

Dear Readers,

Hope you and your family are all safe. A lot has been discussed about this Human, Economic and Financial crisis. Depending on the type of person you are, you can find equally optimistic and pessimistic data to make your point emphatically. We should remember that the range of outcomes of the future is really wide and it is difficult to know with any degree of certainty what will happen in the next few months and how consumer behavior is likely to change.

As a famous fund manager put it, "These days everyone has the same data regarding the present and the same ignorance regarding the future." The tricky part is that we need to take decisions about our businesses within this constraint.

India has managed to successfully 'flatten the curve' and contain Covid-19, at least compared to other countries. What would happen if we had chosen not to lockdown the country or lockdown 3 weeks later? Any answer would only be a wild speculation. The importance is to be decisive and then see what the result of the decision is and constantly evaluate the data and take new decisions to course correct.

Our businesses need the same. Take an informed, evaluated and analytical decision regarding your business based on all the available information at hand. If there are differences of opinion internally, work out a mechanism to work out consensus and then ensure that regardless of the outcome no one plays a blame game on the decisions taken.

This is a time to fight the virus and our fears and not to fight between ourselves. We all need the support and solidarity from our family, colleagues, business associates and friends.

Here's hoping we have the serenity to accept the things we cannot change and the fortitude to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

**Regards,**

**Dinesh D. Ghalla**

# DIRECT TAX

## RELAXATIONS OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, there are certain relaxations provided under Income-tax Act, 1961 such as postponing the due dates for filing belated return of income or revised return of income for the A.Y 19-20, extension of due date for claiming deductions u/s 80C, 80D, etc. for the period FY 19-20.

Moreover, the Finance Bill 2020 has received the President assent and accordingly some amendments have been made under the Income-tax Act, 1961. Click below to know about certain amendments made by the Finance Act 2020.

To know more in detail, please [click here](#).

## CLARIFICATION ON LOWER RATE OF TAX ON TDS/TCS

The Income Tax Department has provided some clarifications in respect of the following:

1. Withholding taxes at a lower/nil rate of deduction/collection for TDS/TCS for the F.Y 2020-21,
2. Deduction of TDS on income of individuals due to enhance surcharge rates and
3. Deduction of taxes in case of employees willing to exercise option of concessional tax rate u/s 115BAC.

To view the note, [click here](#).

# INDIRECT TAX (GST)

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## REFUND ELIGIBILITY AND PROCEDURE

Since the roll-out of GST, application and processing of refunds has been one of the biggest challenges faced, not only by the Government due to lack of infrastructure but also by the taxpayers due to various interpretational and procedural complexities introduced by the law as well as by the officers. In view of the same, an attempt has been made to present the various facets of refund in a summarized manner.

To view the note, [click here](#).

## EXTENSION OF DUE DATES AND REDUCED INTEREST RATES

In view of the unprecedented hardships faced by the businesses on account of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, various compliance reliefs for the benefit of the business have been notified, inter alia, under GST law.

To view a summary of such reliefs under GST, [click here](#).

# FEMA

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## FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP (LLP)

Limited Liability Partnership means a partnership formed and registered under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008. In India, LLP form of organization is growing rapidly owing to the flexibility in its structure and operation. With the liberalization of the foreign investment in LLP, such entities will now be able to expand their business by attracting foreign investment.

To read more, [click here](#).

# COMPANY LAW

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## COMPANY FRESH START SCHEME (CFSS), 2020

Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) vide its General Circular no. 12/2020 dated 30 March 2020 announced Companies Fresh Start Scheme (CFSS), 2020 to provide one time opportunity to defaulting companies to make a fresh start on a clean slate. By this scheme, MCA has decided to provide immunity to defaulting companies, by waiving additional filing fees and prosecution proceedings, to make good their default by filing pending documents with MCA.

To view the note, [click here](#).

To view the circular, [click here](#)

## FAQS ON CSR EXPENDITURE

MCA vide General Circular No. 15/2020 dated 10 April 2020, has issued clarifications in the form of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for several references/representations from various stakeholders seeking clarifications on eligibility of CSR expenditure related to COVID-19 activities.

To view the note, [click here](#).

To view the circular, [click here](#).

## MODIFIED LLP SETTLEMENT SCHEME, 2020

Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) vide General Circular No. 6/2020 dated 04 March, 2020 announced LLP Settlement Scheme, 2020. It has brought certain modifications to the existing LLP settlement scheme, 2020 in order to support and enable Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) registered in India to focus on taking measures to combat the COVID-19 threat and to reduce

their compliance burden vide General Circular No. 13/2020 dated 30 March 2020 which will take effect from 01 April 2020.

To view the note, [click here](#).

To view the circular, [click here](#)

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