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EDITORIAL



Friends,

Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Ms Nirmala Sitharaman has presented the new Income Tax Bill in parliament on 13th February 2025. The new income tax bill 2025 looks to simplify and significantly overhaul the present income tax act 1961, which has often been seen as cumbersome, complex, and extremely difficult to understand for the common taxpayers.

The Income-tax Act passed in 1961 has been subjected to numerous amendments since its passage sixty years ago. As a result of these amendments the basic structure of the Income-tax Act has been overburdened and language has become complex, increasing cost of compliance for taxpayers and hampering efficiency of direct-tax administration. Tax administrators, practitioners and taxpayers have also raised concerns about the complicated provisions and structure of the Income-tax Act.

Therefore, the Government in the budget in July 2024 announced that a time bound comprehensive review of the Income-tax Act, 1961 would be undertaken to make the Act concise, lucid, easy to read and understand. Accordingly, the Income-tax Bill, 2025 has been prepared which proposes the objects and reasons – **To repeal and replace the Income-tax Act, 1961.**

The new income tax bill proposes 23 chapters and 16 schedules. The proposed legislation spans over 600 pages and seeks to replace the six-decade-old Income Tax Act, 1961. It will take effect from April 1, 2026.

A. The current legislation has approx. 931 sections (819 active sections) and 14 schedules. The bill has significantly reduced the number of sections to 536, with 16 schedules. The above is in line with the govt. determination to simplify the statute.

B. The current legislation has approx. 5.12 Lakhs word Count. The bill has significantly reduced the word Count by half to 2.6

Lakhs approx.

C. The current legislation covers around 833 pages. The bill has significantly reduced the page Count to 622 approx.

A significant aspect of the Bill is the elimination of the concepts of 'previous year' and 'assessment year'. Prior to 1989, the concept of 'previous year' and 'assessment year' had been brought because the taxpayers could have different twelve-month previous years for each source of income. From 1st April 1989, previous year was aligned to a financial year in all cases. However, 'assessment year' continued to be used for various proceedings under the Act. Thus, a taxpayer was required to track two different periods, i.e., the 'previous year' as well as the 'assessment year'. This presented difficulties in complying to the provisions of the Act especially for a new taxpayer who had to keep track of 'previous year', 'assessment year' as well as 'financial year'. The concept of 'tax year' has been introduced replacing 'previous year' and 'assessment year'.

Various facets of compliance for the respective years have been mentioned in the Repeals and Savings clause in the Bill, which will safeguard all rights and liabilities accrued under the old law.

Since the bill has been introduced, now the next steps as under;

- Stage 1: Bill is passed by the Parliament and becomes an Act;
- Stage 2: Operational and delegated legislation framework
 - i. Notification of new Rules and Forms.
 - ii. Simultaneous exercise of software development to set up the systems and processes for various administrative and quasi-judicial functions.

Just to reiterate that we remain available over telecom or e-mail.

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TAX CALENDAR

Date	Form/Return/Challan	Reporting Period	Description
20 th February	GSTR-5A	January'2025	Summary of monthly outward taxable supplies and tax payable by a person supplying OIDAR services.
20 th February	GSTR-3B	January'2025	Summary return of outward supplies and input tax credit claimed, along with payment of tax by a registered person

INCOME TAX

NOTIFICATION

EXEMPTION FROM SPECIFIED INCOME U/S 10(46A) OF IT ACT 1961 – REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY, PUNJAB

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Direct Taxes vide Notification No. 16/2025 dated 12.02.2025 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-clause (b) of clause (46A) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), (hereinafter referred to as “the Income-tax Act”), the Central Government hereby notifies the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Punjab (PAN: AAAJR1281N) (hereinafter referred to as “the assessee”), an authority constituted under The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (No. 16 of 2016), for the purposes of the said clause.

2. This notification shall be effective from the assessment year 2024-25, subject to the condition that the assessee continues to be an authority constituted under The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (No. 16 of 2016) with one or more of the purposes specified in sub-clause (a) of clause (46A) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT APPROVES ‘BHAIKAKA UNIVERSITY’ ANAND, GUJARAT FOR ‘SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH’ UNDER THE CATEGORY OF ‘UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OR OTHER INSTITUTION’ FOR THE PURPOSES OF CLAUSE (II) OF SUB-SECTION (1) OF SECTION 35 OF THE INCOME-TAX ACT, 1961

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Direct Taxes vide Notification No. 15/2025 dated 10.01.2025 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961) read with Rules 5C and 5E of the Income-tax Rules, 1962, the Central Government hereby approves ‘Bhaikaka University’ Anand, Gujarat (PAN: AAGAB9280N) for ‘Scientific Research’ under the category of ‘University, college or other institution’ for the purposes of clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 read with rules 5C and 5E of the Income-tax Rules, 1962.

2. This Notification shall apply with effect from the date of publication in the Official Gazette (i.e. from the Previous Year

2024-25) and accordingly shall be applicable for Assessment Years 2025-26 to 2029-30.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

INCOME-TAX (FOURTH AMENDMENT) RULES, 2025. - FURNISHING OF ANNUAL STATEMENT BY A NON-RESIDENT HAVING LIAISON OFFICE IN INDIA

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Direct Taxes vide Notification No. 14/2025 dated 07.02.2025 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by section 285 read with section 295 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), the Central Board of Direct Taxes hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Income-tax Rules, 1962, namely:–

1. (1) These rules may be called the Income-tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2025.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Income-tax Rules, 1962,–

(a) in rule 114DA, in sub-rule (1), for the words, figures and letter “Form No. 49C”, the words, figures and letter “Form No. 49C within eight months from the end of such financial year” shall be substituted;

(b) in Appendix-II, for Form No. 49C, has been substituted. [For further details please refer the Notification]

GST

CIRCULAR

CLARIFICATION REGARDING GST RATES & CLASSIFICATION (GOODS) BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GST COUNCIL IN ITS 55TH MEETING HELD ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2024

OUR COMMENTS: Tax Research Unit, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance vide Circular No. 247/04/2025-GST dated 14.02.2025 has Clarification regarding GST rates & classification (goods) based on the recommendations of the GST Council in its 55th meeting held on 21st December, 2024, at Jaisalmer.

Based on the recommendations of the GST Council in its 55th meeting held on 21st December, 2024, at Jaisalmer, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 168(1) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, the Board hereby clarifies the following issues through this circular for the purpose of uniformity in their implementation:

I. Clarification regarding classification and GST rate on pepper of genus Piper

1.1 References were received seeking clarification on the classification and applicable GST rate on supply of pepper of the genus Piper and whether supply of dried pepper by an agriculturist is exempt from GST.

1.2 Based on the recommendations of the GST Council in its 55th meeting, it is hereby clarified that pepper of genus Piper, whether green (fresh), white or black, is covered under HS 0904 and attracts 5% GST vide S. No. 38 of Schedule I of notification No. 1/2017-Central Tax (Rate) dated the 28th June, 2017.

1.3 As regards applicability of GST on supply of dried pepper by an agriculturist from their plantations, Section 23 (1) (b) of the CGST Act provides that an agriculturist, as defined in Section 2(7) of the CGST Act, to the extent of supply of produce out of cultivation of land is not liable to take registration.

1.4 As per the recommendation of the GST Council, it is hereby clarified that an agriculturist supplying dried pepper is not liable to be registered under Section 23(1) of the CGST Act is exempt from GST.

2. Clarification regarding raisins supplied by an agriculturist

2.1 Reference was received seeking clarification on the applicable rate on supply of raisins by agriculturists.

2.2 As per the recommendation of the GST Council, it is hereby clarified that an agriculturist supplying raisins is not liable to be registered under Section 23(1) of the CGST Act is exempt from GST.

3. Clarification on GST rate on ready to eat popcorn

3.1 Representations were received seeking clarification regarding appropriate classification and applicable GST rate on ready to eat popcorn.

3.2 On the recommendation of the Council, it is hereby clarified that ready to eat popcorn which is mixed with salt and spices are classifiable under HS 2106 90 99. It is also hereby clarified that such ready to eat popcorn mixed with salt and spices classifiable under HS 2106 90 99 attracts 5% GST if other than pre-packaged and labelled vide S. No. 101A of Schedule I of notification No. 1/2017-Central Tax (Rate) dated the 28th June, 2017 and 12% GST if sold as packaged and labelled vide S. No. 46 of Schedule I of notification No. 1/2017-Central Tax (Rate) dated the 28th June, 2017, as it has the essential character of namkeens. However, when the popcorn is mixed with sugar thereby changing its character to sugar confectionary (e.g. caramel popcorn), it would be classifiable under HS 1704 90 90 attracting 18% GST vide S. No. 12 of Schedule III of notification No. 1/2017-Central Tax (Rate) dated the 28th June, 2017

3.3 Further, in view of the prevailing genuine doubts regarding the applicability of GST rate on ready to eat popcorn mixed with salt and spices, as recommended by the Council the issue for past period up to 14.2.2025 is hereby regularized on '*as is where is*' basis.

4. Fly ash based Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Blocks

4.1 References were received regarding the classification and applicable GST rate on autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC) blocks containing at least 50% fly ash content as raw material.

4.2 Fly ash bricks, fly ash aggregates and fly ash blocks classifiable under HS 6815 attract 12% GST vide S. No. 176B of Schedule II of notification No.1/2017-Central Tax (Rate) dated 28.06.2017. Articles of cement, of concrete or of artificial stone, whether or not reinforced classifiable under HS 6810 attract 18% GST vide S. No. 181 of Schedule III of notification No. 1/2017-Central Tax (Rate) dated 28.06.2017.

4.3 As per the recommendation of the GST Council, it is hereby clarified that autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC) blocks containing more than 50% fly ash content will fall under HS 6815 and attract 12% GST.

GST

5. Effective date of amended entry regarding ground clearance

5.1 Representations were received that there are different views in some jurisdictions regarding the effective date of amended entry 52B in notification No. 1/2017-Compensation Cess (Rate) dated 28.06.2017.

5.2 Prior to the 50th GST Council meeting, vide entry at S. No. 52B in the notification No. 01/2017- Compensation Cess (Rate) dated 28.06.2017, motor vehicles of engine capacity exceeding 1500 cc, popularly known as SUVs, including utility vehicles attracted 22% Compensation Cess.

5.3 Following the 50th GST Council meeting, vide notification No. 03/2023- Compensation Cess (Rate) dated 26.07.2023, the entry 52B was substituted to provide that the cess will be applicable to all motor vehicles known as utility vehicles by whatever name called, with engine capacity exceeding 1500cc, length exceeding 4000mm and ground clearance of 170mm and above. Further, a new explanation was added that ground clearance means ground clearance in unladen condition.

5.3 As per the recommendation of the GST Council, it is hereby clarified that the amendment carried out vide notification No. 03/2023- Compensation Cess (Rate) dated 26.07.2023 will apply on or after 26.7.2023.

6. Difficulty, if any, in the implementation of this circular may be brought to the notice of the Board.

[For further details please refer the Circular]

INSTRUCTION

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN DEPARTMENT APPEAL FILED AGAINST INTEREST AND/OR PENALTY ONLY, RELATED TO SECTION 128A OF THE CGST ACT, 2017

OUR COMMENTS: GST Policy Wing of the CBIC, vide Instruction No. 02/2025-GST dated 07.02.2025 has decided Procedure to be followed in department appeal filed against interest and/or penalty only, related to Section 128A of the CGST Act, 2017.

Kind attention is invited to the Section 128A of the Central Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017 (hereinafter referred as 'the CGST Act') read with Rule 164 of the Central Goods and Service Tax Rules, 2017 (hereinafter referred as 'the CGST Rules') which provides waiver of interest or penalty or both,

relating to demands under section 73 of the CGST Act pertaining to Financial Years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, subject to certain conditions. Further vide Circular No. 238/32/2024-GST dated 15th October, 2024, various doubts related to section 128A were clarified.

2. In this regard, references have been received from various field formations seeking clarification from the Board as to whether the benefit of section 128A (supra) be extended to taxpayers in cases where the tax amount has been paid but the department has gone in Appeal on the basis of wrong arithmetic calculation of interest, or where penalty is either not imposed or imposed less than the prescribed threshold etc.

3. The matter has been examined by the Board. It has been observed that at S. No. 4 of the Table under para 4 in the aforesaid circular, it is clarified that cases where the tax due has already been paid and the notice or demand orders under Section 73 only pertains to interest and/or penalty involved, the same shall be considered for availing the benefit of section 128A. Hence, it is evident that in cases where the taxpayer has paid the full amount of tax and only interest and/or penalty is in dispute by the taxpayer, then he is eligible to avail the benefit of Section 128A of the CGST Act. On the similar pattern, it is felt that just because the department has gone in appeal or is in the process of filing an appeal, a taxpayer who is otherwise eligible for availing the benefit of section 128A, should not be denied the benefits. Further the intention of the said provision is to reduce litigation and a taxpayer should not be denied the benefit of the provision on mere technicalities.

4. Based on the above, it is decided that in cases where the tax amount has been fully paid by the taxpayer on demands made under section 73 of the CGST Act and the department is in appeal or under the process of filing an appeal only on account of wrong interest calculation and/or wrong imposition or non-imposition of penalty amount under the provisions of CGST Act or IGST Act and the taxpayer fulfils other conditions of section 128A and the rules made thereunder, the proper officer may proceed towards withdrawing such appeal filed and in case where the order under section 73 is under review stage only, accept the same.

5. Difficulties, if any, in the implementation of these instructions may be informed to the Board.

[For further details please refer the Instruction]

GST

NOTIFICATION

SEEKS TO BRING IN FORCE PROVISIONS OF VARIOUS RULE OF CENTRAL GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (AMENDMENT) RULES, 2024

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance vide Notification No. 09/2025 –CENTRAL TAX dated 11.02.2025 notified that In exercise of the powers conferred by section 164 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (12 of 2017), read with sub-rule (1) of rule 1 of the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2024 (hereinafter referred to as rules), issued vide notification No. 12/2024-Central Tax, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R. 376(E), dated the 10th July, 2024, the Central Government hereby appoints the following dates as mentioned in column (3) of the table below, on which the provisions of rules specified in column (2) of the said table, shall come into force, namely: –

TABLE

S. No	Rules	Date
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	Rules 2, 24, 27 and 32	11th day of February, 2025
2	Rules 8, 37 and clause (ii) of rule 38	1st day of April, 2025

[For further details please refer the Notification]

ADVISORY

GST REGISTRATION PROCESS (RULE 8 OF CGST RULES, 2017)

OUR COMMENTS: GSTN vide advisory dated 12.02.2025 has advised that In line with recent developments in the GST registration process, applicants must adhere to the following steps as per Rule 8 of the CGST Rules, 2017:

1. Applicants Not Opting for Aadhaar Authentication:
 - If you choose not to authenticate via Aadhaar, you must visit the designated GST Suvidha Kendra (GSK) for photo capturing and document verification.
 - Upon selecting "NO" for Aadhaar authentication, an email will be sent with GSK details and required documents.
 - You can schedule an appointment via a link in the email. An appointment confirmation will follow through mail.
 - Visit the GSK at the scheduled time for photo capturing, document verification.
2. Applicants Opting for Aadhaar Authentication and application identified for Biometric Authentication:

- Promoters/Partners opting for Aadhaar authentication should first visit the GSK for biometric authentication and photo capturing, followed by the Primary Authorized Signatory (PAS).

- Promoters/Partners opting for Aadhaar authentication must visit the GSK for photo capturing and biometric authentication. The Primary Authorized Signatory (PAS) is required to carry the documents listed in the intimation email for verification at the GSK. Additionally, the PAS must undergo photo capturing and biometric authentication at the GSK as part of the process.

- If a Promoter/Partner has already been biometric verified in any State/UT during a previous registration, they will not need to visit the GSK again for photo capturing, biometric authentication, or document verification for any other entity where they act as Promoter/Partner. However, if she/he becomes the PAS of the entity, only document verification at the GSK will be required.

- In case PAS has already been biometric verified in any State/UT during a previous registration, she/he will need to visit the GSK only for document verification.

- If the Promoter/Partner and PAS are the same individual, she/he must visit the GSK for photo capturing, biometric authentication, and document verification. If already biometric verified in the past, only document verification at the GSK is required.

3. Non-Generation of Application Reference Number (ARN):

- For applicants opted Aadhaar-authentication and application identified for Biometric Authentication: If any of the Promoter/Partner or PAS fails to visit the GSK or biometric authentication fails or document verification is not completed within 15 days of submitting Part B of REG-01, the ARN will not be generated. Ensure that your Aadhaar details (name, date of birth, gender) are accurate to avoid authentication failures. If any discrepancies occur, update Aadhaar and visit the GSK within 15 days.

- For non-Aadhaar applicants: If photo capturing or document verification is not completed within 15 days, the ARN will not be generated.

Taxpayers are urged to follow this advisory to ensure smooth processing of their GST registration applications.

[For further details please refer the detailed advisory]

FEMA

NOTIFICATION

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MANAGEMENT (MANNER OF RECEIPT AND PAYMENT) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2025

OUR COMMENTS: The Reserve Bank of India vide Notification No. 14(R)(1)/2025-RB dated 04.02.2025 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by section 47 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999), the Reserve Bank makes the following amendment in the Foreign Exchange Management (Manner of Receipt and Payment) Regulations, 2023 (Notification No. FEMA 14 (R)/2023-RB dated December 20, 2023) (hereinafter referred to as 'the Principal Regulations'), namely:-

1. Short title and commencement:

(i) These regulations shall be called the Foreign Exchange Management (Manner of Receipt and Payment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025.

(ii) They shall come into force with effect from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Amendment to Regulation 3:

In the Principal Regulations, in regulation 3, in sub-regulation (2), in clause (I), in sub-clause (a), for the item (ii) along with its proviso, the following shall be substituted, namely: -

“(ii) Member countries of ACU, other than Nepal and Bhutan – In respect of payments from a resident in the territory of one participant country to a resident in the territory of another participant country, through ACU mechanism, or as per the directions issued by the Reserve Bank to authorised dealers from time to time. For all other transactions, receipt and payment may be made in a manner as specified at (iii) below.”

[For further details please refer the Notification]

CIRCULAR

IMPORT BANK OF INDIA'S GOI-SUPPORTED LINE OF CREDIT OF USD 120 MN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (GO-VNM) FOR PROCUREMENT OF HIGH-SPEED GUARD BOATS IN THE BORROWER'S COUNTRY

OUR COMMENTS: The Reserve Bank of India vide Circular No. 21/2025 dated 13.02.2025 clarified that Export-Import Bank of

India (Exim Bank) has entered into an agreement dated July 31, 2024, with the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (GO-VNM), for making available to the latter, Government of India supported Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 120 mn (USD One Hundred Twenty Million Only) for procurement of High-Speed Guard Boats in the Borrower's Country. The export of eligible goods and services from India, as defined under the agreement, would be allowed subject to their eligibility under the Foreign Trade Policy of the Government of India and whose purchase may be agreed to be financed by the Exim Bank under this agreement.

2. The Agreement under the LoC is effective from January 20, 2025. Under the LoC, the last date for disbursement will be 60 months after scheduled completion date of the project.

3. Shipments under the LoC shall be declared in Export Declaration Form/Shipping Bill as per instructions issued by the Reserve Bank from time to time.

4. No agency commission is payable for export under the above LoC. However, if required, the exporter may use his own resources or utilize balances in his Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency Account for payment of commission in free foreign exchange. Authorised Dealer (AD) Category- I bank may allow such remittance after realization of full eligible value of export subject to compliance with the extant instructions for payment of agency commission.

5. AD Category – I bank may bring the contents of this circular to the notice of their exporter constituents and advise them to obtain complete details of the LoC from the Exim Bank's office at Centre One, Floor 21, World Trade Centre Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai 400 005 or from their website www.eximbankindia.in.

6. The directions contained in this circular have been issued under section 10(4) and 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 (42 of 1999) and are without prejudice to permissions/ approvals, if any, required under any other law.

[For further details please refer the Circular]

FEMA

CIRCULAR

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF INDIA'S GOI-SUPPORTED LINE OF CREDIT OF USD 180 MN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM FOR PROCUREMENT OF 4 OFFSHORE PATROL VESSELS (OPV) IN THE BORROWER'S COUNTRY

OUR COMMENTS: The Reserve Bank of India vide Circular No. 20/2025 dated 13.02.2025 clarified that Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has entered into an agreement dated July 31, 2024, with the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (GO-VNM), for making available to the latter, Government of India supported Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 180 mn (USD One Hundred Eighty Million Only) for procurement of 4 Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) in the Borrower's Country. The export of eligible goods and services from India, as defined under the agreement, would be allowed subject to their eligibility under the Foreign Trade Policy of the Government of India and whose purchase may be agreed to be financed by the Exim Bank under this agreement.

2. The Agreement under the LoC is effective from January 20, 2025. Under the LoC, the last date for disbursement will be 60 months after scheduled completion date of the project.

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4. No agency commission is payable for export under the above LoC. However, if required, the exporter may use his own resources or utilize balances in his Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency Account for payment of commission in free foreign exchange. Authorised Dealer (AD) Category- I bank may allow such remittance after realization of full eligible value of export subject to compliance with the extant instructions for payment of agency commission.

5. AD Category – I banks may bring the contents of this circular to the notice of their exporter constituents and advise them to obtain complete details of the LoC from the Exim Bank's office at Centre One, Floor 21, World Trade Centre Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai 400 005 or from their website www.eximbankindia.in.

6. The directions contained in this circular have been issued under section 10(4) and 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 (42 of 1999) and are without prejudice to permissions/ approvals, if any, required under any other law.

[For further details please refer the Circular]

CUSTOMS

NOTIFICATION

SEEKS TO AMEND NOTIFICATION NO. 61/94-CUSTOMS (N.T.) DATED THE 21ST NOVEMBER, 1994 - CUSTOMS AIRPORTS — APPOINTMENT FOR SPECIFIED PURPOSES

OUR COMMENTS: The Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Notification No. 09/2025-Customs (N.T.) dated 07.02.2025 notified that In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of sub-section (1) read with sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs hereby makes the following further amendment in the notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) No. 61/94-Customs (N.T.) dated the 21st November, 1994, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), vide number S.O. 828 (E), dated the 21st November, 1994, namely :-

In the said notification, in the Table, against serial number 6 relating to the State of Gujarat, in column (3), after the entry at (d) and corresponding entry in column (4), the following item and entries shall be inserted, namely: -

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
		“(e) Rajkot	Unloading of imported goods and the loading of export goods or any class of such goods.”.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

APPOINTMENT OF COMMON ADJUDICATING AUTHORITY (CAA) IN RESPECT OF SH. NISAR P. ALIYAR & OTHERS

OUR COMMENTS: The Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Notification No. 08/2025-Customs (N.T.) dated 04.02.2025 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 4 read with sub-sections (1) and (1A) of section 5 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, hereby appoints the Commissioner of Customs (Adjudication), Mumbai to exercise the powers and discharge duties conferred or imposed on the Additional Commissioner of Customs (Import), Office of the Principal Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Mundra, Gujarat 370421, for the purpose of adjudication of the Supplementary notice no. GEN/ ADJ/ ADC/ 63/ 2023-Adjn-O/o Pr. Commr-Cus-Mundra, dated the 30th January, 2023 or the 2nd February, 2023 in respect of Noticee, namely, Shri Nisar Pallathukadavil Aliyar and 29 others, as the notice under section 124 on this matter already stands assigned to the Commissioner of Customs (Adjudication), Mumbai in terms of Notification No. 29/2020-Customs (N.T./CAA/DRI) dated the 4th August 2020 read with Notification nos. 32/2021-Customs

(N.T./CAA/DRI) dated the 8th September, 2021 and 29/2022-Customs (N.T.) dated the 31st March, 2022.

2. This notification shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

SEEKS TO AMEND NOTIFICATION NO. 11/2021 –CUSTOMS, DATED THE 1ST FEBRUARY, 2021 TO AMEND AIDC RATE ON BOURBON WHISKEY

OUR COMMENTS: The Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Notification No. 14/2025-Customs (Tariff) dated 01.02.2025 notified that In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), read with section 124 of the Finance Act, 2021 (13 of 2021), the Central Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) No. 11/2021 –Customs, dated the 1st February, 2021, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R. 69(E), dated the 1st February, 2021, namely:-

In the said notification, in the Table, -

i. for Sl. No. 9. and the entries relating thereto, the following Sl. No. and entries shall be substituted, namely: -

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
“9.	2204, 2205, 2206, 2208 (other than tariff item 2208 30 11 and 2208 30 91)	All goods (other than bourbon whiskey)	100%”;

ii. after Sl. No. 9B., and the entries relating thereto, the following Sl. No. and entries shall be inserted, namely: -

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
“9C.	2208 30 11, 2208 30 91	Bourbon whiskey	50%”.

2. This notification shall come into force with immediate effect.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

DGFT

NOTIFICATION

AMENDMENT IN EXPORT POLICY OF RAW HUMAN HAIR

OUR COMMENTS: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide Notification No. 59/2024-25 dated 10.02.2025 notified that In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 read with Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act 1992 read with Para 1.02 and 2.01 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, as amended from time to time, the Central Government hereby makes the following amendments in the Export Policy of Raw Human Hair :

ITC(HS) Code	Item Description	Previous Export Policy	Revised Export Policy	Revised Policy Condition
05010010	---Human hair unworked, whether or not washed or scoured	Restricted	Prohibited	However, export is 'Free' if FOB value is US Dollar 65 or above per Kilogram.
05010020	--- Waste of human hair			

2. This shall come into force with immediate effect.

Effect of This Notification: The Export Policy of raw Human hair is amended from 'Restricted' to "Prohibited". However, export shall be 'Free' if FOB value is US Dollar 65 or above per Kilogram.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROCEDURE FOR ALLOCATION OF QUANTITIES FOR IMPORT OF CALCINED PETROLEUM COKE FOR ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY AND RAW PETROLEUM COKE FOR CPC MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-26

OUR COMMENTS: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide Public Notice no. 48/2024-25 dated 12.02.2025 notified that reference is drawn to the order dated 15.02.2024 of Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in compliance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme court wherein it was decreed that Aluminium industry can import Calcined Petroleum Coke (CPC) not exceeding 0.8 Million MTs and CPC manufacturing units can import Raw Petroleum Coke (RPC) not exceeding 1.9 Million MTs from FY 2025-26 Onwards.

2. Accordingly, Public Notice no. 49/2023 dated 11.03.2024 notified the Procedure for allocation of quantities for the financial year 2024-25 for import of CPC for the use in Aluminium Industry; and RPC for the use in CPC manufacturing industry.

3. Furtherance to that, in exercise of powers conferred under paragraph 1.03 and 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade hereby invites the application for import of CPC for use in Aluminium industry for 0.8 Million MTs and import of RPC for CPC manufacturing industry for 1.9 Million MTs for the Financial year 2025-26.

4. All Applications are required to be submitted online by 28th February, 2025 on the DGFT Website under Services → Import Management System → Import Authorisation for Restricted Imports → Apply for New Authorisation, under Import Category as 'Import of Pet Coke'. Applications submitted under any other Category are liable to be rejected.

5. All other conditions stated in Para 2 of the Public Notice no. 49/2023 dated 11.03.2024 will be applicable.

Effect of the Public Notice: Applications are invited for allocation of quantities for import of CPC and RPC during FY 2025-26 by the eligible industry.

[For further details please refer the Public Notice]

PUBLIC NOTICE

AMENDMENTS IN CONDITIONS OF THE STANDARD INPUT OUTPUT NORMS (SION) AT E-136 FOR EXPORT OF WHEAT FLOUR

DGFT

OUR COMMENTS: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide Public Notice no. 47/2024-25 dated 07.02.2025 notified that In exercise of the powers conferred under Paragraph 1.03 & 2.04 of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2023, as amended from time to time, the Director General of Foreign Trade hereby makes the following amendments:

For the SION E-136 as amended in Public Notice No. 62/2015-20 dated 23.03.2023, note 3 added by P. No. 25/2023 dated 4th August 2023, is amended as under:

Note 3: Export of 'Wheat Flour (Atta) with Millets' is also allowed subject to the conditions that:

- a. The export item will contain a minimum of 60% Wheat Flour (Atta) & a minimum of 15% Millets in addition to other ingredients (if any).
- b. Import entitlement of Wheat under the Advance Authorization for such export items, i.e. 'Wheat Flour Atta with Millets' will be calculated in proportion to the %age content of Whole Wheat Flour (Atta) in the export item, i.e. for export of every 1 Kg of Whole Wheat Flour (Atta), import of 1.07 kg of Wheat will be allowed.
- c. Millets & other ingredients being added to the export item will be domestically sourced.
- d. The export description in the SB will clearly indicate the %age content of Whole Wheat Flour, %age content of Millets and other ingredients being added.
- e. All other conditions specified earlier in Public Notice No. 38/2015-20 dated 25.11.2022 and Public Notice No. 62/2015-20 dated 23.03.2023 will continue to be in force.

Effect to this Public Notice: Standard Input Output Norm (SION) E-136 is being amended to allow export of Wheat Flour (Atta) with Millets.

[For further details please refer the Public Notice]

TRADE NOTICE

GUIDELINES FOR AVAILING IMPORT AUTHORISATION FOR IMPORT OF PREMIUM FROZEN DUCK MEAT INTO INDIA UNDER ITC HS CODE 0207 4200 & 0207 4500

OUR COMMENTS: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide Trade Notice no. 31/2024-25 dated 13.02.2025 issued guidelines that This Trade Notice is being issued in reference to the Notification No 66 dated 06.03.2024 read with Notification No. 78 dated 16.03.2024 providing that Import of Premium Frozen Duck Meat into India under ITC HS Code 0207 4200 & 0207 4500 shall be 'restricted' for supplies to be made to 3-Star and above Operational Hotels. Other imports under given ITC(HS) code shall be 'Free'.

2. It may be noted that direct Imports by Hotels rated 3-Star and above, as notified by MoT, are permitted to directly import Premium Frozen Duck Meat without obtaining an Import Authorization.

3. The following guidelines are outlined for facilitating the availment of Import Authorisation by importers acting as Distributors/ Aggregators/ Suppliers for import of Premium Frozen Duck Meat destined for 3 Star and above Operational Hotels:

- **Import Authorization Requirement:** Such importers may obtain an Import Authorization issued by DGFT.
- **Undertaking:** Such importers must submit an undertaking that the Imported product is destined for 3-Star and above hotels, as notified by the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) and will provide potential eligible establishments.
- **Maintenance of records for Supplies made:** The importer acting as distributor/ aggregator/supplier shall maintain records of all such supplies made to 3-star and above hotels.
- **Reporting of Post-Import Utilization:** For obtaining subsequent Import Authorization, such importer shall provide evidence of supplies made to 3- Star and above hotels with copies of GST invoice against the previous authorizations.

4. The import will be subject to verification by the appropriate authorities. Non-compliance, if observed, may lead to actions as per applicable laws and regulations.

[For further details please refer the Public Notice]

DGFT

TRADE NOTICE

PROCEDURE FOR FILING APPLICATION FOR ALLOCATION OF TARIFF RATE QUOTA (TRQ) OF GOLD BULLION UNDER INDIA-UAE CEPA FOR FY 2025-26

OUR COMMENTS: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide Trade Notice no. 30/2024-25 dated 12.02.2025 notified that Reference is invited to Annexure-IV of Appendix-2A concerning the import of items under the TRQ of India-UAE CEPA. It is reiterated that the last date for submitting applications for TRQ under the India-UAE CEPA for FY 2025-26 for import of gold bullion is 28.02.2025.

2. The applicants are required to additionally indicate the purpose for import of Gold under TRQ for FY 2025-26, as follows:

For Manufacturing;
For Trading Purposes; or
For Both

3. To substantiate the above, the applicants are required to provide their turnover details pertaining to goods manufactured or sold under HS Codes 7108, 7113, 7114, and 7118, classified under Chapter 71 of the ITC (HS) in the prescribed format A and B. The financial statements in the following format, must be certified by a Chartered Accountant, based on the applicant's GST filings for the relevant period -

A. For the past 3 years (FY 2021-22, FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24):

Sr No.	Nature of the sale	Turnover (Rs. Lakh s.) in FY 2021-22	Turnover (Rs. Lakh s.) in FY 2022-23	Turnover (Rs. Lakh s.) in FY 2023-24	Total Turnover (Rs. Lakh s.) since FY 2021-22
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
1	Manufacturing (of goods falling under HS Codes 7113, 7114, and 7118)				

2	Trading (of goods falling under HS Codes 7108, 7113, 7114, and 7118)				
---	--	--	--	--	--

B. For current financial year (FY 2024-25):

Sr No.	Nature of the sale	Turnover (Rs. Lakhs.) in FY 2024-25
I	II	III
1	Manufacturing (of goods falling under HS Codes 7113, 7114, and 7118)	
2	Trading (of goods falling under HS Codes 7108, 7113, 7114, and 7118)	

Note: Applicants must enter the relevant turnover details in the online application as per the table above and ensure its submission as part of their online filing.

4. The applications, which have been already submitted, will be made available to the applicants for amendment to add above-mentioned details in the applications.

5. The modalities of allocation of 180MT shall be decided by the Special EFC in its first meeting based on the information and details available before the committee.

6. The TRQ allocation shall be subject to a 6-monthly review as notified vide Public Notice No. 12 dated 28.04.2023. In cases where the TRQ utilisation is found to be $\leq 25\%$ in the said review process, 50% of the balance TRQ quantities shall be deemed to be considered as surrendered and shall be considered for re-allocation to other TRQ Allottees. The records pertaining to TRQ utilisation shall be assessed based on the Bills of Entry as maintained within the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) online repository.

7. This is issued for information and compliance by all stakeholders involved in TRQ import activities.

[For further details please refer the Trade Notice]

DGFT

TRADE NOTICE

MANDATORY ONLINE SUBMISSION AND ONLINE PAYMENTS AGAINST SHOW CAUSE NOTICES AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE FTD & R ACT

OUR COMMENTS: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide Trade Notice no. 29/2024-25 dated 11.02.2025 notified that in line with the Government's objective to promote ease of doing business and facilitate a paperless trade environment, DGFT has taken several steps over the years including the introduction of paperless digital submission mechanisms for applications for various authorisations and processes associated with the lifecycle of Duty Exemption/Remission Authorisations.

2. Further to these initiatives, it is informed that the process of Enforcement-cum-Adjudication and other associated actions under the FTDR Act 1992 as amended has also been further digitised. In light of this, the following processes are to be followed by all members of the trade:

i. **Mandatory Online Submission of Documents:** Replies to Show Cause Notices and other information requests during proceedings under the FTDR Act such as the process of Adjudication, Appeal and Review may be compulsorily made online through the DGFT portal. Paper -based submissions will no longer be entertained.

ii. **Mandatory Online Payment of Fees:** Payment of penalties levied by orders under the FTDR Act shall be mandatorily made against the corresponding online ECA/Appeal or Review file as applicable. The use of the Miscellaneous payments feature may be avoided to ensure proper accounting of penalties paid and to avoid unintended future action.

3. Applicants may refer ECA related help manuals available on the DGFT website → Learn → Application Help & FAQs to comply with the above requirements of digital submissions.

This Trade Notice is issued with the approval of the competent authority.

[For further details please refer the Trade Notice]

TRADE NOTICE

SEEKING DETAILS OF MANUALLY ISSUED CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN IN CONTRAVENTION OF DGFT GUIDELINES

OUR COMMENTS: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide Trade Notice no. 28/2024-25 dated 11.02.2025 notified that Reference is drawn to DGFT Trade Notices No. 36/2023-2024 dated 26th December 2023 and Trade Notice No. 24/2024-25 dated 20.12.2024 which enabled electronic issuance of Certificates of Origin by all authorised agencies via eCoO 2.0 platform (i.e. <https://www.trade.gov.in>).

2. Reports have been received by this Directorate that some agencies continue to issue manual Certificates of Origin despite the above Trade Notices mandating electronic issuance via Trade Connect ePlatform after provision of an extended transition time to the agencies to comply with the new requirements.

3. In light of the above, the following maybe noted by all concerned:

a. All exporters are advised not to accept any manually issued Certificate of Origin after the deadlines mentioned in the above referenced Trade Notices and any such **manual certificates issued will be considered null and void.**

b. It may be noted that Trade and Customs authorities of all partner countries are being informed by Indian Missions abroad about the above mandates. Hence, **manual certificates issued in contravention to the guidelines are liable to be rejected by Customs authorities of the recipient countries.**

c. It is also requested that **information on such contraventions** may be brought to the notice of this directorate by reporting such instances on **tradeconnect-dgft@gov.in**.

4. Issuing agencies may note that suitable action including removal of the agencies from the list of authorised agencies for issuance of CoO will follow if agencies continue to violate the said guidelines and issue CoOs outside of the Trade Connect ePlatform.

This is issued with the approval of the competent authority.

[For further details please refer the Trade Notice]

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LL.B, MBA(International Trade), B.COM(H)

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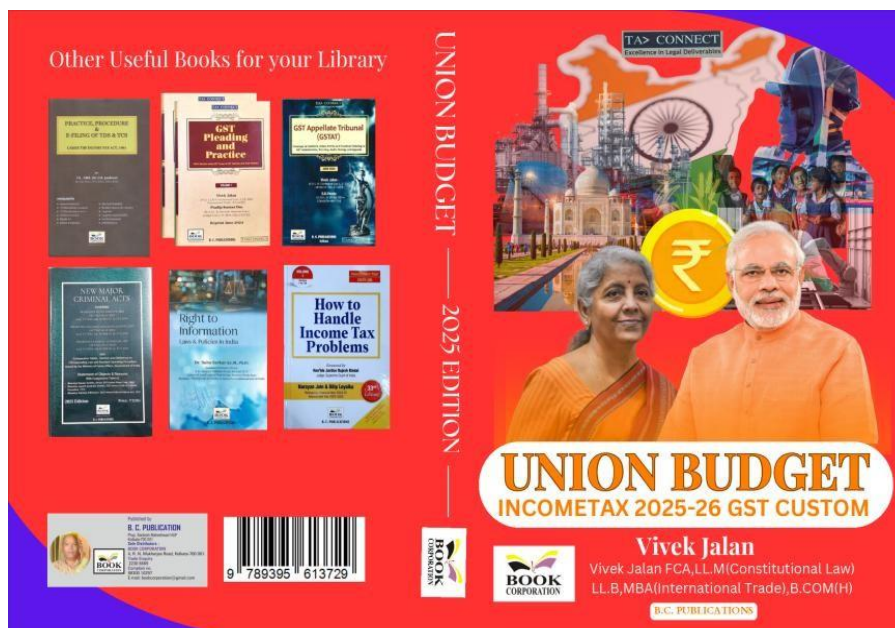
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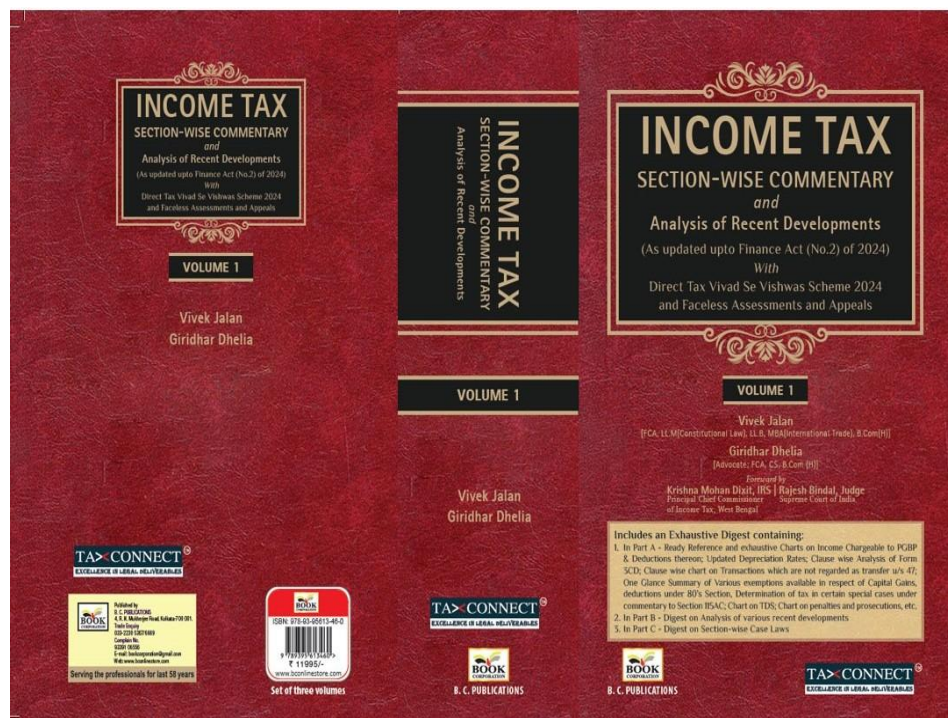
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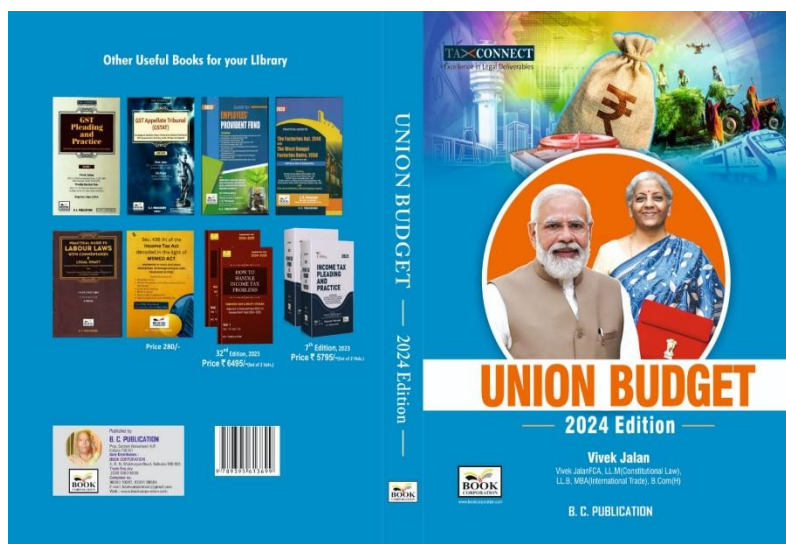
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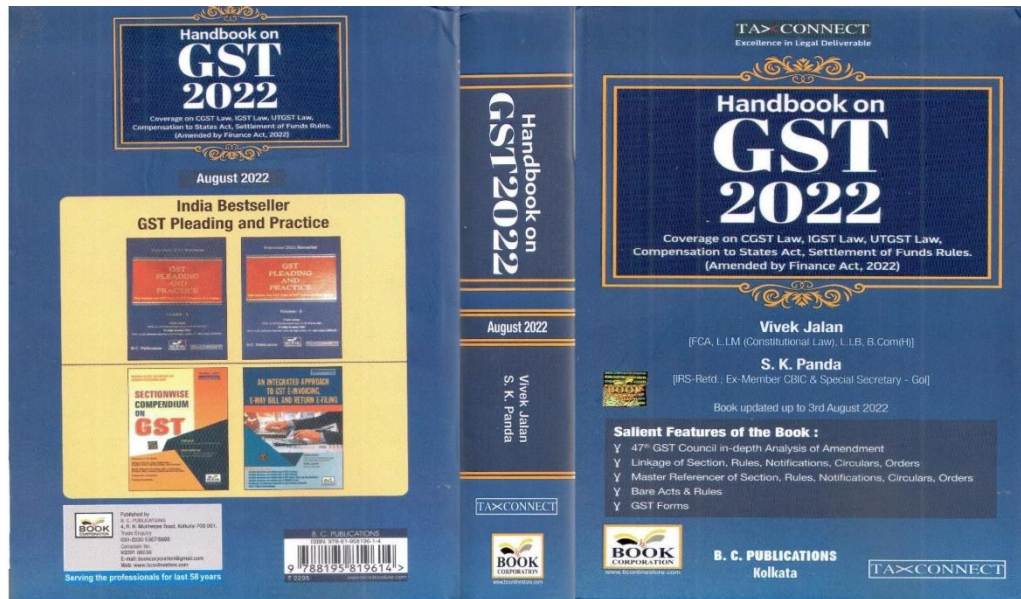
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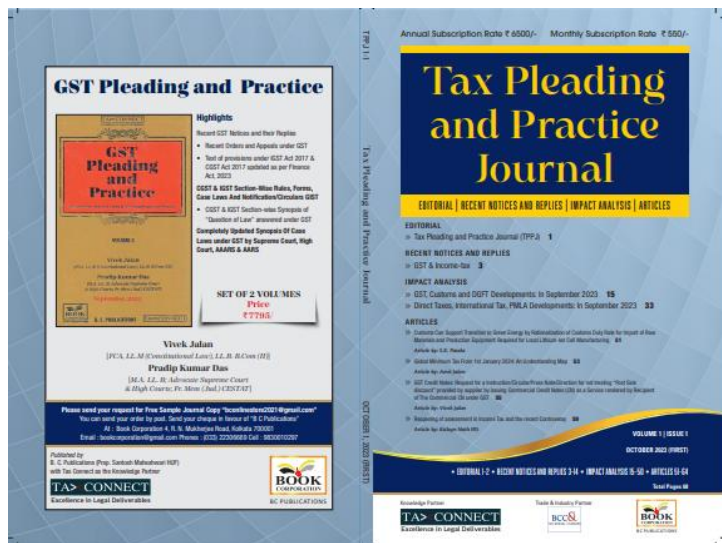
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5. New process to file returns in GSTR 3B as per circular 170 explained in details u/s 59
6. Discussion on SOP on Scrutiny of Returns and GST Audit Manual by CBIC under respective Sections
7. Discussion on Recent Instruction on GST-Summons, Arrest and Bail

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