insights into the procedures, compliance requirements, and recent developments related to income tax exemptions, offering participants a deeper understanding of exemption provisions applicable to various entities.





RESOURCE PERSONS:

SMT. SUMITHA PARAMATA, IRS, ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX (EXEMPTIONS) | SRI THORAT SURAJ RAOSAHEB, IRS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX (EXEMPTIONS), HYDERABAD

TEACHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

HELD ON 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2025









Teacher's Day Celebrations were held on 5th September 2025 at the Hyderabad Branch of SIRC of ICAI.

The event honored the invaluable contributions of teachers and mentors in shaping the professional and personal growth of students and members. It was a heartfelt celebration recognizing their dedication, guidance, and lifelong impact on the fraternity.



CONDOLENCE MEETING OF LATE SHRI CA. SHANTILAL JI DAGA, PAST CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBER, ICAI

HELD ON 09TH SEPTEMBER 2025





Members gathered to pay their heartfelt respects and honor Late Shri CA.

Shantilal ji Daga's remarkable contributions to the profession and the Institute. The meeting reflected on his exemplary service, leadership, and commitment to the growth of the CA fraternity.





MCS VALEDICTORY SESSION

HELD ON 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2025









The event celebrated the participants' learning journey, emphasizing the importance of communication, leadership, and professional ethics in a Chartered Accountant's career. Certificates were distributed, and the session concluded with motivational words encouraging students to excel in their professional endeavors.

HALF DAY CONFERENCE ON "OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROVIDERS AT GIFT-IFSC"

HELD ON 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2025













The session focused on the growing prospects for professionals at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT-IFSC), highlighting regulatory frameworks, emerging service opportunities, and the role of Chartered Accountants in the evolving financial ecosystem. The conference provided valuable insights into how professionals can leverage these opportunities for growth and global exposure.



BECOMING A U.S. ENROLLED AGENT: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

If you are interested in expanding your international credentials, becoming a U.S. Enrolled Agent (EA) is a worthwhile option. An EA is a federally authorized tax practitioner who has unlimited rights to represent taxpayers before the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on all matters, including audits, collections, appeals, and tax refund claims.

Here is a detailed roadmap of the process, referencing the IRS official procedures and related resources:

What Is an Enrolled Agent?

- An EA is the highest credential the IRS awards to tax professionals, similar in status (for U.S. tax matters) to attorneys and Certified Public Accountants (CPAs).
- EAs have unlimited representation rights before the IRS: they can represent any taxpayer, any tax matter, in any U.S. IRS office.
- To maintain integrity and public confidence, EAs must comply with ethical, continuing education, and renewal requirements as per U.S. Treasury Department Circular 230 (which governs practice before the IRS).

PATHS TO BECOMING AN ENROLLED AGENT

There are two main routes to reach EA status:

- Via Examination (the common route)
- Via IRS Experience (for certain former IRS employees)

Route 1: Via Examination — the Special Enrollment Examination (SEE)

This is the standard path. The key steps are:

Step 1: Obtain a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN)

- Before you can act as a paid tax preparer or take the EA exam, you must obtain a PTIN from the IRS.
- You apply online via the IRS website. The application requires your personal details, etc
- The renewal of the PTIN is required annually (typically between mid-October and December 31).

Step 2: Register & Prepare for the Special Enrollment Examination (SEE)

 The SEE is administered by Prometric on behalf of the IRS.

- The exam consists of three parts, each a multiple-choice test, which may be taken in any order:
 - Part 1: Individuals
 - Part 2: Businesses
 - Part 3: Representation, Practice, and Procedures
- Each part has 100 multiple-choice questions, with a time limit of 3.5 hours.
- The scoring is on a scale of 40–130; the passing threshold is 105.
- Candidates receive their result immediately after completing the exam (either "pass" or diagnostic feedback) the report doesn't show an exact raw score beyond passing.
- You must pass all three parts within a maximum period (currently up to three years, though historically two years).
- If you fail a part, you can retake it; the Prometric system allows multiple attempts (subject to limitations).
- You should review the SEE Candidate Information Bulletin and sample questions available via Prometric before scheduling the exam.

Step 3: Apply for Enrollment (Form 23) & Suitability Check

- After passing all three parts, you must apply for enrollment by submitting Form 23, "Application for Enrollment to Practice Before the IRS."
- The application can be filed electronically via Pay.gov or by mail along with a check (currently USD 140).
- The application must be submitted within one year of passing the last part of the exam.
- As part of the enrollment process, the IRS performs a suitability checks.
- The IRS aims to complete application processing in about 60 days from receipt. For former IRS employees or more complex cases, it may take longer (90–120 days).
- If you do not receive a response after the usual processing time, you may email the Office of Enrollment (epp@irs.gov) or call 855-472-5540 (U.S. Central Time).

Once approved, you become an Enrolled Agent and are added to the IRS roster of practitioners.

Route 2: Via IRS Experience (Exemption for Former IRS Employees)

- If you are a former IRS employee who has at least five years of qualifying "technical experience" (interpreting and applying tax laws and regulations) as defined under Circular 230, you may request a waiver of the exam requirement.
- Even with the waiver, you must still submit Form 23, pay the enrollment fee, and pass the suitability check.
- The waiver does not guarantee unlimited enrollment rights unless you also demonstrate that your experience provides special competence in tax matters.



Maintenance & Renewal Requirements

Becoming an EA is not the end of the journey. To maintain your status, you must meet ongoing obligations:

Renewal Cycle

- EA status must be renewed every three years. The renewal window depends on the last digit of your Social Security Number (SSN) or tax identification number.
- Renewal is done via Form 8554, "Application for Renewal of Enrollment to Practice Before the IRS."
- The renewal application and payment can be submitted online through Pay.gov, or by mail using the PDF form.

Continuing Education (CE) Requirements

- You must complete 72 hours of IRS-approved continuing education (CE) during each threeyear renewal cycle.
- Of these 72 hours, 6 hours must cover ethics or professional conduct, and the balance pertains to federal tax law, updates, or representation.
- You must also complete at least 16 hours of CE annually (with at least 2 hours on ethics).
- CE hours earned before becoming an EA do not count toward the CE requirement.

PTIN Renewal & Other Compliance

- You must renew your PTIN annually between mid-October and December 31 via the IRS PTIN portal.
- Keep your contact and professional profile current with the IRS Office of Enrollment (notify via email, fax, or mail) when changes occur.
- Comply with ethical and conduct standards as per Circular 230; failure to do so can result in suspension from practice.

Timeline and Effort Estimate

- Many candidates complete the entire process within 6 months to 1 year, though the time taken depends on preparation, exam scheduling, and application processing.
- A significant time investment is in preparing for the SEE exams. Commercial review courses, practice tests, and IRS publications can significantly help.

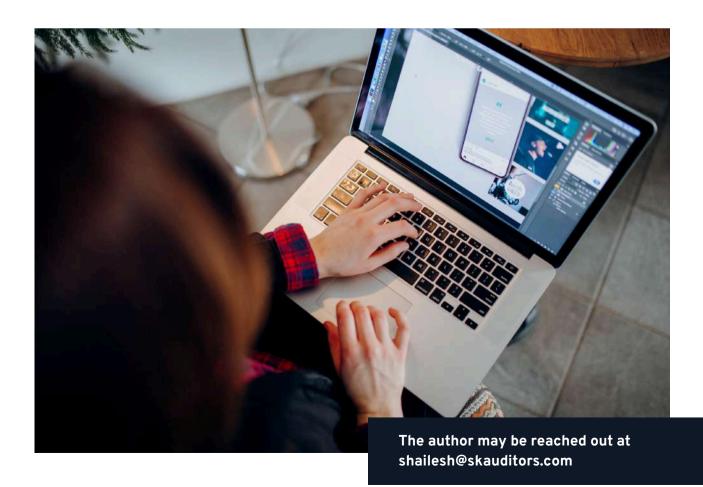


Advantages & Considerations for Indian / International Professionals

- No U.S. citizenship or residence required: Non-U.S. persons can apply, provided they satisfy IRS identification, PTIN, examination, and suitability requirements.
- **Global relevance:** If you work with U.S. tax clients, U.S. expatriates, or cross-border matters, holding the EA credential enhances your credibility.
- **Bridging jurisdictions:** The technical exposure to U.S. tax law can complement Indian tax knowledge and expand service offerings.
- Costs and logistics: Consider the costs—PTIN registration, exam fees, enrollment fee, CE programs, and possibly travel (if exams are taken in the U.S. or in centers outside India). You should verify current fees and whether there are Prometric centers in or near your region in India for SEE (or remote options).
- **U.S. tax law updates:** Staying current with frequent changes in U.S. tax legislation is vital. CE requirements ensure you are updated.

Concluding Thoughts

Becoming a U.S. Enrolled Agent is a distinguished credential that grants you authority to practice before the IRS, enabling you to assist clients on U.S. tax matters comprehensively. While the process demands dedicated effort—especially in mastering U.S. tax law and navigating the examination and regulatory requirements—the outcome is rewarding for professionals dealing with cross-border tax issues or servicing U.S. clients.





DEMYSTIFYING INDIAN TRANSFER PRICING COMPLIANCES - A PRACTICAL YEAR-END GUIDE

The Indian Transfer Pricing ("TP") compliances for the financial year 2024-25 are just around the corner, with due dates in October/November 2025.

Ensuring compliance with Indian TP regulations isn't just a box to tick; it's a strategic imperative. Non-compliance can result in penalties and TP litigation exposure, with serious repercussions from the tax authorities.

In this article, we have covered an overview of Indian TP regulations, a snapshot of year-end TP compliances, key TP checkpoints, specific TP considerations for non-residents ("NRs"), ensuring compliance to mitigate TP litigation risks, and final thoughts.

A.Overview of Indian Transfer Pricing Regulations

Intent: At the outset, Transfer Price refers
to the price charged in a transaction
between related entities that are part of
the same Multinational Enterprise (MNE)
group. Since tax rates differ across
countries, MNE groups may have an
incentive to set intercompany prices in a
manner that shifts profits to low-tax
jurisdictions, thereby reducing the group's
overall tax liability.

To curb such base erosion and profit shifting, India introduced TP regulations through the Finance Act, 2001

- Legal Framework: The Indian TP framework is contained in Sections 92 to 92F of the Income-tax Act, 1961("the Act") read with Rules 10A to 10E of the Incometax Rules, 1962 ("the Rules"). It applies to both residents and NRs and covers all categories of persons including individuals, companies, firms, and others (Secs. 2(31), 92A(1) & (2), 92F(iii)).
- **Objective:** The purpose of TP provisions is to ensure that intercompany transactions are conducted at an Arm's Length Price ("ALP") (Sec. 92(1)), i.e., the price that would apply between independent parties under comparable circumstances.
- Applicability: TP provisions apply where a taxpayer enters into an international transaction with an AE (Sec. 92B(1)), a transaction with a person in a Notified Jurisdictional Area (Sec. 94A), or a Specified Domestic Transaction (SDT) exceeding INR 20 crore in a financial year (Sec. 92BA). They also cover deemed international transactions where a prior agreement or arrangement exists between an AE and a third party influencing the transaction terms (Sec. 92B(2)).

- **Determination of ALP:** ALP is determined using one of the prescribed methods namely, CUP, RPM, CPM, PSM, TNMM, or any other method, based on the Most Appropriate Method ("MAM") (Sec. 92C; Rules 10B, 10C, 10AB).
- Coverage: TP provisions extend to all capital and revenue transactions having a bearing on profits, income, losses, or assets, including transfer or use of tangible or intangible property, services, financing arrangements, and cost allocations (Sec. 92B).
- Adjustments: TP adjustments are made only where application of ALP increases taxable income in India and not where it reduces such income (Proviso to Sec. 92(3)).
- **TP Assessment and Litigation:** The Assessing Officer ("AO") may refer an international transaction to the Transfer Pricing Officer ("TPO") for determination of the ALP (Sec. 92CA). The TPO's order often forms the basis for TP adjustments, which can be contested before the Dispute Resolution Panel or the Commissioner of Income-tax (Appeals), with further appeals lying before higher judicial forums such as the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal and the High Courts, depending on the questions of fact and law involved. TP continues to remain one of the most litigated areas in Indian tax jurisprudence.
- Secondary Adjustments: Where a primary TP adjustment is made, a secondary adjustment
 is required to align actual cash flows with the ALP position (Sec. 92CE). This ensures that the
 excess money retained by the AE is repatriated to India within the prescribed timeline or
 subjected to imputed interest.
- **Certainty Mechanisms:** Certainty and dispute prevention mechanisms include Advance Pricing Agreements and Safe Harbour Rules (Sec. 92CB and 92CC).
- Compliance Obligations: Taxpayers must comply with the year-end TP filing & documentation requirements as highlighted below.



B.Transfer Pricing Compliances: Forms, Due Dates and Penalties

The following table summarises TP compliances, applicability thresholds, statutory due dates, and penalties for non-compliance for FY 2024-25 (AY 2025-26):

TP Compliances for NR	Threshold for applicability	Due date	Penalty for non- compliance	
Accountant's Report - Form No. 3CEB (Sec 92E & Rule 10E)	If International Transactions (irrespective of threshold) are undertaken with foreign AEs or If SDTs are undertaken with Indian AEs (either of the parties are claiming any tax holiday exemptions or concessional tax rates and the overall transactions value exceeds INR 20 Crores)	31 October 2025 (1 month prior to ITR due date)	INR 1,00,000 (Sec 271BA)	
TP Study to be maintained (Sec. 92D & Rule 10D)	If aggregate value of International Transactions > INR 1 Crore or If Specified Domestic Transactions (SDT) > INR 20 Crores [transactions with entities/units claiming special tax holiday exemptions or deductions u/s 80IA or 80IB or 10AA or with entities claiming concessional tax rates of u/s 115BAB]	31 October 2025 (1 month prior to ITR due date)	2% of value of International Transactions or SDT (Sec 271G)	
Form No. 3CEAA (Part A) - Master File (Sec 92D(4) & Rule 10DA)	Part A is applicable if International Transactions are undertaken during the financial year (Part A is applicable to all MNEs irrespective of threshold)	30 November 2025 (Same as ITR due date)		
Form No. 3CEAA (Part B) - Master File (Sec 92D(4) & Rule 10DA)	Part B is applicable if below twin conditions are satisfied:	30 November 2025 (Same as ITR due date)	INR 5,00,000 - Non-furnishing of information and documentation (Sec 271AA(2))	

Form No. 3CEAB Master File Intimation (Sec 92D(4) & Rule 10DA)	It is applicable to MNEs crossing the above Master File filing thresholds and having more than one entity operating in India	31 October 2025 (30 days prior to Master File filing due date)		
Form No. 3CEAD CbC Report (Sec 286(2)/(4) & Rule 10DB)	If Consolidated Group Revenue for preceding accounting year exceeds INR 6,400 Crores. However, if the bilateral exchange relationship for the automatic exchange of CbC Reports between tax authorities of Parent Entity/Alternate Reporting Entity (ARE) Jurisdiction and Indian jurisdiction is activated, then the Indian entity need not file CbCR in India as per Form No. 3CEAD. Indian entity is only required to file a CbCR Notification via Form No. 3CEAC.	12 months from the end of group's accounting year 31 December 2025 (if Group's accounting year is ending on 31 December 2024)	INR 5,00,000 - Furnishing of inaccurate information in CbCR INR5,000/15,000/50,000 per day - Non-furnishing of CbCR – Depending on the days of delay of violation	
Form No 3CEAC CbCR Notification (Sec 286(1) & Rule 10DB)	CbCR Notification is to be filed when Parent Entity/ ARE is filing CbCR in its respective jurisdiction and there is an automatic exchange of CbCR activated between Parent/ARE's jurisdiction and the jurisdiction of Constituent entity i.e., India	10 months from the end of group's accounting year 31 October 2025 (if Group's accounting year is ending on 31 December 2024)	(Sec 271GB)	

C. Applicability of Transfer Pricing Provisions to Non-Resident

While most multinational groups closely monitor TP compliances of their Indian subsidiaries, there is often ambiguity regarding the applicability of TP provisions to NRs. The Indian TP regime, being transaction-based rather than entity-based, applies to both residents and NRs whenever a taxable international transaction exists.

- Statutory Basis: Section 92(1) of the Act provides that income arising from any international transaction must be computed having regard to the ALP. Accordingly, TP provisions extend to NRs only when they enter into international transactions that give rise to taxable income in India. Such income may include fees for technical services, royalties or licence fees, interest, guarantee commission, capital gains, or other consideration for services rendered to Indian AEs.
- Independent ALP Substantiation: ALP analysis from the standpoint of the Indian resident AE alone is not sufficient, since the law requires each party, including the NR AE to substantiate that its international transactions with the Indian entity are at ALP and supported by contemporaneous documentation.
- TP Compliance Even When ITR Filing Is Exempt: Sec 115A exempts NRs from filing a return of income where their total income consists solely of interest, dividend, royalty, or fees for technical services, provided tax is withheld at source at prescribed rates and no other income arises in India. However, there is no parallel exemption under Secs. 92E and 92D. Hence, even if a NR is not required to file a return, TP compliances such as obtaining Form 3CEB and maintaining documentation should still be undertaken to avoid penalties under Secs. 271BA and 271AA.
- Master File by Non-Residents: CBDT Notification No. 31/2021 dated 5 April 2021 amended Rule 10DA(4) to allow one designated constituent entity, resident or NR to file Form 3CEAA on behalf of all constituent entities in India and abroad. This amendment significantly reduced duplicate filing requirements for NR group entities.
- Emphasis on Two-Sided Transfer Pricing Analysis: To satisfy the ALP test by both the parties involved in the transaction, a two-sided holistic TP analysis is required to ensure that both the Indian AE and NR AE are meeting the ALP test. In a landmark ruling of Instrumentarium Corporation Limited [I.T.A. Nos. 1548 and 1549/Kol/2009], the Kolkata Tribunal held that a two-sided TP analysis is required to determine the ALP in both the jurisdictions involved in the transaction. The case emphasized that the transfer price must be set within the ALP range to avoid double taxation or tax disputes.
- **Recommended Compliance Approach:** Judicial precedents from tribunals, High Courts, and the Authority for Advance Rulings (AAR) have clarified that NRs earning taxable income from India through international transactions are subject to Indian TP compliance. Based on these provisions and rulings, the following approach can be adopted:

Filing of Form No. 3CEB, maintenance of TP Study Report and Corporate Tax Return by NR

Income earned by NR	Form 3CEB & TP Report compliance requirement	Corporate Tax Return Requirement ("ROI")
Taxable as per Income Tax Act & DTAA	To be reported in Form 3CEB & TP Study Report to be maintained (if value > INR 1 Crore)	Applicable unless TDS is deducted at rates given in Section 115A and there is no other income chargeable apart from incomes specified in Section 115A.
Taxable as per Income Tax Act but exempt as per DTAA	To be reported in Form 3CEB & TP Study Report to be maintained (if value > INR 1 Crore)	Applicable where DTAA benefit is opted by NR.
Not taxable as per Income Tax Act	Not to be reported (Can be disclosed in Form No. 3CEB out of abundant caution if there are any other taxable international transactions)	Not applicable
Other transactions of NR not impacting the taxable income	Not to be reported (Can be disclosed in Form No. 3CEB out of abundant caution if there are any other taxable international transactions)	Not applicable

D. Mitigating the risk of potential TP litigation

Under the Indian domestic TP litigation mechanism, the AO has to refer the scrutiny of international/specified domestic transactions to a designated TPO. The CBDT has issued Instruction No. 03/2016 to the revenue authorities with guidance on the risk parameters to be considered in order to make a reference to the TPOs. According to the guidance:

• Cases to be selected for scrutiny should be based on "TP risk parameters" either under the Computer Aided Scrutiny Selection (CASS) or under the Compulsory Manual Selection Process. CBDT's instruction in this regard does not specify what exactly the TP risk parameters are, but they may be available to the revenue authorities internally.



- Cases selected for corporate tax scrutiny can also be chosen for TP scrutiny based on the following NonTP risk parameters:
 - Non-filing of Form No. 3CEB or non-reporting of transactions in Form No. 3CEB.
 - TP adjustments of INR 10 Cr or more in earlier years, where such adjustments are upheld by judicial authorities or are pending in an appeal.
 - Search, seizure, or survey operations have findings relating to TP matters in India.
- Accordingly, considering that there are TP and Non-TP risk parameters that could trigger potential scrutiny and penalties for non-filing of Form No. 3CEB in India, it is imperative for taxpayers to evaluate the applicability of TP compliances and ensure compliance in India.

E. Year-end Transfer Pricing Checkpoints

Taxpayers should conduct a comprehensive review of all inter-company transactions to ensure consistency with TP policies, benchmarking results, and inter-company agreements. The following checkpoints serve as a year-end compliance checklist to strengthen TP documentation, reduce audit risks, and ensure alignment with compliance requirements.

- **Pricing and Margins:** Review the price or margins of each intra-group transaction to ensure they align with the TP policy or inter-company agreements, confirming compliance with the ALP.
- Transfer Pricing Adjustments in Books: Undertake necessary true-up or true-down adjustments before year-end to align with benchmarking outcomes and evaluate implications under GST, WHT, Customs, Accounting Standards, and FEMA.
- Economic Adjustments: Where material differences exist between the tested party and comparables, compute margins after appropriate economic adjustments such as working capital, capacity utilisation, depreciation, risk, forex adjustments.
- **Secondary Adjustments:** Implement voluntary TP adjustments in the books itself, where applicable, to avoid triggering secondary adjustment provisions under Section 92CE if eventually offered in ITR or accepted under litigation.
- Transaction Reconciliation: Reconcile primary transactions (purchases, sales, services) and secondary transactions (receivables, payables, loans) to ensure ledgers and TP workings are consistent.
- Ageing of Balances: Review ageing of receivables and payables to identify overdue amounts beyond agreed credit periods and charge interest on delayed payments, treating such delays as deemed loans under TP.
- Extraordinary Items: Evaluate any exceptional income or expense items for their treatment in cost base or revenue computations in line with the TP remuneration model.
- Characterisation and Segmentation: Confirm that entity characterisation (manufacturer, distributor, service provider, etc.) and segmental results are properly defined and reconciled with audited accounts.

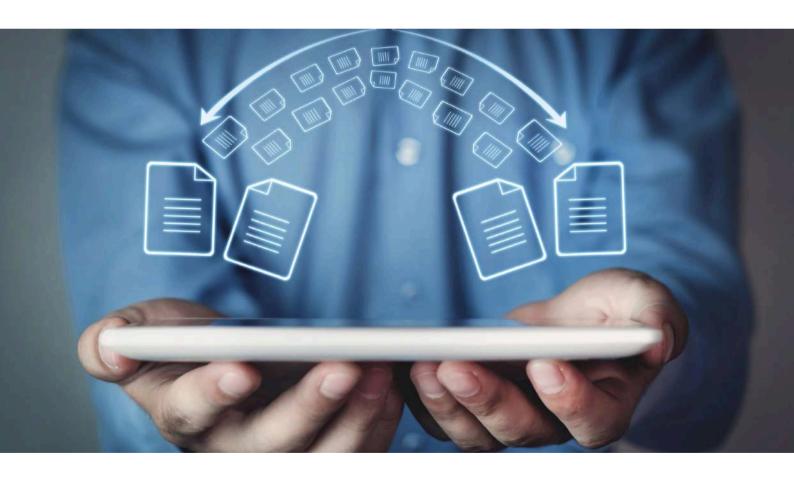
- FAR Alignment: Ensure that pricing outcomes and profit allocation align with the Functions-Assets-Risks (FAR) profile documented in the TP study.
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms: Evaluate applicability of Safe Harbour Rules and APA and ensure implementation in accordance with agreed terms.
- Forex Differences: Assess the impact of foreign-exchange gains or losses on inter-company pricing and ensure risks are borne by the appropriate entity.
- Accounting and Disclosure Review: Reconcile related-party disclosures, segment reporting, and notes to accounts with TP documentation to avoid inconsistencies.
- **Need-Benefit Documentation: For** intra-group payments such as management fees or royalties, compile evidence of need, benefit, and cost allocation through supporting emails, reports, or presentations.
- **TP Study and Supporting Documentation:** Collate inter-company agreements, invoices, benchmarking analyses, and other documentation to ensure contemporaneous compliance under Rule 10D.
- Reporting of Transactions: Report all taxable international and specified domestic transactions in Form 3CEB and disclose borderline cases out of abundant caution to avoid penalties for omission.
- Renewal of Inter-Company Agreements: Review and update inter-company agreements to reflect current business models, functions, and risks.
- **Provisioning for TP Disputes:** Evaluate provisioning requirements in financial statements for probable outcomes of ongoing TP assessments or appeals.
- **TP Clearance:** Obtain a TP clearance from advisors based on draft financials confirming ALP compliance before audit finalisation.
- Non-Resident TP Compliance Logistics: Where TP compliance applies to a NR, ensure a Permanent Account Number (PAN) is obtained and a Power of Attorney is executed authorising a person holding a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) for electronic filings.
- Non-Resident TP Documentation: Since NRs are not required to maintain Indian books, rely on Form 26AS, invoices, and data from the Indian AE to substantiate transactions, ensuring consistency between Form 3CEB, Form 26AS, and the income-tax return to prevent scrutiny notices.

F. Final Thoughts:

To successfully navigate the complex TP landscape in India, here's what both residents and NRs should do:

- Ensure Compliance: It's crucial for multinationals to diligently ensure compliance in India with applicable TP regulations for both resident and non-resident entities in India. Non-compliance could trigger TP scrutiny exposure. Remember, it's not limited to filings alone. TP and tax filings should be backed up by the maintenance of robust supporting documentation to substantiate the TP positions and analysis in case of future audits/scrutiny by tax authorities.
- **360-Degree Analysis:** It's pertinent to ensure that the information disclosed in Form No. 3CEB, the TP Study Report, Master file, and CbCR provides a comprehensive view and supports the TP and other tax positions of the multinational group.

In a nutshell, robust TP documentation and adherence to guidelines should be your top priority if you're a multinational operating in India.



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Case 1- No refund of accumulated ITC on closure of business

Union of India vs SICPA India Pvt Ltd TS-772-HC(SIK)-2025-GST

Facts:

- SICPA India Pvt Ltd, engaged in manufacturing security inks, discontinued operations in Sikkim after 2019 due to lack of orders.
- It sold its assets by March 2020 and claimed refund of unutilised ITC of approx.
 ₹4.37 crore under Section 49(6) CGST Act, citing closure of business.
- Refund was rejected by the Assistant Commissioner (Feb 2022) and Appellate Authority (Mar 2023).
- Single Judge (June 2025) allowed the refund, relying on Slovak India (Karnataka HC, CENVAT era), holding there was no express bar in Sec 49(6) read with Sec 54.



CASE LAW SUMMARY INDIRECT TAXATION - SEP '25

Issue:

 Whether unutilised ITC can be refunded on closure of business under Section 49(6), independent of Section 54(3).

Decision & Reasoning:

Bench allowed Revenue's appeal and held that refund was not admissible on closure of business, as per below:

- 1. Section 49(6) not independent
 - Refund under 49(6) must be "in accordance with Section 54".
 - Section 54(3) restricts refund of unutilised ITC to only two cases:
 - (i) Zero-rated supplies without payment of tax.
 - (ii) Accumulation due to inverted duty structure.
 - Closure of business is not covered.
- 2. Reliance on Supreme Court in VKC Footsteps (2022):
 - Refund is a matter of statute, not a constitutional right.
 - Expanding refund categories would amount to judicial re-writing, impermissible in tax law.

3. Past Precedents:

 Slovak India & Jain Vanguard Polybutylene (under CENVAT) not applicable under GST regime; already doubted in Gauri Plasticulture (Bom HC, 2019).

4. Compliance Issue:

 Section 29(5) requires reversal of ITC upon cancellation of registration. SICPA neither pleaded nor proved this compliance. Court did not get into this as it was a question of fact.

Comments:

The decision of the Single member which granted the refund no longer holds good and any business that closes down needs to comply with the requirements of reversal of ITC on account of the goods remaining in stock.

In case the business wishes to encash the Issue: closing credit balances (in case they are huge due to non-claiming of refund on exports or on inverted duty structure scenario, etc.) one could look at any other possible ways to encash before the actual closure business/cancellation of registration, instead of applying for refund.

Case 2 - Time limit under law does not apply for refund of amounts that were not liable to be paid

Nspira Management Services Pvt. Ltd. [TS-818-HC(AP)-2025-GST]

Facts:

- The hostel petitioner provided accommodation to students by renting residential dwellings. The landlords charged GST on rent, which the Petitioner paid.
- However, renting of residential dwellings for residence was exempt under Entry No. 12 of Notification No. 12/2017-CT (Rate) dated 28.06.2017.
- Realising that tax was wrongly paid, two refund claims were filed:
 - o On 01.05.2024 for July 2017 to Jan 2020 (₹11.49 crore approx.)
 - o On 29.02.2024 for Feb 2020 to Jun 2022

- · The department initially sought details but then issued deficiency memos dated 21.05.2024, rejecting both claims as timebarred under Section 54 CGST Act (twovear limit).
- Revenue argued that even after granting the benefit of Notification No. 13/2022-CT dated 05.07.2022, which excluded the COVID period (01.03.2020 to 28.02.2022) from limitation, the refund for the earlier period ought to have been filed by 19.01.2024, whereas it was actually filed only on 01.05.2024.

• Whether the two-year time limit under Section 54 applies to refund of tax wrongly paid on exempt services.

Decision & Reasoning:

- The High Court set aside the deficiency memos dated 21.05.2024 and directed the authorities to process the refund without applying limitation.
- The Court reasoned that:
 - Petitioner was never liable to pay GST; tax was paid only because landlords wrongly levied it. This was a mistake of law, and under Article 265 of the Constitution, no tax can be collected without authority of law.
 - When tax itself was not payable, Section 54 (including its two-year limitation) was not attracted.
 - The Court relied on Gujarat HC in Comsol Energy Pvt. Ltd. (2020) which had similarly treated such refunds as outside the ambit of Section 54.



Comments:

It is a well settled principle now that amounts paid that are not liable, i.e. which are exempt or have been paid due to mistake of law or are an unconstitutional levy, etc. are to be refunded to the taxpayer and the time limit laid in the statute will not be applicable as the amounts paid are not taxes per se.

In such cases the time period provided under the Limitation Act will apply. Decision of the nine-Judge bench of the Supreme Court in Mafatlal Industries v. Union of India[1]is relevant in this context.

This principle has already been applied in cases of refund of GST paid under RCM on ocean freight which was struck down by the Supreme Court in the case of Mohit Minerals.

However, one must note that in case, if in one's own proceedings, the issue has attained finality i.e. no further appeal is filed within the statutory time limit in case of an unfavourable decision, then one cannot go back on the basis of the decision in the case of another person and apply for refund. Each one has to fight one's own battle.

GST being a new law with the judicial scenario gaining some maturity, with much more maturity to be gained in the future, taking a call on continuing a particular litigation or applying refund in case of another's decision, etc. are aspects that would require professional guidance to ensure that eligible benefits are not lost.

Case 3 - Recipient cannot compel selling dealer to deposit tax collected - no denial of ITC

M/s R T Infotech - 2025-TIOL-1539-HC-ALL-GST

Facts:

- The petitioner was a registered supplier and an authorized user of mobile recharge services of Bharti Airtel Ltd.
- It purchased recharge coupons against seven tax invoices worth ₹1.58 crore, with GST of ₹28.52 lakh (CGST ₹14.26 lakh + SGST ₹14.26 lakh) duly charged and paid through RTGS.
- The petitioner availed ITC on these invoices.
- On scrutiny, a notice was issued alleging mismatch between ITC claimed and GSTR-2A. The petitioner explained that payments had been made to Airtel against genuine invoices and liability was discharged.
- Authorities, however, rejected this explanation and passed an order u/s 73, demanding reversal of ITC with interest and 10% penalty, on the ground that Airtel (the seller) had not deposited the tax with the government. Appeal was dismissed

[1] (1997) 5 SCC 536



Issue:

• Whether a purchasing dealer, who has paid GST to the supplier against valid tax invoices and through banking channels, can be denied ITC merely because the selling dealer failed to deposit the tax with the government or file returns.

Decision & Reasoning:

- The High Court quashed the orders against the petitioner and remanded the matter for reconsideration.
- The Court held that:
 - It was undisputed that recharge coupons were purchased against genuine invoices and GST was paid via RTGS.
 - Proceedings had already been initiated against the selling dealer (Airtel) for noncompliance. Despite this, the authorities ignored such action and wrongly fastened liability solely on the petitioner.
 - Under GST law, a purchaser cannot compel the seller either to deposit tax collected into the treasury or to file returns within time. Leaving the purchaser at the mercy of the seller would be unjust when the purchaser has duly discharged his responsibility.
 - Reliance was placed on Supreme Court decision in Assistant Commissioner of State Tax v. Suncraft Energy Pvt. Ltd. (2023-TIOL-168-SC-GST) and Madras High Court in D.Y. Beathel Enterprises v. State Tax Officer (2021-TIOL-890-HC-MAD-GST), which held that action must be taken against defaulting suppliers and purchasers should not be penalized if they have acted bona fide.
- Accordingly, the orders of demand, penalty and interest were set aside and the matter remanded for fresh adjudication after hearing all stakeholders.

Comments:

The principle that the department cannot conveniently wash off its hands of its responsibilities and proceed to recover taxes from the Bonafide recipient, is again reiterated in this decision.

However, in many cases the recipients have been forced to pay the amounts demanded by the department for similar issues, since approaching the Courts is a costly affair and sometimes considering the amounts involved, is not feasible.



It remains a question to be answered by the department/Government, why is it that they do not wish to device any mechanism to get data from the recipients regarding the purchase invoices that have not been reported in GSTR1 of their suppliers, which would lead to credit denial. This would provide some recourse to the helpless recipients who pay the taxes to the suppliers but get denied of the credit as well.

Its time the department starts devising laws and procedures that would facilitate compliance with the law and not lead to provisions that look at punishing the genuine taxpayers who finally end up paying tax twice.

Case 4 - Advance Ruling Not Binding on Distinct GSTINs

Mahendra Singh [TS-794-HC(MP)-2025-GST]

Facts:

- The petitioner is a proprietor of a paan shop at Indore with an independent GST registration and annual receipts below ₹20 lakhs.
- On 06.10.2021, the AAR (Madhya Pradesh) had ruled in the case of Gulab Singh Chouhan (head of the Karnawat Paan group) that traders of pan masala and tobacco products are not eligible for the composition scheme under Section 10(2)(b) & (e) of the CGST/MPGST Act, 2017, even with turnover below ₹1.5 crore.
- Relying on that ruling, the department issued a show cause notice dated 21.01.2025 to Mahendra Singh under Section 74, demanding tax, interest, and penalty of ₹64.89 lakh, arguing that multiple family-run firms, including his, operated under the common brand Karnawat Paan.
- A final demand order followed, rejecting his reply as "not satisfactory," without any detailed reasoning.

Issue:

• Whether an AAR ruling given in one case can be made binding on another distinct person with a separate GSTIN, and whether adjudicating authorities can mechanically rely on such ruling without independent analysis.



Decision & Reasoning:

- matter for fresh adjudication.
- It held that:
 - the applicant who sought it and the not binding on any other person. jurisdictional officer concerned, not on under a common brand.
 - automatically bound by the AAR ruling in Gulab Singh's case.
 - of application of mind.
 - Authorities must independently assess assessee's case on merits; In some cases, the rulings also provide some ruling violates natural justice.
- by the earlier AAR.

Comments:

• The Madhya Pradesh High Court guashed Relying on advance rulings issued to some the demand order and remanded the other GSTIN (whether under same PAN or otherwise), in issuing SCN/orders by the department, is clearly not in line with the law, By virtue of Section 103 of the CGST since the provision in the GST law is very clear Act, an AAR ruling is binding only on that rulings given in the case of one person is

other distinct persons-even if they In many cases we see taxpayers fearing belong to the same family or operate consequences basis the rulings given in another person's case. In such scenarios, one Mahendra Singh, having a separate has to analyse the facts, provisions and issue and GSTIN, could not be on which the ruling has been given.

This should then be compared with one's own • The order passed against him was a facts and issues at hand, in addition to non-speaking order, as it simply termed assessing whether the AAR has applied the reply "unsatisfactory" without provisions of law appropriately and judiciously addressing his arguments, showing lack in arriving at the conclusion that has been arrived at.

mechanical reliance on another's AAR insight on aspects that one needs to take care of, to ensure that the taxpaver is not caught on • The Court allowed the writ petition and the wrong footing and thereby required to face directed authorities to decide the SCN unwanted consequences. Apart from this, afresh on merits, without being influenced rulings in others case are not applicable to any other taxpayer.

Though, one aspect that the Government needs to address is, in cases where same taxpayer has got contradictory rulings in different States (different GSTINs under same PAN), there has to be a remedy brought in the law to enable the taxpayer to arrive at one conclusion that can be followed PAN India for its transactions. Else it would lead to absurd results.



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