JIGnyasa

Vol. II | No. III | March 2021

Your Quarterly Companion on Tax & Allied Topics

www.ctconline.org

HEAVEN BE OUR GUIDE
Estd. 1926
ज्ञानं परमं बलम्

The Chamber of Tax Consultants
Mumbai | Delhi

THE CHAMBER OF TAX CONSULTANTS
3, Rewa Chambers, Ground Floor, 31, New Marine Lines, Mumbai – 400 020
Phone : 2200 1787/2209 0423/2200 2455 • E-Mail: office@ctconline.org
Website : http://www.ctconline.org

READER'S SUGGESTIONS AND VIEWS

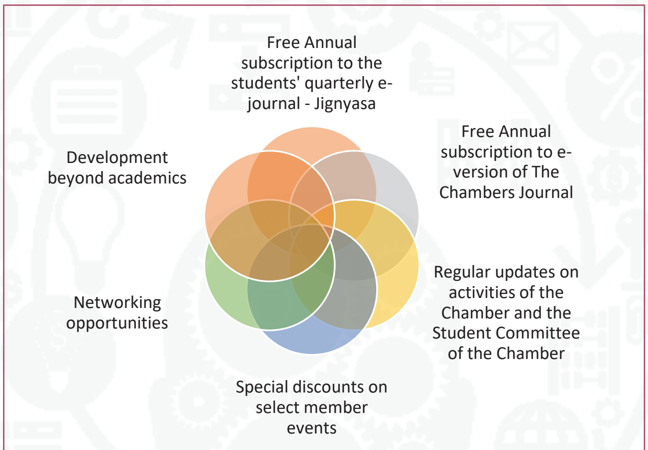
We invite the suggestions and views from readers for improvement of ***Jignyasa***. Kindly send your suggestions to office@ctconline.org

Become a Student Member of The Chamber of Tax Consultants

What are the initiatives/programs organised by the Chamber for Students?

- Webinar on technical topics of practical importance
- CA Student Orientation Programme
- Udaan – A Motivational Chat Show with stalwarts
- National level Tax Moot Court Competition
- Legal Practice Orientation Course
- Dastur Debate Competition
- The Dastur Essay Competition
- Jignyasa - A journal by the student for the students
- Entertainment programs for rising talent including Musical Night
- Industrial visits
- Inter-firm Football and Cricket tournaments

What are the benefits of becoming a student member of the Chamber?



Who can become a Student Member?

Any person, who:

✓ has completed 18 years of age;

✓ is not otherwise eligible to be a member of the Chamber;

✓ is pursuing his/her education as a student and has enrolled as a student of Law, Chartered Accountancy, Cost and Management Accountancy, Company Secretary, Chartered Financial Analysts, Business Management or Management Accountancy or Masters in Commerce or such other course approved for this purpose by the Managing Council shall be eligible to be a Student Member.

What are the fees for becoming a Student Member?

The fees for becoming a student member is merely Rs. 590/- [Rs. 500/- + Rs. 90 (GST @ 18%)]

How can one enroll as a Student Member?

You may download the membership form using the below mentioned link
Link : https://rb.gy/rw3xde

You can also get in touch with the Chamber's office at:
Address : 3, Rewa Chambers, Ground Floor, 31, New Marine Lines, Mumbai 400 020
Email : office@ctconline.org

For any queries, you can also get in touch with Mr. Hitesh Shah (Manager) at:
Mobile : 7977258507

POLICY FOR CONTRIBUTION OF ARTICLES FOR JIGNYASA

Who can contribute?

The Student Members of The Chamber of Tax Consultants shall be allowed to contribute articles to the students' e-journal ***"Jignyasa"***

For which columns shall contributions be accepted?

Every issue of Jignyasa shall have the following four columns for contributions from students:

1. Information Technology
2. Current topics related to the profession
3. SOP on subjects that are related to upcoming due dates
4. A general topic that is relevant to the student members of the Chamber

What is the selection process of the article for publishing?

The selection of the articles to be published shall be based on the following parameters:

1. The topics should be relevant to the Students Members of the Chamber covering the various areas of practice.
2. The Article to be published should be original and must adhere to strict originality guidelines of the Chamber. A declaration to this effect should be submitted to the Chamber.
3. Subjects related to current topics or subjects which are related to the due dates falling in the next quarter shall be given preference.

What are the technical requirements for the article?

1. The article should contain an executive summary of around 100 words.
2. The list of references should be submitted at the end of the article.
3. A photograph of the author should be provided along with the article.
4. The article should be shared only in word format. No other format shall be accepted.

5. There is no specific restriction on the number of words for the article, but preference shall be given to a well written, the most technically correct, complete and concise article.

What is the review process?

The student is advised to approach a member of the Chamber to be his/her mentor for the article. If the interested student cannot find a mentor, the committee shall help him/her approach the members.

Each article shall then be forwarded to an expert for vetting and verification.

The article post vetting and verification shall be forwarded to the author with suggestive changes. Once approved by the author, the amended article shall be forwarded for publishing.

The articles received which are not published in the current issue of Jignyasa shall be parked in the Chamber's locker for the next issue.

Articles that are not found suitable for publication, communication to the Author of the article shall be made to that effect.

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Invitation to STUDENT MEMBERS to contribute articles for Jignyasa

The Student Committee of the Chamber invites the **Student Members** to contribute articles for the e-journal for Students – **Jignyasa**. The objective of the committee is to make a major section of the journal - for the students by the students. The students can contribute articles on latest updates in the tax and allied laws, Standard Operating Procedures that can be used for the upcoming due dates, current scenarios in various industries or any other topic. You can send through your article in word format on office@ctconline.org along with your name, firm name/college name and a photograph. From among the articles received, the ones approved by the committee shall be published.

From the President

My Fellow Students,

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

- Benjamin Franklin

Greetings on the occasion of Holi, the festival that heralds the onset of spring and a new bloom, a new hope and a new year to follow after a fortnight. Like Holi, the vaccine for COVID-19 has heralded new hope in the minds of humankind and everyone is hopeful that life will come back to normal soon.

Dark clouds however continue to hover over the horizon. The recent sharp increase in the number of cases, particularly in Maharashtra, is disconcerting. One wonders where people erred. Did the drop, in cases from October onwards last year, lull people into a false sense of security, or is the increase in cases, due to plain indiscipline? The answer may not be known to us soon but all that we now do know is that the time has come to tighten our belts once again and observe the precautions we did observe when the lockdown started. Non-essential movement, crowding have to be eschewed and wearing of masks, frequent sanitisation of hands and frequent washing thereof with soap and water etc, have to be strictly followed. We should not go into another lockdown.

At the Chamber despite the lack of ability to conduct physical events, life goes on as usual. The use of technology has been continuous, and it looks very likely that this year, the Chamber might not have a physical programme. Our enthusiasm to be with you continues unabated, though it does look like this year, we may not have any physical programmes at all. (I hope I am proved wrong here!!!). I must thank each and every member of the Chamber's core group for their faith in this team and their unshakable faith in the technological platform of the Chamber.

The quote I have started my communication with, has a very deep message for all of us, we need to get deeply involved in what we learn and what we do. Unless we dig deep, treasure will not be found. And treasures of knowledge are there everywhere in the field of tax and law. I therefore urge all of you to be deeply committed to your work, howsoever mundane you may think it to be. There is always something new to learn.

This issue of 'Jignyasa', has for the first time, an article by a law student. This e journal has through the efforts of the student committee continued to give us something new in each issue and with this also, the trend has continued. The student committee is slowly spreading its wings to cover a more diverse range of professionals into the Chamber's fold and this is a fit occasion to compliment the Student Committee for doing such a great job. Please do feel free to circulate e copies of this journal to all who can benefit and speak to them to become student members of the Chamber. Membership is easy and is inexpensive. Details can be found on the Chamber's website, www.ctconline.org.

I also compliment the Committee on organising a very well-conducted and well attended Orientation Course for the CA students as well as the Dastur Debate Competition, (again, on a virtual platform) on 28th and 30th January 2021,which saw enthusiastic participation by 32 colleges all over India. We hope the students take full benefit of the courses we conduct.

We have also started registrations for the 10th Dastur Essay Competition. The topics for this competition are contemporary and thought provoking. These are:

1. *Impact of Covid-19 on human behaviour, habits and how should one tackle the problem.*

2. *The Agricultural Imbroglio – Is it justified and its Solutions.*

3. *Freedom of expression is a Citizen's inalienable right.*

All of us have a point (or several points) of view on these. I invite all of you who have views on the subjects, to come and express them in the form of their essay.

The Chamber also has organised a talent competition for all the Members and also the students, on 11th and 12th June 2021. The details of the essay competition and the talent contest are given further in this e- journal. We invite all of you to come and express yourself unreservedly both at the essay competition and at the talent contest. We look forward to unearth some real talented professionals in both these contests.

I end this communication with a quote that I find very inspiring. As students, we must follow this. Life is an ocean and so is the world of a tax professional. The areas of practice are many and are deeply connected with each other.

"Try to learn something about everything and everything about something."

– Thomas H. Huxley

Happy ***Gudi Padwa*** in advance to all of you. May the new year bring hope, cheer and joy to all.

Yours sincerely

Anish Thacker
President

Chairperson's Message

My Very Dear Students,

The Student Committee feels very proud to release this 4th issue of E-Journal - for the students, by the students - "Jignyasa". We started this endeavor by releasing the 1st issue for the quarter ended June, 2020 at the Annual General Meeting of the Chamber held on July 4, 2020.

Since then, our team has been continuously striving to make this journal more dynamic and to give immense value to students in terms of opportunity to contribute articles, coverage of variety of topics, updates on our activities for the students, recognition to students winning various competitions organized by the Chamber and much more.

As I had mentioned in my very 1st message, I have been sharing my thoughts on some good attributes that I have developed out of my learning from my teachers & mentors at all important stages of my life. Through my earlier messages, I have expressed my thoughts on Gratitude, Positive Attitude and Courage as virtues that one should consciously develop and practice.

In this Issue I am going to share my thoughts on the most important virtue - ***"Art of Unconditional Giving"***.

As I had mentioned in my earlier message, mother nature teaches us many things.

So when, we as human, are in doubt as to how should one react to a situation, we must look at the nature and we can ourselves find the answer. It teaches positive attitude, it teaches respecting others' space, it teaches to use the immense powers within conscious limits, it teaches courage. But the biggest lesson it teaches each one of us is the Art of Giving and that too Unconditional Giving - "Daan"

This one quality alone has a life altering power. It creates the highest level of positivity in the environment. The recipient of the "Daan" would, no doubt, be a happier person but the giver of the "Daan" will be the happiest. It rejuvenates one's mind and body with utmost positivity and slowly and steadily builds a good fortune for the giver of the "Daan". Friends, this good fortune created by constant act of giving is the biggest assurance one can have in this world full of agony, worries and uncertainties.

Our hands have to develop the habit of giving away what we can share with someone who needs it more. It is indeed very tough for human mind to do so. However rich and well to do one may be, when it comes to giving even little out of what one has, the human mind starts thinking and rethinking over the decision of giving. The battle of greed, insecurity and fear confuses a mind and restrains it from doing the divine act of giving. So one must consciously train his mind.

In the villages, the Brahmins Bhikshuks go from door to door, to get means for their daily living from the villagers. Similarly, a Bhikshuk in a village goes to the house of a very rich lady and asks for Bhiksha. The lady refuses to give him anything saying there is nothing with her to give him. The Bhikshuk takes some sand from ground and gives her and tells her put the said sand into his bag. The lady gets confused. The Bhikshuk tells her "It will train your hands to give something to others".

So yes, we all need to train our mind to give willingly, to share and to give happily with positivity so that the recipient of the same also gets the positivity and becomes happy. Friends when I say GIVE, I do not mean that one must keep doing charity or donations all the time. It is about sharing what you have enough with someone who really needs it -be it money, food, clothing, books, toys any other means of living.

When we say we have enough that does not mean that we can start giving only when we are all settled in life with enough wealth. Any wealth is never enough as our needs and aspirations always go on expanding. So there is no right age to start giving or sharing. It is today that we have to realize the importance of sharing and keeping aside a small portion of what we have for the happiness of others. That is the real art of giving. It is indeed a really good culture to share little of what we have to make someone else happier.

Recently, actor Sonu Sood was honored at the Smule-Mirchi music awards for the great work done in the Covid 19 situation, He helped almost 7 lakh people migrate to their own native places. In his "thanks speech" he appealed to people to not plan charity on only special occasions as birthday or a festival but instead do good to others every day, whenever and wherever you feel someone is in a need and you have the strength to help.

As we speak of the art of unconditional giving, I have created my own rules about it to protect the purity of the feeling of giving from certain natural human tendencies which unknowingly follow our act of giving:

1. Do not ever take any pride while giving and be humble. You should consider yourself fortunate to be in a position to give and that God has given you enough privileges. So be very humble while giving - it will teach you humility.
2. Do not always give only what you do not need or want anymore. Sometimes try to give something that you would generally not want to part with - it will teach you sacrifice.
3. Give things which are in decent condition and not absolutely useless. Give it in a neatly wrapped manner - it will teach you to respect others.
4. Do not expect anything in return when you are giving to someone - it will teach you unconditional love in relationships.
5. Do not publicize what you are doing among your family & friends. It will not be in harmony with what mother nature teaches us in the art of giving. That supreme power has given so much to all of us but do you find the name of the creator mentioned anywhere?

I was once told that in our entire life, if we can make one person smile; the purpose of our life is fulfilled. So by our kind deeds of giving, if we can touch many hearts and make many lives happy, imagine how successful our life would be....

Varsha Rajaram Galvankar
Chairperson
Student Committee

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMMES

A Boot Camp on Valuation

When it comes to making crucial business and financial decisions, the financial analyst wants the right tools on hand for performing valuations. The need for 'Valuation' arises from various reasons like fund raising, mergers and acquisitions, sale of businesses, shareholders/family disputes, accounting requirements, regulatory requirements under Income Tax Act, Companies Act, FEMA regulations, SEBI Regulations, etc. or for internal assessment of management/shareholders.

A Boot camp on valuation is a first step designed by the Students Committee of the Chamber of Tax Consultants to gain the essential valuation tools under the Armor of professionals. The course, spread over 4 sessions on 4 days, will try to give participants an overview of various valuation methods with practical examples and problems.

The brief program structure is as under:

Sr. No.	*Day, Date & Time*	*Topic*	*Speaker*
1	Friday, 18th June 2021 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm	Valuation Overview - Valuation requirements under various Indian statutes - Valuation Approaches and Methods - Overview of ICAI Valuation Standards	CA Sujal Shah
2	Saturday, 19th June 2021 10.00 am to 1.00 pm	Market and Cost Approach of Valuation - Comparable Companies Multiple (CCM) Method - Comparable Transaction Multiple (CTM) Method - Market Price (MP) Method - Assets based value Method - Other methods of valuation - Practical Problems	CA Bhavik Shah
3	Friday, 25th June 2021 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm	Demystifying Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) Method under Income Approach with Practical Problems	CA Vitang Shah
4	Saturday 26th June 2021 10.00 am to 1.00 pm	Valuation of Intangible Assets with Practical Problems	CA Aseem Mankodi

Participation Fees

Student Participants - ₹ 300/- + ₹ 54/- (GST) = ₹ 354/-

Others - ₹ 500/- + ₹ 90/- (GST) = ₹ 590/-

Participation Fees to be paid online: CLICK HERE to Register

THE DASTUR ESSAY COMPETITION 2021

For Students of Law & Accountancy

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ज्ञानं परमं बलम्

THE CHAMBER OF TAX CONSULTANTS

3, Rewa Chambers, Ground Floor,
31 New Marine Lines, Mumbai 400 020
Tel.: 2200 1787 / 2209 0423 I 2200 2455
E-mail : ctcessay@gmail.com
Visit us at: www.ctconline.org

1st Prize ₹ 10,000/-

2nd Prize ₹ 7,500/-

3rd Prize ₹ 5,000/-

A certificate of appreciation will be awarded to all the participants. The **top 3 essays** will be published along with a photograph of the participant in 'The Chamber's Journal' and also in e-Journal 'Jignyasa' top 10 essays will be uploaded on our website **www.ctconline.org**

The Dastur Essay Competition

REGISTRATION CLOSES ON 30 April 2021

The Chamber is one of the oldest professional organisations founded in 1926 and is now in its 94th year. The Chamber has been organising the Dastur Essay Competition since 2012 for Law Students and Articled Trainees pursuing CA, CS and ICWA Courses, where essays on current topics are invited and then the same are judged by senior professionals with prizes and certificates being awarded to meritorious essays.

We, at the Chamber believe that young students are the future leaders of our nation. They have the strength to bring ideas to life. Writing, a dying art today, is an important tool for encouraging the young fresh minds with novel ideas, to express themselves on topics of professional interest and get recognised by a professional forum, with around 4,000 members, through publication of the top three essays in 'The Chamber's Journal' and e-Journal 'Jignyasa'.

Hence, by participating in the Tenth Dastur Essay Competition of the Chamber, we request the budding professionals to be passionate about expressing themselves through their words and to take this opportunity to get the creative ideas flowing and allow the author within to blossom.

Topics for the Tenth Dastur Essay Competition are:

1. ***Impact of Covid-19 on human behaviour, habits and how should one tackle the problem.***
2. ***The Agricultural Imbroglio – Is it justified and its Solutions.***
3. ***Freedom of expression is a Citizen's inalienable right.***

Objectives

The objectives of the Competition are to cultivate good reading and writing communication skills coupled with encouraging "passion for writing" and "creativity", a quality which every human being possesses, which is possibly hidden and may be unknown to the individual himself.

The Dastur Essay Competition gives a platform to the young professionals to showcase their characteristics that illuminate the good students and potentially great writers. This Essay Competition invites students to explore a wide range of challenging and interesting questions beyond the confines of the college curriculum.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE 15 May 2021

Interested participants may register by sending their details to ctcessay@gmail.com or by contacting the Chamber's Office

Chairperson	Organised by the STUDENT COMMITTEE	*President*
Ms. Varsha Galvankar		**Mr. Anish Thacker**

Vice Chairpersons	*Convenors*	*Advisor*
Mr. Vitang Shah | Ms. Niyati Mankad	**Ms. Charmi G. Shah | Mr. Raj khona**	**Mr. Ajay R. Singh**

For Rules & Regulation please visit our website www.ctconline.org

Enrollment Form

THE CHAMBER OF TAX CONSULTANTS

"Aaa Dekhe Zara"... Unlocking the Talent within...

...a Talent Contest for the CTC Members & the CTC Students"

The Membership & Public Relations Committee and The Students' Committee of the CTC are pleased to announce the Online Talent Contest for **CTC Members, CTC Students Members & Students registered under CTC Members,** in the following categories of Solo Performances:

◆ **Singing** ◆ **Dance** ◆ **Other Performing Art : Instrumental Music, Beat Boxing, Mimicry & Stand-up comedy.**

Basic Structure

1. The Members' Talent Contest shall be separate from the Students' Talent Contest.
2. **The number of entries shall be restricted to 25 for Members & 50 for Students-members** **on First Come-First Served basis.**
3. Each contestant to participate in maximum of any 2 categories.
4. Elimination Round:
   a. 3 minutes for each Performance.
   b. Depending upon the number of entries, top 5 participants from each category will enter the Finals.
5. Final Round:
   a. 5 minutes for each Performance.
   b. Depending upon the number of entries, top 3 participants will be winners.

However, the number of contestants for the finals & number of prizes for each category, shall be decided by the organizers, depending upon the number of entries received for each categories, which decision shall be final & binding.

6. Singers/ Musicians may perform with their own Karaoke track. Alternately, maximum of 2 accompanist musicians may be allowed. Dancers may perform with their own music track. All performances shall be Live and no streaming of pre-recorded performances will be permitted.
7. Each category shall have different criteria for marks viz. Sur, Taal, Tempo, expressions, content, presentation etc. Each category shall be judged by a panel of 2 or more judges.
8. The Judges' decision shall be final & binding.

Day 1	Day 2
Elimination Round : Friday, 11th, June, 2021	**Final Round : Saturday, 12th June, 2021**
CTC Members' Elimination Round	**CTC Members' Final Round**
Time: 11.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.	**Time:** 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
CTC Students' Elimination Round	**CTC Students' Final Round**
Time: 3.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.	**Time:** 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

The Interested Members & the Students are requested to send their entries By Email to the office of the CTC at office@ctconline.org, stating their name, Status- CTC Member/CTC Student/CTC Member's student, name of the Firm, Category (Max 2), age, mobile no., Email ID.

The Members & the Students are requested to enrol for this First ever Talent Contest of the CTC. CTC wishes to promote performances by the students at this program and hence, request the firms to encourage their talented students to participate for this Talent Contest.

MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Chairperson: Nishtha Pandya | **Co-Chairman:** Premal Gandhi | **Vice-Chairperson:** Ashita Shah
Convenors: Bandish Hemani, Tanvi Vora | **Advisor:** Hitesh R. Shah

STUDENTS' COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Varsha Galvankar | **Vice Chairmen:** Vitang Shah & Niyati Mankad, Advocate
Convenors: Charmi G. Shah & Raj Khona | **Advisor:** Ajay Singh, Advocate

Co-Ordinators: **Vijay Bhatt** (98202 10728) | **Suresh Subramanian** (98332 09454)

The 2nd Tech Series for Students

The Students Committee of The Chamber of Tax Consultants is pleased to announce the **2nd Tech Series for Students**. Following *the Tech Series of 2020,* **Series of 2021** is uniquely designed to acquaint the students with knowledge about **advanced technologies** in the field of **excel, audit, automation along with the benefits of bloging** which shall be useful in their day-to-day activities as a student and more so add a feather in their caps as a Professional.

This course would cover varied topics like:

1. Advanced Excel
2. How is Google Sheets different from Microsoft Excel?
3. Tally Prime – New Features & Possible Automation
4. Auditing with Artificial Intelligence
5. Perks and duties of Bloging as a professional
6. Advanced Presentation Tools

Dates and other details shall be shortly announced on the Chamber's website.

Digital Transformation (DX) Series-2

CA Alok Jajodia

CA Mayur Jain

Previous article covered What is Digital Transformation and the difference between digital transformation and ERP implementation. This article covers the strategy for transformation and assesses the readiness of digital transformation implementation.

Digital Transformation Strategy

According to a survey from McKinsey, around 70% of Digital transformations fail!

This statistic may deter a lot of organizations who are on the path of the digital transformation journey. Some of the key reasons being teams not being on the same page, lack of organizational buy-in, lack of relevant skillset, change management issues, not tracking progress on a systematic basis.

So, what can the organizations do to increase their chances of a successful digital transformation (DX) journey? A holistic, well-strategized and fully committed digital transformation initiative will ensure the organization better chances to succeed with their DX journey.

Here are key pointers to get started with just the right strategy:

- **Embed Digital Transformation into Organization DNA**

  For organizations, digital transformation isn't just a survival move, it is more of realizing the full potential of the business value drivers by upgrading and winning over the external challenges and opportunities. A successful strategy should have the DX initiative embedded into goal, culture, mission, and vision statements. Digital transformation cuts across every function and every budget, and all functional teams need to be on board for the journey. The CEO should build the conviction within the team about the importance of this change (organizational buy-in). The success mantra to achieving the strategic common transformation goal is increased collaboration across functions, coupled with quick decision- making. Develop a transformation plan that is fully owned by the line leaders.

- **Identify the business need**

  After having the organisational buy-in, the next IN strategy is to identify the problems that need to be solved, identify the obstacles that are preventing from achieving the goals. Identification of the business needs and using them as a strategy would help in timing the transformation and select technology that will help to achieve goals.

- **Conduct due diligence and map out technology**

  The number of choices available is staggering. It is not necessary to select a tech solution based on name recognition or market share alone. Choose tech solutions that scale with your long-term strategy. Digital transformation will essentially require moving from the current IT landscape to a more dynamic, evolving, and adaptive emerging tech considered critical for the transformation of various processes, typically below:

- o Internet of Things (IoT) tools
- o AI/Machine-learning tools
- o Robotics process automation
- o Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality tools

- **Selection of Right Implementation partners**

  Implementation partners will help you visualize and create the digital experiences of tomorrow. Right technology partners are important innovation collaborators. While working with an experienced partner, the efficiency of building and delivering products is higher. They bring in a blend of emerging tech, start-up thinking and world-class human resources.

- **Embrace for culture change/ change management**

  For any transformation, this is the key factor for a successful implementation. Change management is the single most make or break factor. Plan tactical action to change the mindsets and behaviours necessary to sustain the transformation. Unless the complete organisation accepts the new strategy, technology, and processes actively, the chances of failure are high.

  Address questions like - Do you have the right culture: to adopt change? What is the risk and tolerate failure metrics to embrace new ways of doing things, like new ways of working or new technologies?

- **Build the RIGHT skillset**

  Organizations should start by forming core teams with dedicated KRAs. It is extremely crucial to identify the right talent with not just capabilities but competencies as well which is aligned to the DX strategy. There should be a plan in place to constantly build and upgrade competencies especially around business acumen. Further, the IT team will be the key catalyst in your DX journey. The organisation should realign the IT department to move away from some of the commodity skills to more forward-looking capabilities that align with the overall strategy.

- **Plan for failure**

  They generally say, "Digital transformation is like a boxing match – everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth". The best way to have a successful implementation is to have a contingency plan. By predicting the risks, the organisation is likely to encounter, they will be well prepared when things go sideways.

  The other strategy could be: Start building small winning blocks: It is important to jump-start digital transformation with an impactful measurable initiative such as demonstrating small wins with proof of concepts and pilot projects. This will instil a lot of confidence to get the stakeholder buy-in and ensure their active participation with the partners, customers, and other stakeholders necessary for the successful transformation.

Assess the readiness of Digital Transformation

Assessing readiness is a critical success factor for the implementation of any digital transformation initiative. Generally, it so happens that organizations evaluate solutions, sign the contract and start the implementation, without even assessing if the organization is ready for the change. The implementors and the organization both go full throttle into the implementation, only to realise later that there are a lot of things not thought about or not been planned. This brings the pause in the implementation and the whole excitement fizzles off.

General challenges seen are:

- Rushed into the implementation without proper planning or vision
- Everything is outsourced to the implementor
- There are unrealistic expectations

Therefore, it is necessary to assess the readiness of the digital transformation before starting the implementation. The key areas or workstreams of readiness are as mentioned below:

1. Executive Alignment

Just by the fact that the budgets are approved and a decision on digital transformation is taken by the executives does not necessarily mean that all executives are aligned to the core objective of digital transformation. There are various components to executive alignment.

- The most important is the alignment of the expectations from the digital transformation. It is not a bad idea to have an educative session with the executives to align the expectations, the timelines, overall TCO.
- The strategic objectives on whether to operate as a centralized or decentralized group across multi countries or multi entities or standardize business operations across multiple locations or strategy on the level of integrations for acquired entities, etc. need to convert and align to digital transformation objectives. If there is a misalignment, then this needs to be aligned.

2. Operational or Process readiness

This refers to how is the process going to be. The organization must be clear on the future state processes. Since the technology is flexible to a greater extent, the to-be process clarity is required, to inform the implementation partner.

- While the processes are studied and finalized, the risk associated with the process, the mitigation plans are also required to be identified and finalized.
- While processes are finalized, they should be not based on any software or technology platform. It should be technology agnostic. E.g. the workflow for the procurement, the alignment of process across all entities and locations, etc.
- Along with finalizing the processes, it is necessary to identify the gaps as well, which would help in executing change management activities.

3. People readiness

This refers to the change management strategy and plan. This is one of the most critical success factors for the implementation of digital transformation to be successful. Even if the technology is implemented, but, if it not being used or enabled by the people appropriately, it eventually fails.

- Cultural alignment is necessary when the standard processes are being planned for multi entities and multi-locations.
- Identify the resistance of change, the intensity of resistance and root causes of resistance. This will help in planning the change management program effectively. This will also help in understanding overall organizational readiness for implementation as well.
- The other important point is to identify the changes in the job descriptions, or the roles of the people based on the future state processes. If these changes are high, then it would become necessary to start planning change management much before the implementation starts.

4. Technical readiness

Though digital transformation is a business transformation and a business initiative, technology drives the transformation. It is necessary to identify the readiness of the IT department and the IT infrastructure.

- Does the organization have the physical infrastructure scalability option for transformation, or would the architecture support the new technologies coming in?
- Will the architecture support the various integrations required as there would be some systems that may not be replaced by the new technology? Along with integrations, if there are various disparate systems planned to be replaced, the data migration strategy needs to be planned.
- Another aspect of technical readiness is to check the readiness of the IT department. The skillset and the competencies required for the new technology is to be identified, a gap analysis will help for the planning of the requisite training and new hires.

5. Project governance readiness

It relates to owning the project by the organization and does not let the implementor own the project and run it his way. This readiness will help us know if the organization is ready to program and manage the project themselves or they need an external consultant for doing so.

- Identifying the roles and responsibilities and the team members of the various stakeholders involved in the project (the implementer, IT team, functional team, change and process management team, project team, etc.)
- The complete program management plan includes the project plan of implementation (would be received by the implementor), the change management plan, the process improvement activities plan, the data migration activities plan and the communication plan.
- Last but not least is a risk mitigation plan to be in place. Every transformation goes through some standard risks like the potential people resistance, time pressure, resource constraints, etc. The identification of each potential risk and planning to mitigate it well in advance will always help in the implementation of the transformation.

The readiness activities may take from several weeks to several months, depending upon the size and the complexities of the organization. It would never be a scenario that one would feel that they are completely ready but making sure that maximum points are checked and planned is most important.

Moving forward in the future articles would cover the following topics:

- *Role of Business Process Innovation in digital transformation*
- *Role of Change Management in digital transformation*
- *Project and Quality Assurance [Program Management] of digital transformation*
- *Key challenges or reasons for the failure of digital transformation*

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Amendments to the Income Tax Laws by Finance Act, 2021


Kewal Bhanushali CA Kalpesh Katira

The Finance Bill means the Bill ordinarily introduced each year to give effect to the financial proposals of the Government of India for the following financial year and includes a Bill to give effect to supplementary financial proposals for any period. The Bill is a part of the Union Budget, stipulating all the legal amendments required for the changes in taxation proposed by the Finance Minister. The Bill 2021 was presented in the parliament on February 1, 2021 by the Hon'ble Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The provision of the Bill proposed to amend various provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961. With a view to minimize the difficulties and rationalization of various provisions, certain new sections or amendments to the existing sections were proposed through the Bill 2021. The said Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha after various amendments and finally it received the assent of the President of India on March 28, 2021.

Every year various sections are introduced or inserted and amendments are proposed with a view to minimize the burden on the taxpayer, clarification on the sections and to expand the scope of taxability under Income Tax Act, 1961 (the Act). An attempt has been made to cover the major and important sections which are newly inserted or amended through the Finance Act, 2021 as under:

1. No depreciation on goodwill

Till now Goodwill was included in the block of assets of Business or Profession and thereby, depreciation was allowed on Goodwill. The definition of "block of assets" which is covered in section 2(11) of the Act is now amended. Under sub-section (11), in clause (b), after the word "or commercial rights of similar nature", the words "not being goodwill of a business or profession" have been inserted. Accordingly, from AY 2021-22 onwards, goodwill of a business or profession will not be considered as a depreciable asset and there would not be any depreciation on goodwill.

In case depreciation was obtained by the assessee in relation to goodwill purchased prior to the AY 2021-22, then cost of acquisition will be purchase price reduced by depreciation obtained prior to AY 2021-22.

The said amendment is considered in view that Goodwill, in general, is not a depreciable asset and in fact depending upon how the business runs; goodwill may see appreciation or in the alternative no depreciation to its value. Therefore, there may not be a justification for allowing depreciation on goodwill.

2. Definition of the term 'liable to tax'

In The Finance Act 2020, Indian citizen who is not liable to tax in any other country or territory shall be deemed to be resident in India, if his total income other than income from foreign sources exceeds Rs.15 Lacs during the previous year.

As per The Finance Act 2021, the term liable to tax in relation to a person means that there is a liability of tax on that person under the law of any country and will include a case where subsequent to imposition of such tax liability, an exemption has been provided.

This amendment will take effect from 1st April, 2021 and will, accordingly, apply in relation to the assessment year 2021-22 and all subsequent assessment years.

3. Exemption for LTC Cash Scheme

Section 10(5) of the Act provides for exemption in case of the individual in respect of the value of travel concession or assistance received by or due to an employee from his employer or former employer for himself and his family, in connection with his proceeding on leave to any place in India. In view of the situation arising out of outbreak of COVID pandemic due to which LTC could not be availed, it is amended to provide tax exemption to cash allowance in lieu of LTC. Further, a second proviso is inserted in clause 5 of section 10 of the Act, namely:-

"Provided further that for the assessment year beginning on the 1st day of April, 2021, the value in lieu of any travel concession or assistance received by, or due to, such individual shall also be exempt under this clause subject to the fulfillment of such conditions (including the condition of incurring such amount of such expenditure within such period), as may be prescribed.";

The conditions for the claiming exemption in the above provision are prescribed in the Income-tax rules and are explained below:

a. Option needs to be exercised by the employee for deemed LTC fare in lieu of the applicable LTC in the Block year 2018-21;

b. The expenditure shall be incurred related to goods and service from October 12, 2020 till March 2021 by an individual or his family member. Further, the goods purchased or services procured shall be taxable at the rate of twelve percent or above under GST laws. The goods purchased or services procured shall be from registered supplier only;

c. Maximum amount of exemption available will be lower of the below:

   i. ₹ 36,000/- per person;

   ii. 1/3 OR 33.33 percent of the expenditure;

   iii. Amount received or due from the employer

d. The payment to registered supplier shall be made through an account payee cheque drawn on a bank or account payee bank draft, or use of electronic clearing system through a bank account or through such other electronic mode as prescribed under Rule 6ABBA and tax invoice is required to obtain from such vendor/service provider;

An employee who has already availed exemption by undertaking two journeys in the block of 2018 to 2021 calendar years (for example, one in calendar years 2018 and 2019 each) will not be able to claim the benefit under the new LTC scheme.

This amendment will take effect from 1st April 2021 and will, apply in relation to the assessment year 2021-22 only.

4. Proceeds under a life insurance policy

Any proceeds under a life insurance policy will not be included in the total income of the assesse subject to the satisfaction of the conditions specified in clause 10(D) of section 10 of the Act. A new provisio has been inserted after the 3rd proviso and before Explanation 1, the same has been reproduced below:

"Provided also that nothing contained in this clause shall apply with respect to any unit linked insurance policy, issued on or after the 1st day of February, 2021, if the amount of premium payable for any of the previous year during the term of such policy exceeds two lakh and fifty thousand rupees:

Provided also that if the premium is payable, by a person, for more than one unit linked insurance policies, issued on or after the 1st day of February, 2021, the provisions of this clause shall apply only with respect to those unit linked insurance policies, where the aggregate amount of premium does not exceed the amount referred to in fourth proviso in any of the previous year during the term of any of those policies:

Provided also that the provisions of the fourth and fifth provisos shall not apply to any sum received on the death of a person"

Further, to have clarification on the meaning of "unit linked insurance policy", Explanation 3 has been inserted after Explanation 2 –

Explanation 3 - For the purposes of this clause, "unit linked insurance policy" means a life insurance policy which has components of both investment and insurance and is linked to a unit as defined in clause (ee) of regulation 3 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Unit Linked Insurance Products) Regulations, 2019 issued by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority under the Insurance Act, 1938 and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.';

After reading of the newly inserted provision, it may be understood that in view of the above amended provisions any sum or proceeds received from the investment made in "unit linked insurance policy", other than on death of the assessee, will not be taxable in the hands of the assessee provided the premium payable for any of the years during the term of policy does not exceed Rs.250,000.

5. Non-deduction of employees contribution in case of delay

Under section 36(1)(va) - "Other deduction" of the Act, any sum received by the employer from any employees in respect of any labour welfare fund, the same was considered as income as per the provisions of section 2(24)(x) of the Act. Further, if the same amount has been credited to the employees account in the relevant fund on or before the due date as applicable under the relevant law, the said amount deposited or credited to the employees account will be allowed as deduction in the computation of Total Income of the employer under section 36(1)(va) of the Act.

Further, as per section 43B of the Act, if any liability payable in respect of employer's contribution to any relevant fund or funds shall be allowed as deduction while computing income of the employer as per section 28 of the Act irrespective of liability incurred for any year, if the same has been actually paid on or before the due date applicable in case of furnishing the return of income under sub-section (1) of section 139 of the Act.

This position is now changed by insertion of an Explanation to section 36(1)(va) of the Act clarifying that provision of section 43B of the Act does not apply and is deemed to never have been applied for the purpose of determining the "due date" under this clause; and further by amendment to Section 43B of the Act, by inserting Explanation 5 to the said section to clarify that the provisions of the said section do not apply and deemed to never have been applied to a sum received by the assessee from any of his employees to which provisions of 2(24)(x) of the Act applies. This makes it amply clear that the provisions will be applied retrospectively but the memorandum explaining Finance Bill states that these amendments will take effect from April 1, 2021 and will accordingly apply to the assessment year 2021-22 and subsequent assessment years which creates ambiguity about the applicability of the said explanations.

From the above, it can be stated that with effect from April 1,2021 any amount received as an employee's contribution towards provident fund, or ESI funds, shall definitely be treated as income of the Employer if the same is not deposited on or before the due date as provided under the PF and ESI Acts.

6. Incentives for affordable rental housing

To promote affordable rental housing, the section 80-IBA of the Act is amended to allow deduction to such rental housing project which is notified by the Central Government in the Official Gazette and fulfills such conditions as specified in the said notification.

Further, the outer time limit of March 31, 2021 in the said section for getting the affordable housing project approved has been extended to March 31, 2022 and same outer time limit has also been provided for the affordable rental housing project.

This amendment will take effect from April 1, 2022 and will accordingly apply to the assessment year 2022-23 and subsequent assessment years.

7. Extension of date of sanction of loan for affordable residential house property

Under section 80EEA of the Act, a deduction of Rs.1,50,000/- is available in respect of interest on loan. However, for availing the above deduction, certain conditions are required to be satisfied. The same have been explained below:

- Loan taken and sanctioned in respect of purchase of residential house property between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2021;
- Stamp duty value of the house property does not exceed Rs.45 lakhs;
- The assessee should not have any other residential house on the date of sanction of loan.

In order to help the first home buyers, the section is amended to extend the last date for which the loan should be sanctioned from March 31, 2021 to March 31, 2022. This amendment will help the first home buyers to purchase the residential house property by taking the loan.

8. Amendment in Section 43CA

Section 43CA of the Act is in respect of special provision for considering the full value of consideration for transfer of assets being land and building. According to section 43CA of the Act, if the consideration received by an assessee on transfer of immovable property is less than the stamp duty value, then, the value so adopted or assessed or assessable shall be deemed to be the full value of consideration for the purposes of computing income under the head "Profits & Gains of Business or Profession". Further, if the value so adopted or assessed or assessable does not exceeds the one hundred and ten percent of consideration received or receivable, then the amount so receivable or received in case of transfer will be considered as deemed full value of consideration.

Further, to promote the real estate sector, it is amended to insert the new proviso after the proviso in sub-section (1) which substitutes the word of "one hundred and ten per cent." to, "one hundred and twenty per cent." in case of transfer of a residential unit if following conditions are satisfied:

(i) transfer should take place during the period beginning from the November 12, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2021;

(ii) such transfer is by way of first time allotment of the residential unit to any person; and

(iii) the consideration received or accruing as a result of such transfer does not exceed Rs.2 crores.

9. Amendment in Tax Audit limit

Persons carrying on business need to get books of accounts audited from a Chartered Accountant if total sales, turnover or gross receipt during the previous year exceeds Rs.1 crore.

This threshold limit of turnover was increased to Rs.5 crores if the cash receipt and payment made during the year does not exceed 5% of total receipt and total payment respectively.

From AY 2021-22 onwards exemption from Tax Audit limit has been doubled from Rs.5 crores to Rs.10 crores if cash receipt and payment does not exceed 5% of total receipt and total payment respectively. The payment or receipt settled through a non-account payee cheque or non-account payee bank draft shall be deemed to be cash payment or cash receipt respectively.

The said amendment is to encourage transaction through digital mode and to further reduce the compliance burden of small and medium enterprise. The amendment is applicable from the AY 2021-22 and subsequent assessment years.

10. Extending the time limit for investment in startups to claim the exemption under section 54GB

Section 54GB of the Act provides for exemption from the capital gain arising from the transfer of a residential property on or before March 31, 2021, if the assessee utilises the net consideration for investment in the equity shares of an eligible start-up. The Finance

Act, 2021 has extended the said outer date of transfer of residential property to March 31, 2022.

11. Amendment in section 80-IAC

Section 80-IAC of the Act provides for a deduction to an eligible assessee of an amount of 100% of the profits and gains from business for three-consecutive assessment years out of seven years beginning from the year in which it is incorporated. Further, this section applies to the startups as per the conditions specified. One condition specified in the section is proposed to be amendment. The said condition is that the start-up should be incorporated on or after April 1, 2016 but before April 1, 2021. The said limit for incorporation has been extended from "2021" to "2022" to encourage further incorporation of startups.

12. Inclusion of adjustment relating to Advance Pricing Agreement ("APA") under Section 115JB

Section 115JB of the Act provides for Minimum Alternative Tax at the rate of 15% of its book profit, in case tax on total income of a company computed under the provisions of the Act is less than 15% of book profit. Book profit for this purpose is computed by making certain adjustment to the profit disclosed in the profit and loss account prepared by the company in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.

Further, it is now amended by the Finance Act, 2021 that in cases where past year income is included in books of account during the previous year on account of an APA or a secondary adjustment, the Assessing Officer shall, on an application made to him by the assessee, recompute the book profit of the past year(s) and tax payable, if any, during the previous year, in the manner prescribed.

13. Extending of ITR time limit in case of partners of the firm

The time limit for filing of income tax returns in case of the partners of the firm is extended to 30th November of the assessment year if the firm is required to furnish the Transfer Pricing report in Form 3CEB as referred to in section 92E of the Act. The effect of this amended would result in same dates of income tax return in case of partners and firm. The amendment is effective from AY 2021-22.

17. Amendment in time limit for filing of Belated and Revised return

It is now amended that the last date for filing of belated or revised returns of income, as the case may be, be reduced by three months. Thus, the belated return or revised return can now be filed only upto 31st December of the relevant assessment year.

18. Notice to non-filers

Earlier in case of non-filing of return, the notice under section 142(1)(i) of the Act was served by the Assessing Officer. It now provides that the notice under section 142(1)(i) of the Act may also be served by the Assessing Officer and prescribed income tax authority. This amendment is applicable from April 1, 2021.

19. Amendment in time limit for processing of income

- It has been proposed to amend the return processing period from one year to nine months from the end of financial year in respect of return filed by the assessee under section 139 and 142(1) of the Act.

- The Assessing Officer or the prescribed income tax authority shall serve the notice under section 143(2) of the Act within the period of three months as against the earlier period of six months from the end of financial year in which the return is filed.

20. New sections on reopening of assessment

New Section 148A of the Act provides that before issuance of notice the Assessing Officer shall conduct enquiries, if required, and provide an opportunity of being heard to the assessee. After considering his reply, the Assessing Office shall decide, by passing an order, whether it is a fit case for issue of notice under section 148 and serve a copy of such order along with such notice on the assessee. The Assessing Officer shall before conducting any such enquiries or providing opportunity to the assessee or passing such order obtain the approval of specified authority. However, this procedure of enquiry, providing opportunity and passing order, before issuing notice under section 148 of the Act, shall not be applicable in search or requisition cases.

Under section 149, in normal cases, no notice shall be issued if three years have elapsed from the end of the relevant assessment year. Notice beyond the period of three years from the end of the relevant assessment year can be issued only in a few specific cases where the Assessing Officer has in his possession the evidence which reveals that the income escaping assessment, represented in the form of asset, amounts to or is likely to amount to Rs.50 lakhs or more. Such notice can be issued beyond the period of three year but not beyond the period of ten years from the end of the relevant assessment year.

These amendments will take effect from April 1, 2021.

21. Insertion of new section 194P - Deduction of tax in case of specified senior citizen.

A new section 194P is inserted where conditional relaxation for senior citizens has been provided whereas compliance part of depositing tax if applicable has been shifted to the specified bank.

For better understanding the same has been explained in simpler way.

As per new section 194P of the Act, the senior citizen being resident of India having the age of 75 or more during the previous year is not required to file his income subject to the below conditions:

a) Not having any other income except pension income and interest income from the same bank in which the pension income is receivable or received;

b) Furnished a declaration to the specified bank as per the prescribe Form.

The person who satisfies the above condition is not required to file the return as per the section 139 of the Act. In this way the compliance part has been reduced for senior citizen. However, the tax which is required to deposit in case any tax liability for the above senior citizen must be shifted to the specified bank. The case where the above conditions are satisfied for a senior citizen, the specified bank is required to compute the total income of the senior citizen for the relevant assessment year and to deduct income-tax as per the rates which are in force.

22. Insertion of new section 194Q - Deduction of tax at source on payment of certain sum for purchase of goods

The Chapter XVII-B of the Act relates to deduction of tax at source. It is proposed to provide for TDS by person responsible for paying any sum to any resident for purchase of goods. Further, to attract the new section 194Q of the Act, specific conditions must be triggered since the wording of the section says that the deduction of tax is required for paying certain sum for purchase of goods which will increase the burden to every person. Hence, certain conditions have been specified for the applicability of the section to ensure that the compliance burden is applicable to those who can fulfill. The scope and applicability has been explained below:

- This section applies to an person ("Buyer") whose Gross Receipts/ Sales/Turnover in the Preceding financial year exceed Rs.10 Crore and when aggregate amount of purchase from a particular seller in the financial year exceeds Rs.50 Lakh.
- The rate of TDS is 0.1% when the PAN of seller is available. If the PAN is not available the TDS rate applicable will be 5%.
- The TDS is required to be deducted at the time of credit of such sum to the account of the seller or at the time of payment ("includes advance payment"), whichever is earlier.

There are certain cases where the newly inserted section will not apply even though the above conditions are satisfied :-

- Tax is required to be deductible under any other provision of the Act;
- Tax is collectible under the provisions of section 206C other than transaction to which sub-section (1H) of section 206C of the Act applies. (If on a transaction TCS is required to be collected under sub-section (1H) of section 206C as well as TDS is required to be deducted under this section, then on that transaction only applicability of TDS under this section shall be carried out or will prevail).

This section will applicable from July 1, 2021.

23. Insertion of section 206AB and Section 206CCA

The new section 206AB and 206CCA are inserted in the Act. The said sections provide for higher rate of TDS/TCS to be applied if the transactions entered into are with the non-filers of income tax return. The said sections have been inserted after Section 206AA and Section 206CC respectively of the Act which provide for higher rate of TDS/TCS for non-furnishing of Permanent Account Number ("PAN").

To have a better understanding of newly inserted section, let us first understand the applicability of section 206AA and section 206CC in short as below:

Section 206AA and 206CC are applicable in case where the person fails to furnish the PAN, in which case the person who is responsible for deducting/collecting the tax, as the case maybe, is required to apply the tax rate at the higher of the following:

Tax is required to be deducted		Tax is required to be collected	
(i)	at the rate specified in the relevant provision of this Act;	(i)	at twice the rate specified in the relevant provision of this Act;
(ii)	at the rate or rates in force; or	(ii)	at the rate of 5%:
(iii)	at the rate of 20%:		

The main purpose of the section 206AA and Section 206CC was to encourage the person to obtain the PAN. Further, in line with the above sections, section 206AB and section 206CCA have been inserted by the Finance Act, 2021 to ensure that the persons who have suffered a large amount of TDS/TCS liability should file their Income Tax Return.

The section 206AB of the Act is applicable to the specified person as defined in the provision. The provisions of sub-section (1) of section 206AB of the Act provides for TDS rate to be applied if the amount is paid or credited to a specified person being higher of the below rates –

(i) at twice the rate specified in the relevant provision of the Act; or

(ii) at twice the rate or rates in force; or

(iii) at the rate of 5%.

The provision of sub-section (1) of section 206AB of the Act does not apply in case where tax is required to be deducted under 192, 192A, 194B, 194BB, 194LBC or 194N of the Act.

Further, sub-section (2) of section 206AB of the Act provides that where both the section 206AA and 206AB of the Act are applicable i.e. the specified person has not submitted the PAN as well as not filed the return; the tax shall be deducted at the higher rate amongst both the sections i.e. TDS is required to be deducted at the higher rates amongst section 206AA and 206AB of the Act.

The term "specified person" is defined in sub-section (3) of section 206AB of the Act as a person who satisfies the following conditions:

- A person who has not filed the Income Tax Return for two previous years immediately prior to the previous year in which tax is required to be deducted;
- The time limit of filing return of income under sub-section (1) of section 139 is expired; and
- The aggregate tax deducted at source or tax collected at source, as the case maybe, is Rs. 50,000 or more in each of the two previous years.

The non-resident who does not have the permanent establishment is excluded from the scope of specified person.

Similarly, section 206CCA of the Act provides for TCS rate were tax is required to be collected from the specified person being higher of the below rates –

(i) at twice the rate specified in the relevant provision of the Act; or

(ii) at the rate of 5%.

Further, the sub-sections (2) & (3) of section 206CCA of the Act are similar to the provision of sub-sections (2) & (3) of section 206AB of the Act as explained above. However, while comparing the provision of section 206CC and 206CCA of the Act, the impact on the assesse is same as earlier since the rates under both the sections are same and there is no adverse impact on the rate of TCS under the provisions of section 206CCA of the Act.

24. Amendment to section 234C

The section 234C of the Act deals with interest to be levied for deferment of advance tax. The Finance Act, 2021 has now added the dividend income under the exclusions for computing any shortfall in respect of payment of the tax due on the returned income. Further, the word dividend income here is referred as defined in section 2(22) of the Act excluding the deemed dividend referred in section 2(22)(e) of the Act.

25. Interest Income On PF Contribution Above Rs. 2.5 Lacs Or ₹ 5 Lacs To Become Taxable In A Year

Earlier interest income on PF contribution was exempt from tax. From AY 2022-23, interest income will be taxable on contribution by employees exceeding ₹ 2,50,000 in the previous year.

However, if the employee is contributing to the fund and there is no contribution to such fund by the employer, then interest income on contribution by employee in excess of ₹ 5,00,000 will be taxable.

26. Late Fee For Filing Income Tax Returns

As per the amendment to Section 234F of the Act by the Finance Act 2021, the late-filing fee of return under section 139(1) of the Act shall be ₹ 5,000. However, where the total income of a person does not exceed ₹ 5 Lacs, the fee payable shall not exceed ₹ 1,000.

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Amendments to the GST Law by Finance Act, 2021

Vritti Anam   CA Karan Lodhaya

Goods & Service Tax (GST) law, being in its nascent stage has witnessed a plethora of amendments from time to time. It has undergone major changes to ensure that tax collection is more transparent, robust and uniform throughout the country. The COVID -19 pandemic posed a critical challenge to the government, wherein it was required to strike a balance between the tax collections and also give appropriate relief.

The Finance Act, 2021 brings about various changes in the GST regime keeping in mind the current economic situation. Following are the key amendments brought forward with enactment of Finance Act, 2021

- Section 7 of CGST Act, 2017 stands amended retrospectively w.e.f. 1st July, 2017 to enlarge its scope by insertion of clause (aa) which states that activities or transaction between person other than individual to its members shall deemed to be considered as supply of activities or transaction between two distinct person. Correspondingly, Schedule II, paragraph 7 has been omitted with effect from 01.07.2017. With the said amendment the mutuality principle laid down by the Honourable Supreme Court in case of M/S Calcutta Sports Club (2019(10) TMI 160) gets nullified.

- Section 16 of CGST Act, 2017 is amended to bring more stringent restriction on availment of Input Tax Credit (ITC) by insertion of clause (aa) to sub-section (2) which states that assessee would be eligible to avail ITC on vendor invoices or debit notes only if such invoice or debit notes are declared by vendor in their statement of outward supply (GSTR 1).

- Finance Act, 2021 omits subsection (5) of section 35 of CGST Act, 2017 which requires every registered person whose aggregate turnover as defined under section 2(6) of CGST Act, 2017 during the financial year exceeds prescribed limit to get their accounts audited by a chartered accountant or cost accountant. With the said omission, requirement of getting reconciliation statement certified by chartered accountant or cost accountant is done away with and the said reconciliation statement will now have to be self- certified by assessee and submitted along with annual return under section 44(2) of CGST Act, 2017.

- Section 50 of CGST Act, 2017 stands amended retrospectively w.e.f. 1st July, 2017 which provides for payment of Interest on delayed payment of tax. With the said amendment interest on delayed payment of tax payable on supplies made during tax period & declared in return furnished under section 39 (GSTR 3B) shall be levied on that portion of tax which is paid only by debiting electronic cash ledger. However, the said amendment shall not apply to returns furnished after commencement of proceedings under section 73 or section 74 of CGST Act, 2017 in respect of said assessee.

- Finance Act, 2021 brings forward separate proceedings against person liable under section 129 & 130 of CGST Act, 2017, thereby making seizure & confiscation of goods & conveyance in transit a separate proceeding from recovery of taxes. Prior to said amendment, if proceedings against main person liable to pay tax concluded then proceedings against all other person liable under section 122, 125, 129 & 130 were deemed to be concluded.

- Finance Act, 2021 inserts explanation to subsection (12) of section 75 of CGST Act, 2017 to widen the scope of term "Self-Assessed Tax" to include tax payable on invoices declared in GSTR 1 even though not declared under GSTR 3B. This amendment empowers the authorities to initiate recovery proceedings as per section 79 of CGST Act, 2017 without issue of show cause notice in cases where tax payable in GSTR 1 is higher than tax paid in GSTR 3B.

- Finance Act, 2021 enhances the power of authorities by substituting sub-section (1) to section 83 of CGST Act, 2017 to allow attachment of property of any person who retains the benefit of a transaction namely as under:

    - supplies any goods or services or both without issue of any invoice or issues an incorrect or false invoice with regard to any such supply;

    - issues any invoice or bill without supply of goods or services or both in violation of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder;

    - takes or utilises input tax credit without actual receipt of goods or services or both either fully or partially, in contravention of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder;

    - takes or distributes input tax credit in contravention of section 20, or the rules made thereunder;

  Prior to the said substitution section 83 provided that in order to protect interest of government, The Commissioner can by passing order in writing make provisional attachment of any property including bank account belonging to taxable person. However, with the above-mentioned amendment, the Commissioner can make provisional attachment of property of any person other than the taxable person who has retained the benefit from the said transaction.

- Finance Act, 2021 inserts proviso to section 107 of CGST Act, 2017 to increase the quantum of pre deposit to 25 percent of disputed amount from earlier pre deposit requirement of 10 percent. The said proviso is applicable only in case of order passed under section 129(3) of the CGST Act, 2017.

- Finance Act, 2021 amends section 129 of CGST Act, 2017 which lays down penalty & payment of tax on contravention of provision by any person while transporting/storing goods when they are in transit and such goods are liable to detention/

seizure. The amended Act removes the requirement of payment of tax portion but increase the quantum of penalty.

Following are the amended penalties under section 129(1) in case of exempted goods:

Penalty shall be 2% of value of goods or Rs 25,000/- whichever is less in case where owner of goods comes forward for payment of penalty, however the said penalty shall be 5% of value of goods or Rs 25,000/- whichever is less if owner does not come forward for payment of penalty.

Following are the amended penalties under section 129(1) in case of other goods:

Penalty shall be equal to 200% of tax payable on goods in case where owner of goods comes forward. However, where the owner of the goods does not come forward the penalty shall be 50% of value of goods or 200% of tax payable on such goods, whichever is higher.

Section 129(3) of CGST Act, 2017 is amended to specify duration of 7 days for issue of notice by proper officer detaining or seizing goods or conveyance specifying penalty payable & thereafter shall pass order within 7 days for payment of penalty.

Section 129(6) of CGST Act, 2017 is amended to provide option to transporter to pay Rs 1 Lakh or penalty proposed above whichever is less for release of conveyance.

- Section 130 of CGST Act, 2017 is amended via Finance Act, 2021 to provide for separate proceedings for confiscation of goods or conveyance & levy of penalty from hitherto linked proceedings of section 129 of CGST Act, 2017.
- Prior to amendment of section 151 of CGST Act, 2017 via enactment of Finance Act, 2021, commissioner was empowered to call for information from any person related to any matter in connection with the act, under his jurisdiction only if notification is issued thereof. However, after the said amendment commissioner can call for any information without notification being issued.
- Finance Act, 2021 is amended to protect information confidentiality of the concerned person in relation to information disclosed under section 150 & section 151 of CGST Act, 2017.
- Finance Act, 2021 amends section 16 of IGST Act, 2017 to classify supply to Special Economic Zone (SEZ) as "Zero Rated Supply" only for purpose of "authorised operations". For this purpose, "authorised operations" have not been defined but are meant to be the list of operations specified in letter of approval issued by Development commissioner of SEZ. The provisions of Section 16 of IGST Act, 2017 prior to its substitution defines the term "Zero Rated Supply" to include any supplies to SEZ developer or SEZ unit.
- Section 16(3) of IGST Act, 2017 is amended to link foreign exchange remittance of export of goods, thereby if registered person making zero rated supply of goods is unable to realise sales proceeds within prescribed time limit, then he shall be liable to deposit refund along with interest under section 50 of CGST Act, 2017.

As Goods & Service Tax (GST) tries to bring various taxes under one umbrella, and being in nascent stage, it is bound to undergo various amendments in upcoming era. As a professionals, we should be more vigilant about all amendments.

Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting budget made mention that, "As Chairperson of the Council, I want to assure the House that we shall take every possible measure to smoothen the GST further, and remove anomalies".

The Finance Minister has indeed tried to smoothen GST further & removed anomalies. In fact, the aim of this budget was to bring transparency in the Taxation system & to curtail the ensuing litigation by making intention of the government clear to extent possible.

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How to read a Balance Sheet – Investor's Perspective and Auditor's Perspective


Fenil Shah


CA Ankit Sanghavi

HOW TO READ A BALANCE SHEET : FROM AN AUDITORS' POINT OF VIEW AND FROM AN INVESTORS' POINT OF VIEW

A company's balance sheet, also known as a "Statement of Financial Position", reveals the firm's assets, liabilities and owner's equity (net worth). The Balance Sheet, together with the Income Statement and Cash Flow Statement, makes up the cornerstone of any company's financial statements.

The purpose of a balance sheet is to give interested parties an idea of the company's financial position, in addition to displaying what the company owns and owes.

If you are a shareholder of a company or a potential investor, it is important to understand how the balance sheet is structured, how to analyze it and how to read it. A balance sheet may give insight or reason to invest in a stock.

If you are an Auditor, it is important to evaluate the accuracy of the information found in the balance sheet.

INVESTORS' POINT OF VIEW :

- **DIVIDENDS**

  Dividends represent the distribution of corporate profits to shareholders, based upon the number of shares held in the company. Some companies keep profits as retained earnings that are earmarked for reinvestment in the company and its growth, giving investors capital gains.

  While some investors seek capital growth and prefer companies that pay low dividends and invest more for growth, some want high current income in the form of dividends and are willing to settle for lower capital appreciation.

  High dividend payout ratios may be a sign that a decrease in profits is on the way. If a company continually increases its dividend payout ratio even though the profits are continuously falling, you've encountered a warning sign that future trouble is brewing.

  If the dividend payout ratio is considerably low, be sure you understand what the company does with the money and whether it's making good use of the funds it's reinvesting.

- **FINANCIAL RATIOS**

  Financial ratios help you interpret the raw data of a company's finances to get a better picture of its performance. It is crucial for investment decisions. It not only helps in knowing how the company has been performing but also makes it easy for investors to compare companies in the same industry and zero in on the best investment option.

Ratios based on Liquidity such as Current Ratio, Quick Ratio, Operating Cash Flow Ratio ;

Activity Ratios such as Inventory Turnover, Receivables Turnover ;

Ratios based on Leverage such as Debt to Equity Ratio, Interest Coverage Ratio ; Performance Ratios such as Net Profit Margin, Operating Profit Margin, Return on Equity.

It's important not to take decisions on any particular ratio, but rather take them together and analyze them as a whole.

Standalone Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2020

All amounts are in ₹ lakhs unless otherwise stated

	Notes	As at March 31, 2020	As at March 31, 2019
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
a) Property, plant and equipment	4 (a)	**36,077.50**	36,975.86
b) Capital work-in-progress	4 (a)	**2,875.71**	1,287.69
c) Right-of-use asset	4 (b)	**2,644.04**	-
d) Goodwill on amalgamation	6 (a)	**19,582.31**	19,582.31
e) Investment property	5	**12.82**	549.86
f) Other intangible assets	6 (b)	**966.09**	968.35
g) Intangible assets under development	6 (b)	**4,694.65**	3,782.88
h) Financial assets			
i) Investments	7	**379.69**	378.84
ii) Loans	8	**907.06**	673.99
iii) Other financial assets	9	**76.51**	42.17
i) Income-tax assets (Net)	10.1	**11,002.26**	7,519.64
j) Other non-current assets	14	**4,205.12**	3,178.53
Total non-current assets		**83,423.76**	74,940.12
Current assets			
a) Inventories	11	**69,920.02**	67,322.58
b) Financial assets			
i) Investments	7	**29,867.42**	10,548.14
ii) Loans	8	**-**	93.33
iii) Trade receivables	12	**45,001.83**	44,820.94
iv) Cash and cash equivalents	13.1	**4,585.56**	4,003.78
v) Bank balances other than (iii) above	13.2	**213.34**	389.81
vi) Other financial assets	9	**648.54**	460.54
c) Other current assets	14	**10,636.53**	13,369.24
		1,60,873.24	**1,41,008.36**
Assets classified as held for sale	15	**426.78**	-
Total current assets		**1,61,300.02**	**1,41,008.36**
Total assets		**2,44,723.78**	**2,15,948.48**
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
a) Equity share capital	16	**1,944.71**	1,944.71
b) Other equity	17	**1,39,055.31**	1,26,637.37
Total equity		**1,41,000.02**	**1,28,582.08**
Liabilities			
Non-current liabilities			
a) Financial liabilities			
Borrowings	18.1	**1,236.30**	1,580.16
Lease liabilities	18.2	**1,438.70**	-
Other financial liabilities	22	**644.95**	640.50
b) Provisions	23	**2,564.74**	2,188.88
c) Deferred tax liabilities (Net)	20	**2,740.16**	1,535.29
d) Other non-current liabilities	24	**9.82**	9.81
Total non-current liabilities		**8,634.67**	**5,954.64**
Current liabilities			
a) Financial liabilities			
i) Borrowings	19	**4,961.79**	5,295.86
ii) Trade payables	21		
- total outstanding dues of micro enterprises and small enterprises		**369.13**	288.82
- total outstanding dues of creditors other than micro enterprises and small enterprises		**63,364.06**	53,184.97
iii) Other financial liabilities	22	**8,931.86**	10,679.61
iv) Lease liabilities	18.2	**1,392.43**	-
b) Other current liabilities	24	**12,002.77**	9,910.37
c) Provisions	23	**1,705.08**	1,624.99
d) Income-tax liabilities (Net)	10.1	**2,361.97**	427.14
Total current liabilities		**95,089.09**	**81,411.76**
Total liabilities		**1,03,723.76**	**87,366.40**
Total equity and liabilities		**2,44,723.78**	**2,15,948.48**
See accompanying notes to the standalone financial statements	1 to 54		

The above extract is of Rallis India Limited Balance Sheet for FY 2019-20.

Standalone Statement of Profit and Loss for the year ended March 31, 2020

All amounts are in ₹ lakhs except for earning per equity share information

		Notes	For the year ended March 31, 2020	For the year ende March 31, 2019
I	Revenue from operations	25	**2,25,149.82**	1,98,360.53
II	Other income	26	**3,432.98**	3,061.01
III	**Total Income (I+II)**		**2,28,582.80**	**2,01,421.54**
IV	**Expenses**			
	Cost of materials consumed	27	**1,28,093.19**	1,19,448.41
	Purchases of stock-in-trade	28	**14,121.26**	11,642.09
	Changes in inventories of finished goods, stock-in-trade and work-in-progress	29	**(3,330.40)**	(14,003.08)
	Employee benefits expense	30	**19,937.39**	17,984.65
	Finance costs	31	**611.21**	524.73
	Depreciation and amortisation expense	32	**6,150.58**	4,607.25
	Other expenses	33	**40,214.94**	39,360.11
	Total expenses (IV)		**2,05,798.17**	**1,79,564.16**
V	**Profit before exceptional items and tax (III -IV)**		**22,784.63**	**21,857.38**
VI	**Exceptional items**	**51**	**1,142.33**	-
V	**Profit before tax (III-IV)**		**23,926.96**	**21,857.38**
VI	**Tax expense**			
	(1) Current tax	10.2	**6,906.72**	6,875.90
	(2) Deferred tax	10.2	**(1,526.36)**	(437.16)
	Total tax expense (VI)		**5,380.36**	**6,438.74**
VII	**Profit for the year (V-VI)**		**18,546.60**	**15,418.64**
VIII	**Other comprehensive income**			
	Item that will not be reclassified to profit or loss :			
	a) Remeasurement of the employee defined benefit plans		**(241.55)**	20.74
	b) Equity instruments through other comprehensive income		**0.85**	(141.41)
	c) Income tax relating to items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss		**56.31**	(24.65)
	Total other comprehensive income (net of taxes)		**(184.39)**	**(145.32)**
IX	**Total comprehensive income for the year (VII + VIII)**		**18,362.21**	**15,273.32**
Earnings per equity share (of ₹ 1 each)		34		
	(1) Basic (In ₹)		**9.54**	7.93
	(2) Diluted (In ₹)		**9.54**	7.93
See accompanying notes to the standalone financial statements		1 to 54		

The above extract is of Rallis India Limited Profit/Loss for FY 2019-20.

Taking our example of Rallis India Limited, let's analyze the Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss and calculate few important Ratios

1. *Debt to Equity Ratio*

It is measured by dividing total debt by shareholder's equity. It shows how much a company is leveraged. What portion of the total assets is being funded by debt capital can be measured from this ratio.

Leverage can also refer to the amount of debt a firm uses to finance assets.

A higher ratio means the company is highly leveraged. Although being leveraged is beneficial because of reduced cost of capital but if the business doesn't do well, leverage or high debt will be a major problem.

Total Debt = Financial borrowings+ Lease liabilities

(both non-current and current)

= 1236.30 +1438.70+ 4961.79 + 1392.43

= 9,029.22 lakhs

Shareholder's Equity = 1,41,000.02 lakhs

Debt-Equity Ratio = Total Debt / Shareholder's Equity

= 9,029.22 / 1,41,000.02

= 0.06*

2. *Current Ratio*

It shows whether the company's short-term assets are available to pay off its short-term liabilities. A high current ratio is not necessarily good and low current ratio is not necessarily bad. We have to compare other liquidity aspects as well. It also depends on the nature of business. There could be Companies who receive money in advance and have to give products/services later. It often arises when a business generates cash so quickly that it can sell its products to the customer before it has to pay its bill to the supplier. For example Online retailers, discount retailers, grocery stores, restaurants and telecom companies. This type of Companies may have negative Current Ratio.

Current Assets = 1,61,300.02 lakhs

Current Liabilities = 95,089.09 lakhs

Current Ratio = Current Assets / Current Liabilities

= 1,61,300.02 / 95,089.09

= 1.69*

3. *Return on Equity (ROE) Ratio*

The main purpose of any for-profit business is creating wealth for the shareholders. This ratio shows at what rate the shareholders are earning.

Profit for the year (after tax) = 18,546.60 lakhs

Shareholder's Equity = 1,41,000.02 lakhs (One can also consider average of opening and closing)

Return on Equity Ratio = Profit / Equity

= 18,546.60 / 1,41,000.02

= 13.15%*

4. *Earnings per share (EPS) Ratio*

Earnings per share (EPS) is calculated as a company's profit divided by the outstanding shares of its common stock. The resulting number serves as an indicator of a company's profitability.

The higher a company's EPS, the more profitable it is considered to be.

Profit for the year (after tax) = 18,546.60 lakhs

Equity Share Capital = 1,944.71 lakhs

Earnings per equity share = Profit / Equity Share Capital

= 18546.60 / 1944.71

= 9.54 per share

*All the above Calculation of Ratios are based on Estimation basis.

- **FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Statements that address expectations or projections about the future, but not limited to the company's strategy for growth, product development, market position, expenditures and financial results, are forward looking statements. Since these are based on certain assumptions and expectations of future events, the company cannot guarantee that these are accurate or will be realized.

These statements necessarily involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties, which may cause actual performance and financial results in future periods to differ materially from any projections of future performance or result expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

An investor should go through these statements to learn about the future plans of the company and also about the short-term and long- term goals and objectives set by the company.

- **ESG ANALYSIS**

Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria are a set of standards for a company's operations that socially conscious investors use to screen potential investments.

Environmental criteria consider how a company performs as a steward of nature. Social criteria examine how it manages relationships with employees, suppliers, customers, and the communities where it operates.

Governance deals with a company's leadership, executive pay, audits, internal controls, and shareholder rights.

ESG analysis can provide valuable insights about factors that can have a significant impact on the financial metrics of a company and therefore better inform our investment decisions.

ESG criteria are an increasingly popular way for investors to evaluate companies in which they might want to invest. Moreover, many mutual fund houses, brokerage firms have started offering products that employ ESG criteria.

- **MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS REPORT**

The Management Discussion and Analysis Report offers the company's existing as well as potential investors an overall and clear view of its present, future and past through the eyes of the management.

It helps the investor to understand about how the leaders of the business believe the company has performed over the last year and what the future may bring. It lays emphasis on the business, incorporates non-finance related performance metrics as well as prospective data and information.

The management of the company reacts to both challenges and opportunities the company will face in the near future.

- **AUDITOR'S OPINION**

In financial reporting, an auditor's opinion is the outcome of an auditor's review of an organization's financial statements.

The Audit Report serves the following purpose :

It tells that the contents of the financial statements of the company represent a true & fair state of affairs of the company.

An Audit Report is an indicator of the fairness of opinion and credibility of financial statements.

An independent review of the financial statements can provide transparency to the shareholders, investors as well as prospective investors that the company is being run within their best interests and can highlight any issues that have occurred which may not have been brought to their attention.

- PAST PERFORMANCE

  While you need to value the assets of a business, past profits are often the best indicator of the business' overall value. You can use past profits to predict future earnings, by looking at the current and past financial statements. It is important to understand how the financial ratios have changed over the past years and what are the reasons behind the change.

  An investor can compare the key ratios and trends for the company's own past performance, compare it with the competitor or benchmark it to the industry average. Past performance can be helpful when analyzing an investment, but it's important to look at a long time horizon.

  For Example,

  If a stock goes up 15% in one year, that alone doesn't tell you much about whether it is a good investment now, or whether it will be a good investment in the future. However, if a stock has shown average annual returns of 9% for more than 40 years, that's a positive sign, especially if you have a long investment time horizon. Nothing is guaranteed, but long-term past performance can certainly offer insight into the potential for a stock's growth.

AUDITORS' POINT OF VIEW

- **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

  Companies often seek business deals with parties with whom they are familiar or have a common interest. Although related-party transactions are themselves legal, they may create conflicts of interest or lead to other illegal situations. Related-party transactions must be reported transparently to ensure that all actions are legal and ethical and do not compromise shareholder value. The auditor should view related-party transactions within the framework of existing pronouncements, placing primary emphasis on the adequacy of disclosure. In addition, the auditor should be aware that the substance of a particular transaction could be significantly different from its form.

  For example - Auditor should frame a questionnaire or checklist to assess the authenticity of the related-party transactions :

  ❖ Has management identified all related parties and related-party transactions, including special-purpose entities and any off-balance-sheet transactions?

  ❖ Is there sufficient information available to thoroughly understand and evaluate the relationship of the parties to the transaction?

  ❖ Do the parties have substance and the ability to carry out the transaction?

- **EXCEPTIONAL OR NON-RECURRING ITEMS**

  Auditor should give special attention to unusual transactions that may not be subject to normal control procedures. These are transactions that occur outside the normal course of the operations of the company. They need to be reported separately so that they can be excluded for a lot of analytical purposes. These include the sale of assets outside the ordinary course of business, mergers, acquisitions, ongoing litigations, etc. Appropriate disclosure, particularly of these types of transactions, also demonstrates a willingness to embrace transparency and may suggest to readers that a higher degree of control exists.

For example, if a steel company has reported a 100% growth in profits and the entire growth is coming from the sale of investments, then it may not give correct picture about operations of the Company.

Furthermore, documentation of transactions should be simultaneous, not delayed until a question arises. In some cases, documentation is required to obtain certain accounting treatment; for example, a written policy must be in place before a derivative instrument is entered into to obtain hedge accounting.

- **ADEQUACY OF PROVISIONS AND RESERVES**

A balance sheet audit includes verification of the company's provisions for depreciation and other anticipated losses, to ensure they are at reasonable levels. There are areas of judgment that require management to make and record estimates in their financial statements. The use of third-party specialists can improve the quality of estimates and assumptions.

For example - Experts in the areas of pension and benefit plan valuations, derivatives valuations, and litigation and environmental issues may help the auditor to ensure that the provisions are made at reasonable levels. Some areas require more judgment than others; for example, pension accounting relies on the assumptions of management and plan actuaries.

There should neither be window dressing nor creation of secret reserves. The accounts should not be made in such a way as to show a much better condition than the actual condition. The assumptions underlying the estimates should be monitored from period to period and should also be reviewed against estimates and assumptions used by comparable companies in the industry.

- **ACCURACY OF ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

The transparency and accuracy of the financial statements are critical in evaluating a company. Auditors must therefore examine whether the figures assigned to the various headings under the balance sheet are accurate. They compare the information in the financial statement with third-party documentation.

For example, Auditors will determine if the assets and liabilities found in the balance sheet exist. They confirm that the assets legally belong to the company and the liabilities properly attach to the firm. They also check restrictions on the use of the assets, and whether those restrictions must be disclosed.

- **PREVIOUS PERIOD COMPARISONS**

Auditors should compare figures from the current balance sheet with numbers from the previous period balance sheet. If there are significant differences between the financial statements, auditors dig deeper into the records to try to find a satisfactory reason for the change.

For example, if the value of accounts payable has seen a marked increase, the auditors will try to determine the reasons for this increase. They will consider whether these reasons make sense in the context of the business.

- **IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS**

The impairment of a fixed assets can be described as an abrupt decrease in fair value due to physical damage, changes in existing laws creating a permanent decrease, increased competition, poor management, obsolescence of technology, etc. In the case of a fixed-asset impairment, the company needs to decrease its book value in the balance sheet and recognize a loss in the income statement. The company should have reasonable policies in place to assess an asset's impairment, if any. The assumptions used in predicting future cash flows should be reasonable and supportable.

Auditor must assess the external as well as internal environment and look for the indicators below to decide when to impair assets. Given below are just some of the indicators relevant for impairment.

Indicators of Impairment Test

External Factors :

— Drastic change in economic or legal factors affecting the company or its assets

— Significant fall in the market price of the asset

— Muted demand for a medium-term period due to global macroeconomic conditions

Internal Factors :

— Asset as a part of a restructuring or held for disposal

— Obsolescence or physical damage to the asset

— Inability to bring in post-merger synergy benefits that were expected earlier

— Worse economic performance than what is expected

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Overview of Farm Laws in India

Rutvi Doshi

Niyati Mankad, *Advocate*

Introduction

Uncertainty and resilience are the two major things which we learnt from the Coronavirus pandemic in the last year. When the entire world was facing this global crisis, India was facing its own tragic affairs of 'Farm Laws'. Agriculture has been one of the most important occupation of our country. While agriculture's share in India's economy has progressively declined to less than 15% due to the high growth rates of the industrial and services sectors, the sector's importance in India's economic and social fabric goes well beyond this indicator[1]. As per census 2011, 96 million cultivators enumerated farming as their main occupation, down from 103 million in 2001 and 110 million in 1991. Still 46% of the workforce is working full-time in farmlands. The size of the operational holdings for small and marginal farmers has shrunk from 1.15 hectares in 2010-11 to 1.08 hectares in 2015-16, according to provisional estimates of the 10th agriculture census 2015-16, and small and marginal holdings constitute almost 90% of our total agricultural land holdings. Another striking feature of India's agriculture is the continuing trend of increase in the numbers of small holdings in the country. The first agricultural census done in the beginning of the 1970s reported that figure at 71 million. In the last five decades, those numbers have grown exponentially from 138 million in 2010-11 to 146 million in 2015-16, as per provisional estimates of agriculture census 2015-16. In other words, the average size of operational holdings has considerably reduced from 2.28 hectares in 1970-71 to 1.15 hectares in 2010-11, and 1.08 in 2015-16, shows data[2].

Although agricultural legislations in the country was the legacy of British, real efforts commenced only after 1947 to alter the economic condition of farmers and status of farming through legislative measures. The democratic governments of states and centre had moved in a large way to remove the unhealthiest impediments to the progress of the agrarian sector. Since Five-Year Plans became an integral part of the development process, agricultural legislations also became portion of a purposeful national effort for changing the socio-economic condition of the society. In the early period, the legislations could

1. https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/05/17/india-agriculture-issues-priorities
2. Vijay Jawandhiya & Ajay Dandekar, Three Farm Bill's and India's Rural Economy, THEWIRE (October 2020)
   https://thewire.in/agriculture/farm-bills-indias-rural-issues

be categorized into four main groups such as: Abolition of the intermediaries, Tenancy Reforms, Ceiling of Land holdings and laws relating to Gramdan and Bhoodan. The abolition of Zamindari and similar measures helped actual cultivators to co-ordinate directly with the state. Similarly, the foremost cause of enhanced productivity was reforms in tenancy laws in most states. The land reform measures in the country adopted the principle of conferring ownership on the tenants, although the laws varied from state to state. Similarly, to achieve social justice and redistribution of agricultural land, laws were passed in almost all states to restrict the size of agricultural holdings[3].

Agriculture and Constitution of India

Agriculture remains a highly regulated sector in India, with various government agencies having supervisory powers. Various regulatory controls are imposed by both central and state governments. India has the largest land area under irrigation (about 48%) and diverse agro-climate conditions that support the cultivation of different crops. However, Indian agriculture continues to be fundamentally dependent on rainfall/weather conditions. The link between agriculture and the environment is slowly gaining recognition. Government policies, schemes and reforms have started promoting environmental sustainability, with a focus on climate-resilient agriculture and appropriate adaptation strategies. For example, the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, one of the eight missions under India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, seeks to address sustainable agriculture in the context of risks associated with climate change by devising appropriate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

The Constitution of India defines the powers of the central and state governments which are provided in the three Lists i.e., the Union List, the State List and the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The relevant Entries concerning Agriculture that are provided in the said three lists of the Seventh Schedule are reproduced below:

Under the Union List

"42. Inter-State trade and commerce

82. Taxes on income other than agricultural income.

86. Taxes on the capital value of the assets, exclusive of agricultural land, of individuals and companies; taxes on the capital of companies.

87. Estate duty in respect of property other than agricultural land.

88. Duties in respect of succession to property other than agricultural land."

Under the State List

"14. Agriculture, including agricultural education and research, protection against pests and prevention of plant diseases.

18. Land, that is to say, rights in or over land, land tenures including the relation of landlord and tenant, and the collection of rents; transfer and alienation of agricultural land; land improvement and agricultural loans; colonization.

3. https://icar.org.in/files/Agril-Legislation.pdf

26. Trade and commerce within the State subject to the provisions of entry 33 of List III

27. Production, Supply and distribution of goods subject to the provisions of entry 33 of List III

28. Markets and fairs.

30. Money-lending and money-lenders; relief of agricultural indebtedness

45. Land revenue, including the assessment and collection of revenue, the maintenance of land records, survey for revenue purposes and records of rights, and alienation of revenues.

46. Taxes on agricultural income.

47. Duties in respect of succession to agricultural land.

48. Estate duty in respect of agricultural land."

Under the Concurrent List

"6. Transfer of property other than agricultural land; registration of deeds and documents.

7. Contracts, including partnership, agency, contracts of carriage, and other special forms of contracts, but not including contracts relating to agricultural land.

33. Trade and commerce in, and the production, supply and distribution of, -

(a) the products of any industry where the control of such industry by the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest, and imported goods of the same kind as such products;

(b) foodstuffs, including edible oil seeds and oils;

(c) cattle fodder, including oilcakes and other concentrates;

(d) raw cotton whether ginned or unginned, and cotton seeds; and

(e) raw jute."[4].

41. Custody, management and disposal of property (including agricultural land) declared by law to be evacuee property."

Thus, Agriculture is essentially governed at the state level. Therefore, each state can draft its own agricultural laws and policies. However, the power of the State government to legislate on the trade and commerce in agriculture produce is subject to Entry 33 in the Concurrent List to the said Seventh Schedule. It is in exercise of the powers conferred on the Parliament by this Entry 33, that the Union Government passed (i) The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 (ii) The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020; and (iii) The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. Thereafter, the Union government passed three bills to replace the said three ordinances that were enacted during the COVID-19 lockdown. These three bills were expected to bring revolutionary changes to agrarian context and help double farmers' incomes. These Bills which aim to change the way agricultural produce are marketed, sold and stored across

4. The scope of Entry 33 was expanded by the Constitution (Third Amendment) Act, 1954

the country were initially issued in the form of ordinances in June. They were then passed by voice-vote in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha during the delayed monsoon session this month, despite vociferous Opposition protest. The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 were passed in the year 2020. These Farm Bills received the assent of the president on 27th September, 2020 and accordingly, the i) The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, (ii) Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 and (iii) Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 (For short "Farm Laws") were passed. These Farm Laws came into force w.e.f. 5th June, 2020. However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has stayed the implementation of the said Farm Laws vide its Order dated 12th January, 2021 passed in W.P.(C) No. 001118 -/2020 in the case of ***Rakesh Vaishnav & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Ors*** and the same has been discussed in detail below. These Farm Laws were expected to usher in a revolutionary change in the arena of Indian agriculture and would go in some way, perhaps a long way, in doubling the incomes of the farmers.

Salient features of the new Farm laws

1) Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020

It creates a national framework for contract farming through an agreement between a farmer and a buyer before the production or rearing of any farm produces. It has created a framework for contract farming. It provides a template at the national level of farming agreements, with regard to agribusiness, processing, and the entire range of services including wholesalers, exporters and large retailers for sale of farming produce at a mutually pre-agreed price.

Significant features of the Act

(a) ***Farming Agreement:*** The Act provides for a farming agreement between a farmer and a buyer prior to the production or rearing of any farm produce.

(b) ***Minimum Period of Farming Agreement:*** The minimum period of the farming agreement shall be for one crop season or one production cycle of livestock.

(c) ***Maximum Period of Farming Agreement:*** The maximum period of the farming agreement shall be five years. It also states that if the production cycle of any farming produce is longer and may go beyond five years, the maximum period of farming agreement may be mutually decided by the farmer and the buyer and explicitly mention the same in the farming agreement.

(d) ***Pricing of Farming Produce:*** The pricing of farming produce and the process of price determination should be mentioned in the agreement. For prices subjected to variation, a guaranteed price for the produce and a clear reference for any additional amount above the guaranteed price must be specified in the agreement.

(e) ***Settlement of Dispute***: The Act provides for a three-level dispute settlement mechanism-- Conciliation Board, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Appellate Authority. If the dispute remains unresolved by the Board after thirty days, parties may approach the Sub-divisional Magistrate for resolution. Parties will have a right to appeal to an Appellate Authority (presided by Collector or Additional Collector) against decisions of the Magistrate. Both the Magistrate and Appellate Authority will be required to dispose of a dispute within thirty days from the receipt of application. They may impose certain penalties on the party contravening the agreement.

2) The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020

This Act seeks to completely open up the sale of produce outside the Agricultural Produce Market Committees, or the APMCs. It not only creates an e-highway for trading and transactions, but also creates a structure for e-trading of agriculture produce. Farmers are allowed to sell their produce outside of the APMCs, and that creates a possibility for more competition and better pricing for farmers. In other words, the market is thrown completely open for the private players to come in the agriculture sector and deal directly with the farmers.

Significant features of the Act

(a) ***Trade of farmers' produce:*** This Act allows intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside: (i) the physical premises of market yards run by market committees formed under various state APMC Acts and (ii) other markets notified under the state APMC Acts. Thus, such trade can be conducted in a 'trade area'[5], i.e., any area or location, place of production, collection, and aggregation including (i) farm gates, (ii) factory premises, (iii) warehouses, (iv) silos, (v) cold storages, or (vi) any other structures or places from where trade or farmers' produce may be undertaken in the territory of India.

(b) ***Electronic trading:*** The Act permits the electronic trading of scheduled farmers' produce (agricultural produce regulated under any state APMC Act) in a trade area. The following entities may establish and operate electronic trading and transaction platforms: (i) Any person other than individual (i.e. companies, partnership firms, or registered societies), having permanent account number under the Income Tax Act, 1961 or such other document as may be notified by the central government, (ii) a farmer producer organization (FPO) or (iii) agricultural cooperative society.

(c) ***Market fee abolished:*** This Act prohibits state governments from levying any market fee, cess or levy on farmers, traders, and electronic trading and transaction platforms for trade and commerce in Schedules farmers' produce conducted in a 'trade area'.

3) Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020

The Essential Commodities Act was enacted in the year 1955 to provide, in the interest of the general public, for the control of the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce,

5. The term 'Trade Area' is defined in Section 2(m) of The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020

in certain commodities. The object of the Act is to ensure the delivery of certain commodities or products, the supply of which, if obstructed owing to hoarding or black-marketing, would affect the normal life of the people. This includes foodstuff, drugs, fuel (petroleum products) etc. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 has been introduced to allow the central government to regulate the supply of certain food items only under extraordinary circumstances (such as war and famine). The stock limits may be imposed on agricultural produce only if there is a steep price rise.

Significant features of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and also the Amendment Act, 2020:

1) Powers of Central Government:

(a) The Government of India regulates the production, supply, and distribution of a whole host of commodities it declares 'essential' in order to make them available to consumers at fair prices.

(b) The Government can also fix the Maximum Retail Price (**'MRP'**) of any packaged product that it declares an 'essential commodity'.

(c) The Centre can add commodities in this list when the need arises and can take them off the list once the situation improves.

(d) If a certain commodity is in short supply and its price is spiking, the Government can notify stock-holding limits on it for a specified period.

2) Powers of State Government- The respective State Governments can choose not to impose any restrictions as notified by the Centre. However, if the restrictions are imposed, traders have to immediately sell any stocks held beyond the mandated quantity into the market. This is done to improve supplies and bring down prices.

3) **Amendment** - With the amendment in the Act, the Government of India will list certain commodities as essential to regulate their supply and prices only in cases of war, famine, extraordinary price rises, or natural calamity of grave nature. The commodities that have been deregulated are food items, including cereals, pulses, potato, onion, edible oilseeds and oils.

4) **Stock Limit** - As per the amendment, the imposition of any stock limit on agricultural produce will be based on price rise and can only be imposed if there's a 100% increase in the retail price of horticultural produce and 50% increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural food items.

Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC)

Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) is the marketing board established by the state governments in order to eliminate the exploitation incidences of the farmers by the intermediaries, where they are forced to sell their produce at extremely low prices. All the food produce must be brought to the market and sales are made through auction. The market place i.e. Mandi is set up in various places within the states. These markets geographically divide the state. Licenses are issued to the traders to operate within a market. The mall owners, wholesale traders, retail traders are not given permission to purchase the produce from the farmers directly. The introduction of APMC was to limit the occurrence of distress sale by the farmers under the pressure and exploitation of creditors and other intermediaries. APMC ensures worthy prices and timely payments to the farmers for their produce. APMC is also responsible for the regulation of agricultural trading practices. This results in multiple benefits like:

a) Needless intermediaries are eliminated

b) Improved market efficiency through a decrease in market charges

c) The producer-seller interest is well protected

E-NAM & APMC

The National Agriculture Market (NAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal, which links the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis across the country to form a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

The e-NAM portal is a single-window service for any information and services related to APMC that includes:

- Commodity arrivals and prices
- Buy and sell trade offers
- Provision to respond to trade offers, among other services

The NAM reduces the transaction costs and information irregularity even when the agriculture produce continues to flow through the mandis. The states can administer agriculture marketing as per their agri-marketing regulations, under which, the State is divided into various market areas and each market area is administered by a separate APMC, which will impose its own marketing regulation that includes fees.

Shortcomings in the APMC System

(a) ***The monopoly of APMC*** – Monopoly of any trade (barring few exceptions) is bad, whether it is by some MNC corporation, by government or by any APMC. It deprives farmers of better customers and consumers from original suppliers.

(b) ***Entry Barriers*** – License fees in these markets are highly prohibitive. In many markets, farmers are not allowed to operate. Further, over and above license fee, rent/value for shops is quite high which keeps away competition. At most places, only a group of the village/urban elite operates in APMC.

(c) ***Cartelization*** – It is quite often seen that agents in an APMC get together to form a cartel and deliberately restraint from higher bidding. Produce is procured at a manipulatively discovered price and sold at a higher price. Spoils are then shared by participants, leaving farmers in the lurch.

(d) ***High commission, taxes, and levies*** – Farmers have to pay commission, marketing fee, APMC cess which pushes up costs. Apart from this many states impose Value Added Tax.

(e) ***Conflict of Interest*** – APMC plays the dual role of regulator and Market. Consequently, its role as regulator is undermined by vested interest in the lucrative trade. They despite inefficiency won't let go of any control. Generally, members and chairman are nominated/elected out of the agents operating in that market.

(f) ***Other Manipulations*** – Agents have a tendency to block a part of the payment for unexplained or fictitious reasons. Farmer is sometimes refused a payment slip (which acknowledges sale and payment) which is essential for him to get a loan.

Issues and Concerns

1) Constitutional Validity of the Farm Laws

Various Petitions have been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of the said Farm Laws. Even cases in support of the constitutional validity of the said Farm Laws have been filed and all of these cases have been tagged and heard together. In the said Writ Petitions, the Hon'ble Apex Court vide Order dated 12th January, 2021 has inter alia:

(i) **stayed the implementation of the said three Farm Laws,**

(ii) appointed a Committee of experts in the field of agriculture comprising of (1) Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann, National President, Bhartiya Kisan Union and All India Kisan Coordination Committee; (2) Dr. Parmod Kumar Joshi, Agricultural Economist, Director for South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute; (3) Shri Ashok Gulati, Agricultural Economist and Former Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices; and (4) Shri Anil Ghanwat, President, Shetkari Sanghatana to listen to the grievances of the parties impacted by the three impugned farms laws with reference to the provisions enacted therein and

(iii) required the Minimum Support Price System in existence before the enactment of the Farm Laws to be maintained until further orders and also the farmers' land holdings to be protected, i.e., no farmer shall be dispossessed or deprived of his title as a result of any action taken under the Farm Laws.

The said Writ Petitions are pending final disposal.

The constitutional validity of the said three Farm Laws have been challenged on the following amongst other grounds.

- The Farm Acts which are passed by the Union Government falls under the ambit and exclusive jurisdiction of State Legislature as it clearly falls under the State List in Schedule 7 of the Constitution.
- Since agriculture and its related matters have been falling under the State List, most of these matters have been passed by the respective State Legislatures.
- So therefore, the enactment of these controversial farm bills by the Union Government have been an unwarranted encroachment into the Legislative sphere of the State list and an unethical move to the erosion of the basic structure of the Constitution i.e. Federalism.
- This Legislative encroachment by the Union in the State Legislature is the biggest threat and challenge for the sustainability of the Indian Federal system and Basic Structure.
- Therefore, the farm laws were challenged in the Supreme Court mainly on the ground that the "pith and substance" of the legislations fall within the State list under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The Seventh Schedule is like a montage. For legislative purpose, often the Centre intrudes into the State's terrain. The States too sometimes commit the same mischief. In either case, threat to the scheme of the Constitution is writ large.
- The pith and substance of the new farm laws is "agriculture." As discussed above, agriculture, agricultural land and markets are entries 14, 18 and 28 respectively in

the State list. Entry 30 of the State list includes "relief of agricultural indebtedness." Entries 45 to 48 of the same list are regarding revenue and taxation related to land or agricultural land. The Supreme Court can strike down a parliamentary law if it substantially breaches the borders within the Seventh Schedule.

2) End of MSP

- Critics view the dismantling of the monopoly of the APMCs as a sign of ending the assured procurement of food grains at minimum support prices (MSP).
- To the Centre's 'one nation, one market' call, critics have sought 'one nation, one MSP'.
- Critics argue that ensuring a larger number of farmers get the MSP for their produce and addressing weakness in the APMCs, instead of making these State mechanisms redundant, is the need of the hour.

3) No mechanism for price fixation

- The Price Assurance Bill, while offering protection to farmers against price exploitation, does not prescribe the mechanism for price fixation.
- There is apprehension that the free hand given to private corporate houses could **lead to farmer exploitation**.
- Critics are apprehensive about formal contractual obligations owing to the unorganised nature of the farm sector and **lack of resources for a legal battle** with private corporate entities.

4) Food security undermined

- Easing of regulation of food items would lead to exporters, processors and traders **hoarding farm produce** during the harvest season, when prices are generally lower, and releasing it later when prices increase.
- This could undermine food security since the States would have no information about the availability of stocks within the State.
- Critics anticipate irrational volatility in the prices of essentials and **increased black marketing**.

Several reforms at the level of the central government as well as at the State level have been introduced and welcomed by farmers. However, in this particular case, the issue is not about the Bills; it is also about the process of their introduction. The government has failed to have or hold any discussion with the various stakeholders including farmers and middlemen. This is also true when it comes to consultation with State governments even though the subject of trade and agriculture are part of the State list. The attempt to pass the Bills without proper consultation adds to the mistrust among various stakeholders including State governments.

Farmers are apprehensive about getting Minimum Support Price for their produce. Other concerns include the upper hand of agri-businesses and big retailers in negotiations, thus putting farmers at a disadvantage. The benefits for small farmers from companies are likely to reduce the engagement of sponsors with them. The farmers also fear that the companies may dictate prices of the commodities. What farmers need and are asking for is legally guaranteed remunerative prices, that the government should commit within the same legislation to maximum procurement of various commodities tied with local food schemes, market intervention from the state, agri-credit reforms to benefit small and marginal holders and particular neglected regions, as well as reforms in crop insurance and disaster compensation. It is also important to empower FPO (Farmer Produce Company) as enabled players in the market and keep them out of the purview of overzealous regulation.

Conclusion

Farmers are debt ridden, starved of funding and of assured price mechanism. The three legislations if taken together accentuate the crisis even further. In the absence of a guaranteed support price mechanism, the legislations even fail to mention a very strong support for the MSP as a benchmark price as a fundamental condition for open agriculture trade and winding up of mandis. For years farmers have demanded statutory support price for their produce from the government. There is a need to restore the shaken confidence of the agrarian sector. In order for that to happen the Government of India needs to give an iron clad guarantee on holding the price line 100% over and above the inflation-linked cost of production to the primary producer and not allowing any players to offer a price below that line to them. Only such a guarantee will ensure the confidence of the farmers in the system

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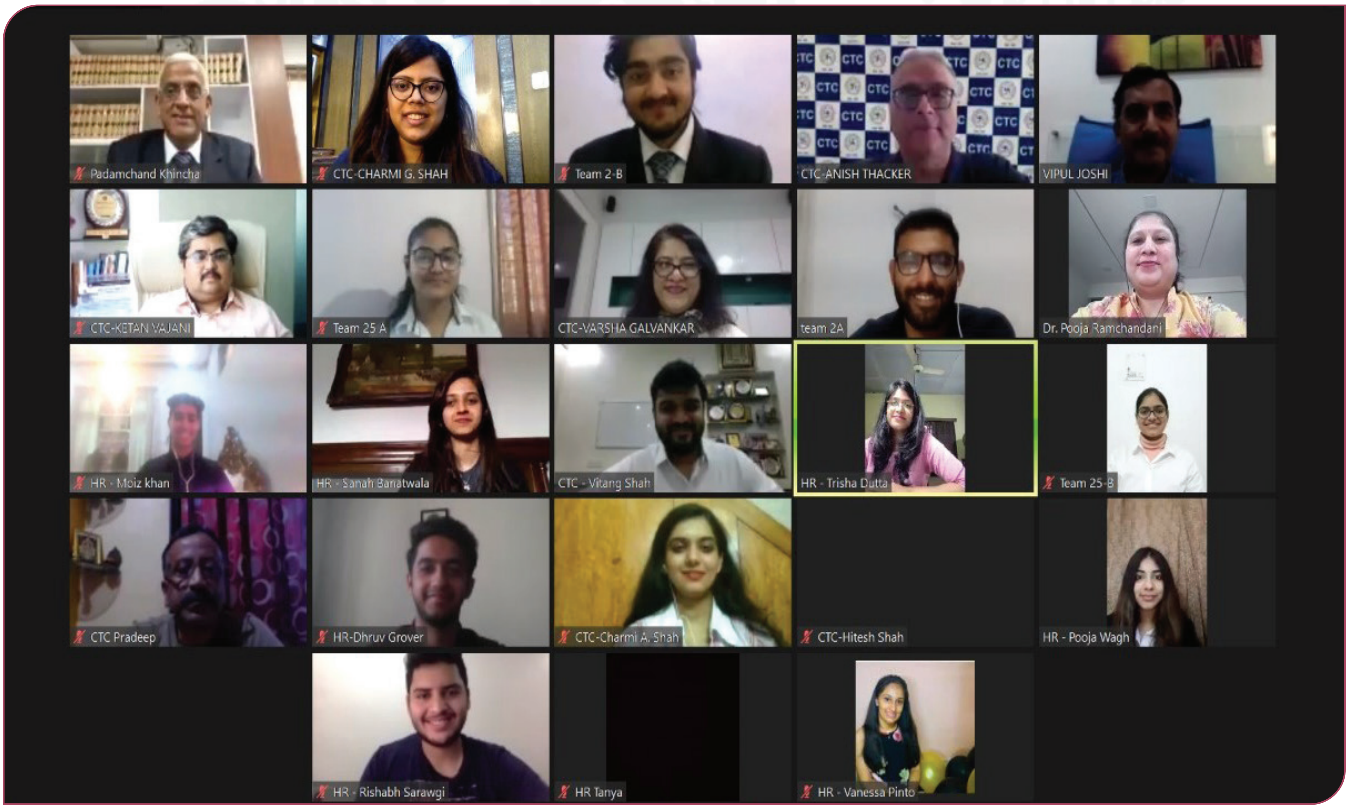
Report on The Dastur Debate Competition, 2021

The Chamber of Tax Consultants in association with the H.R. College of Commerce & Economics, Mumbai successfully organised the **"4th Dastur Debate Competition" (Virtual Mode)** on 28th and 30th January, 2021.

Every year, the Competition is held physically held at H.R.College of Commerce & Economics, Churchgate, Mumbai. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 4th edition of The Dastur Debate Competition was organised on e-platform of Zoom. This enabled wider reach and participation of colleges/firms across India.

32 teams from all over India participated in the competition. The preliminary rounds 1 and 2 were held on 28th January, 2021. Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and the Final Round were held on 30th January, 2021. Overall, 24 eminent senior professionals in the industry judged the debates staring from preliminary to the final round.

The Final Round of Debate Competition was held on Topic 'Censorhip of OTT Content is a violation of freedom of expression' and it was judged by Shri H. Padamchand Khincha and Shri Vipul Joshi.



Details for Winners of the **4th Dastur Debate Competition** were as under:

Position	Name of College/ Firm/University	Participant Names	Prize Money
1	Army Institute of Law, Mohali	Nishant Tiwari & Nishant Sharma	INR 7,500/-
2	Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU), Nagpur	Ishita Tomar & Bhavya Pokhriyal	INR 5,000/-
3	Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat	Aditya Banerjee & Shubham Prakash Mishra	INR 2,500/-

Winners of the 4th Dastur Debate Competition


3rd Position — Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat
Aditya Banerjee & Shubham Prakash Mishra

2nd Best Speaker — Shubham Prakash Mishra


2nd Position — Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU), Nagpur
Ishita Tomar & Bhavya Pokhriyal

Best Speaker — Bhavya Pokhriyal


1st Position — Army Institute of Law, Mohali
Nishant Tiwari & Nishant Sharma

The Best and 2nd Best Speaker of the 4th Dastur Debate Competition were as under:

Position	Name of Participant	Name of College/Firm/University
1	Bhavya Pokhriyal	Maharashtra National Law University (MNLU), Nagpur
2	Shubham Prakash Mishra	Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat

Trophies were presented to all 3 Winning Teams and Best and 2nd Best Speaker. Certificate of Participation were presented to all the participants of the Competition.

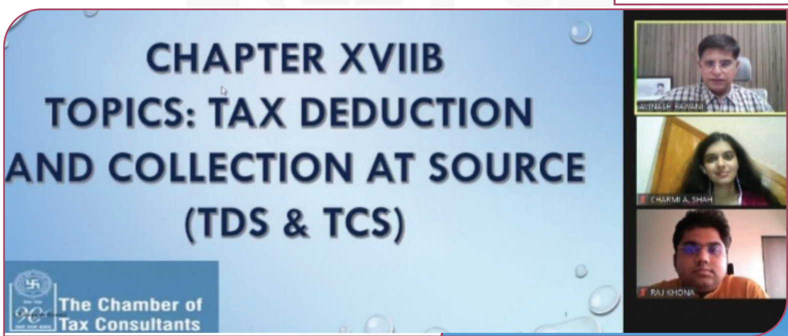
Ms. Tenzin Chodon was the Guest Speaker at the pre-event to the competition and shared her valuable inputs, motivated and guided the participants on the Do's and Don't's for the Debates. Her interactive session helped the participants immensely.

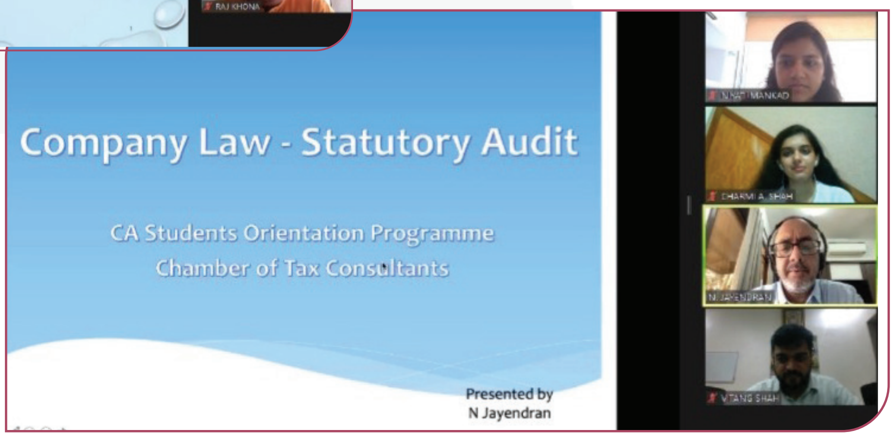
The entire event was very well received and thoroughly appreciated by the participants, judges and the audience.

Glimpses of Past Events

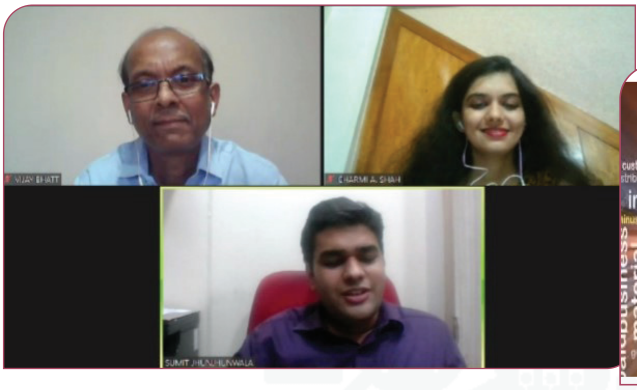
Udaan ~ Learning Today... Leading Tomorrow

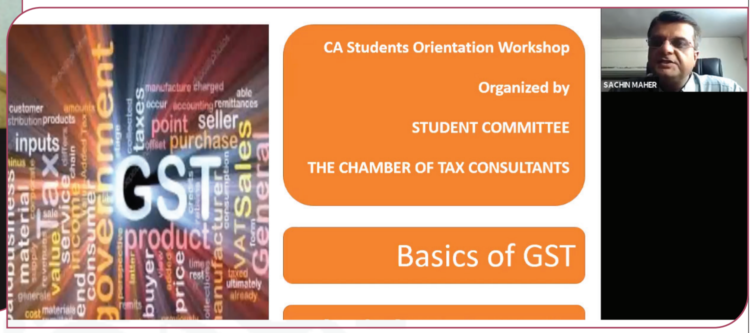
Student Orientation Course

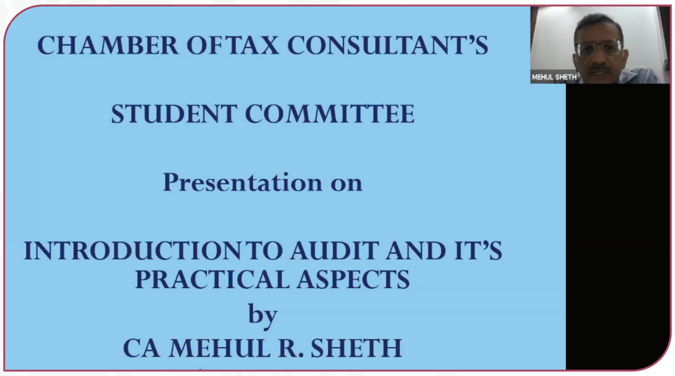




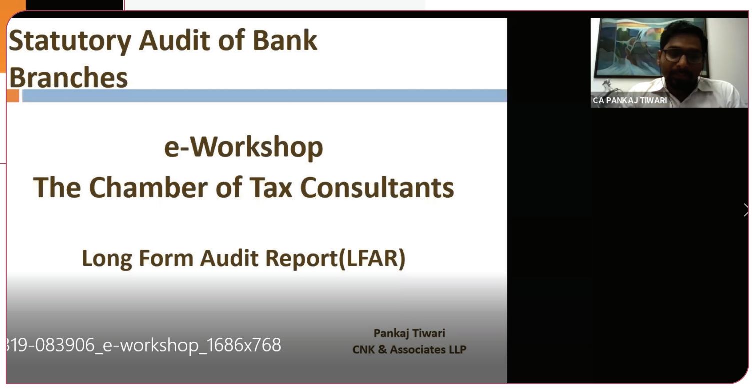
Student Orientation Course







E-Workshop on Statutory Audit of Bank Branches



The Chamber of Tax Consultants

Estd. 1926

Vision Statement

The Chamber of Tax Consultants (The Chamber) shall be a powerhouse of knowledge in the field of fiscal laws in the global economy.

The Chamber shall contribute to the development of law and the profession through research, analysis and dissemination of knowledge.

The Chamber shall be a voice which is heard and recognised by all Government and Regulatory agencies through effective representations.

The Chamber shall be pre-eminent in laying down and upholding, among the professionals, the tradition of excellence in service, principled conduct and social responsibility.

Unveiled by Shri S. E. Dastur, Senior Advocate on 30th January, 2008.

JIGNYASA

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