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EDITORIAL

Friends,

The issue of pharmaceutical companies providing freebies to medical practitioners has long been contentious. Recent judicial pronouncements and legislative clarifications have now firmly placed such expenditures outside the ambit of allowable business deductions under the Income Tax Act. In this edition, we will discuss the Disallowance of expenditure for Freebies to doctors provided by pharma companies – retrospective; but facts need to be weighed with MCI regulations [Sec 37 of ITA'61 – Sec 34 of ITA'25]"

This balance between strict disallowance and factual scrutiny is critical. While the Apex Court has set a clear precedent, tax authorities and businesses must carefully evaluate each expense in light of MCI guidelines to avoid overreach. The principle is simple: ethical compliance and statutory adherence must guide business practices, and tax law will not shield expenditures that undermine these standards.

Explanation 1 to Sec 37(1) of the Income Tax Act declares that any expenditure incurred by an assessee for any purpose which is an offence or which is prohibited by law shall not be deemed to have been incurred for the purpose of business or profession and no deduction or allowance shall be made in respect of such expenditure. Explanation 3 to section 37(1) has been inserted with effect from 1/4/22 to clarify that the expression "expenditure incurred by an assessee for any purpose which is an offence or which is prohibited by law" under Explanation 1, shall include and shall be deemed to have always included the expenditure incurred by an assessee for any purpose which is an offence under, or which is prohibited by, any law for the time being in force, in India or outside India;

In the decision of the Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of M/s. Apex Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. v. DCIT [2022] 286 (SC), it was held that since acceptance of freebies by medical practitioners was punishable as per Circular issued by Medical Council of India under MCI regulations, 2002, gifting of such freebies by - pharmaceutical company to medical practitioners would also be prohibited by law and thus, expenditure incurred in distribution of such freebies would not be allowed as a deduction in terms of Explanation 1 to section 37(1).

Hence, freebies provided to doctors by Pharma Companies, which are disallowed by MCI regulations would be considered to have always been disallowed. However, the MCI regulations need scrutinized and the allowable expenditures need to be so treated. This was held in the case of MEDLEY PHARMACEUTICALS LTD Vs DCIT, C44, MUMBAI [2023-VIL-741-ITAT-MUM] and the ratio would be applicable for pharma companies who incur such expenses.

The jurisprudence on freebies to doctors has crystallized into a firm disallowance under Section 37 of the Income Tax Act. Pharmaceutical companies must now align their marketing and professional engagement strategies with MCI regulations, ensuring that only legitimate, permissible expenditures are claimed. As the law stands, what was prohibited yesterday remains prohibited today—and retrospectively so.

Just to reiterate, we remain available over telecom or e-mail for any clarifications.

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SYNOPSIS

TAX CALENDAR

Date	Form/Return/Challan	Reporting Period	Description
25th May	PMT-06 (for QRMP)	May-26	Challan-cum-statement for taxpayers under the QRMP scheme to deposit self-assessed tax liability for the first and second months of the quarter.
28th May	GSTR-11	Apr-26	Statement of inward supplies by persons having a Unique Identification Number (UIN) for claiming a GST refund
30th May	Form No. 49C	FY 2024-25	Submission of a statement (in Form No. 49C) by non-resident having a liaison office in India for the financial year 2024-25
30th May	Challan-cum-statement	Apr-26	Due date for furnishing of challan-cum-statement in respect of tax deducted under section 194-IA, 194-M, 194-IB, 194S in the month of April, 2026
30th May	TCS certificates	FY 2025-26	Issue of TCS certificates for the 4th Quarter of the Financial Year 2025-26

CASE LAW

PR. COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX-4 VERSUS KROSS DIAMONDS PVT. LTD: DELHI HIGH COURT

OUR COMMENT: In the instant case the respondent/assessee deals in diamonds, which he imports from various countries in accordance with the provision of Customs Act, 1962 and other relevant law. During the course of assessment proceedings, the Assessing Officer (AO) found that the assessee had issued 6,358 bills of cash sales (each being less than Rs.2 lacs in value), amounting to total of Rs. 97,12,70,670/-. This being the position, the AO was of the view that since the source of purchase was the cash received from these sales, the purchases amounting to Rs. 97,13,70,670/-, (being the amount of cash sales) was not properly explained and made addition under Section 69C of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Act of1961').

While passing the assessment order the AO clearly stated that he has no doubt so far as the genuineness of purchase is concerned and accepted the factum of purchase as such, but has taken recourse to Section 69 C of the Act of 1961 to disallow the expenses relating to such purchase, as according to him, the source of expenditure (being cash) not duly explained.

Against the assessment order so passed by the AO on 19.12.2016, the assessee preferred an appeal before the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals) (hereinafter referred to as 'CIT(A)'), which was allowed by the Appellate Authority vide its order dated 10.01.2017.

Against the order of the Appellant Authority, the Income Tax Department preferred an appeal before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (hereinafter referred to as 'Tribunal'), which was rejected by the Tribunal by its impugned order dated 18.12.2024.

While rejecting the appeal, the Tribunal has observed that all the purchases made by the assessee were made through proper banking channels and after paying applicable duties in accordance with provision of The Customs Act 1962 and other applicable rules. The Tribunal has also recorded that all the purchases were duly supported by bills/vouchers, import bills, bills of entry, airlines bills and custom documents etc. and such purchase cannot be disallowed. The Tribunal held that the AO has proceeded on mere assumption and conjuncture. Having observed so, the Tribunal has also expressed its concern that when the AO had found the purchases to be genuine, how could he take the sale to be bogus without rejecting the books of account.

The Court held that once the AO himself accepted the purchases to be genuine, and the purchases were shown to have been effected through proper documents and banking channels, the source of such expenditure could not be treated as unexplained merely because the assessee had made retail sales in cash and deposited that cash in bank. Receipt of sale consideration in cash, in the absence of any statutory violation, did not justify disallowance of the corresponding purchases under unexplained expenditure.

The concurrent findings of the appellate authorities deleting the addition were therefore upheld. The Court further observed that, at the highest, non-verifiability of the buyers in cash sales would not by itself attract any statutory infraction so as to justify the addition.

The deletion of the addition under Section 69C was upheld and the Revenue's challenge was rejected.

In conclusion the court found no merit in the Revenue's appeals. It upheld the concurrent appellate view that genuine purchases supported by records and banking channels could not be disallowed as unexplained expenditure merely because the corresponding sales were in cash.

[For further details please refer the Case Law]

GST

ADVISORY

FILING OF ANNEXURE-B FOR REFUND APPLICATIONS INVOLVING ACCUMULATED ITC USING THE OFFLINE UTILITY IN GST PORTAL.

OUR COMMENT: Team GSTN has issued advisory on the GST portal on 18.05.2026 for taxpayers where until now, while filing refund applications under specific categories involving accumulated Input Tax Credit (ITC), taxpayers were uploading Annexure-B in a PDF format, in terms of extant guidelines. In order to further automate the refund filing process and enable system-based verification of invoices and documents, a standardized Annexure-B Offline Utility has now been deployed on the portal. In order to bring uniformity, taxpayers are required to furnish Annexure-B through this prescribed utility going forward.

Taxpayers are advised to carefully note the following instructions while filing refund applications under the below mentioned refund categories where refund is claimed on account of accumulated Input Tax Credit (ITC).

1. Introduction of Annexure-B in Offline Utility for following categories

Annexure-B is required to be furnished through an offline utility for the following refund categories:

• Exports of Goods/Services without payment of tax (accumulated ITC) (excluding electricity)

• Supplies made to SEZ Unit/SEZ Developer without payment of tax

• ITC accumulated due to Inverted Tax Structure [Clause (ii) of first proviso to section 54(3)]

• Export of Electricity without payment of tax (accumulated ITC)

2. Annexure-B Offline Utility

An offline utility in Excel format has been introduced to enable taxpayers to enter invoice-wise details of inward supplies for which refund is claimed. The details in the offline utility are required to be reported HSN/SAC-wise, by segregating invoices into separate line items based on distinct HSN/SAC codes and categories of input supplies (Inputs, Input Services, Capital Goods), wherever applicable.

Further, all other columns in the utility must be filled specifically with respect to the HSN/SAC code and category of input supply reported in that line item, including the corresponding taxable value, tax amount, and whether such ITC is blocked under section 17(5) of the CGST Act or otherwise. A maximum of 10,000 entries can be made in one offline utility file. If there are more than 10,000 entries, the user should use multiple offline utility files to enter the data.

3. Structure of Annexure-B Offline Utility

The utility contains the following two tables:

• Table 1 – Reversal Details

• Table 2 – HSN/SAC-wise Inward Invoice Details for which ITC has been claimed in GSTR-3B

4. Reporting of Invoices with Multiple Categories / HSN-SAC Codes

In cases where a single invoice includes: Multiple categories of supplies such as Inputs, Input Services, and Capital Goods, and/or Multiple HSN/SAC codes

• Taxpayers are required to split the invoice into separate line items in the offline utility.

• Each line item must represent only one category of input supply mapped to one HSN/SAC code.

• Invoice value and tax amounts must be proportionately distributed across such line items.

A specific note has been added in the Read Me section (Point 6) of the utility for taxpayer guidance. Users are requested to read these instructions clearly before entering the data in the utility to avoid validation errors.

5. Duplicate Document Validation

(Validation is applied separately for each type of inward supply and each document type):

• Supplier GSTIN

• Invoice Number

• Invoice Date

• Category of Input Supply

• HSN/SAC

For the same invoice, where the category of input supply and HSN/SAC are identical, only one line item should be reported.

Multiple entries under identical parameters will not be accepted.

6. Reporting of ITC Reversals

Taxpayers are required to correctly report ITC reversals as applicable:

• Reversals made under Rules 38, 42, 43 of the CGST Rules and section 17(5) shall be reported as per the corresponding month's GSTR-3B.

• Other ITC reversals reflected in Table 4(B)(2) of GSTR-3B shall also be reported accordingly.

GST

• In cases where multiple offline utility files are used, reversal amounts shall be entered only in the final utility file, with all previous utility files reflecting reversal amounts as zero. The system recalculates the consolidated Net ITC after upload of all JSON files. Taxpayers are advised to review the consolidated summary carefully prior to submission.

7. Uploading Annexure-B JSON File

Upon generation of the Annexure-B JSON file, the taxpayer shall upload the same on the RFD-01 screen by clicking on the hyperlink “Click to upload the Statement of invoices (Unutilized ITC)” and proceed further for validation.

8. Post-Upload Validation and Reports

• Uploaded invoices shall be validated with GSTR-2B.

• Where validation against GSTR-2B is performed, results shall be displayed in the Valid documents sheet, indicating whether the invoices are present in GSTR-2B or not.

• In respect of invoices pertaining to GSTR-2B periods up to October 2024 or earlier, the system will not carry out validation with GSTR-2B data. However, taxpayers will be allowed to enter details of such invoices in the utility and upload on the portal. In such cases, the system will display a generic message indicating that the invoices are not validated, however, these invoices will be part of the validated documents. This is an expected system behavior and shall not be treated as an error. Taxpayers may proceed with filing the refund application in such scenarios.

• Any mismatches or validation failures in invoices pertaining to November 2024 or later period, shall be reflected in an Invalid documents Report.

9. Following details may be noted in respect of the Annexure B offline utility, namely:

• Copy-paste functionality has been enabled for dropdown values in the offline utility. While using this feature, users must ensure that the value that user if copying and pasting must match with the exact dropdown value. Any deviation, including leading or trailing spaces, may result in validation errors. Additionally, users should not paste data into any frozen/protected fields, as this may lead to processing or validation issues.

• Before using the newly downloaded utility, users should ensure that any previous version of the Annexure B Offline Utility is completely closed. Keeping an older version open simultaneously may cause issues with the enhanced copy-paste functionality.

• Users are advised to avoid using unnecessary spaces while entering or copy-pasting data (for example, extra spaces after supplier name or in other fields), as such inconsistencies may result in errors during JSON generation or upload.

• Users are requested to ensure that no changes are made directly to the JSON file after it has been generated. In case any modifications are required, the same should be made in the offline utility, followed by revalidation and generation of a fresh JSON file for upload. Further, the name of the JSON file should not be altered after creation, as this may lead to upload issues.

10. Line-Item Upload Limit in offline utility uploaded with Refund Applications

Present system functionality allows taxpayers to enter up to 10,000-line items in one offline utility file and upload up to 25 such files, i. e. a total of 2,50,000-line items can be entered in a single refund application. In cases where the number of line items exceeds this limit, taxpayers should upload up to 2,50,000-line items through the offline utility, and the remaining invoices can be submitted as supporting documents after converting them into PDF format. Approaches to support higher-volume data ingestion are being evaluated and will be implemented in upcoming enhancements.

Taxpayers are requested to ensure accurate reporting in the offline utility to facilitate smooth and timely processing of refund applications. A detailed user manual along with screenshots explaining the process will be shared shortly.

[For further details please refer the Advisory]

ADVISORY

ADVISORY TO TAXPAYERS AND STAKEHOLDERS – ENHANCEMENTS IN THE E-WAY BILL (EWB) PORTAL.

OUR COMMENT: Team GSTN has issued advisory on the GST portal on 21.05.2026 for taxpayers that as part of the ongoing efforts towards strengthening data quality, traceability, and operational efficiency in the E-Way Bill (EWB) system, certain functional enhancements are proposed to be introduced in the EWB portal.

The advisory covers the following proposed changes:

a) Mandatory capture of “Ship-To GSTIN” in Bill-To Ship-To transactions for improved traceability and data accuracy; and

b) Introduction of EWB Closure functionality to enable taxpayers to voluntarily close E-Way Bills in specified scenarios.

The advisory also includes the proposed implementation timelines and necessary action points for stakeholders to undertake requisite system changes and preparedness activities.

[For further details please refer the Advisory]

CASELAW

CANARA BANK VERSUS TAX RECOVERY OFFICER (CENTRAL), INCOME TAX OFFICER, TRO (CENTRAL) BENGALURU, TAX RECOVERY OFFICER, INCOME TAX OFFICER, TRO PANAJI: KARNATAKA HIGH COURT.

OUR COMMENTS: In the instant case a perusal of the material on record would indicate that on 25.03.2013 and 22.03.2014, respondent No. 3 (MR. MOHAMMED AMEER) mortgaged the subject property in favour of the petitioner by deposit of title deeds and obtained loan from the petitioner (CANARA BANK). From 2013 till 2020, respondent No. 3 also availed facilities from the petitioner towards the said mortgage. On 29.01.2022, petitioner bank instituted SARFAESI proceedings as against the respondent No. 3. Meanwhile, respondent No. 1 (TAX RECOVERY OFFICER (CENTRAL), INCOME TAX OFFICER, had initiated proceedings against the respondent No. 3 in the year 2021 by issuance of a notice dated 31.03.2021 pursuant to which respondent No. 1 passed an order of attachment on 06.03.2023 in relation to the subject property. Since the petitioner had already instituted the proceedings under the SARFAESI Act as against respondent No. 3, subject property was brought to sale by way of public auction and the successful auction bidder Shri Imran Hussain purchased the property in the auction sale and the sale certificate was issued in his favour on 28.04.2023. It is the specific contention of the petitioner that the petitioner's right has priority and would prevail over the claim of respondent Nos. 1 & 2 as well as the impugned order of attachment by virtue of Section 26 (E) of the SARFAESI Act which has a over riding effect over all debts payable to anyone else including claims/attachments of respondent Nos. 1 & 2 and consequently, since the petitioner had already been mortgaged with the subject property in the year 2013 itself much prior to initiation of the proceedings by respondent Nos. 1 & 2, the impugned attachment order would be sub-servant to mortgage already created in favour of the petitioner which would have an over-riding effect over the said proceedings initiated by respondents No. 1 & 2 and as such impugned of attachment order deserves to be quashed.

The petition was allowed on the undisputed factual foundation that respondent No.3 mortgaged the subject property in favour of the petitioner in 2013-14, prior to the search/attachment proceedings initiated by respondent Nos.1 and 2. The Court applied the statutory principle embodied in Section 26E of the SARFAESI Act and the parallel provision in Section 31B of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, holding that debts due to a secured creditor after registration of security interest are to be paid in priority over all other debts and government dues. Relying on the reasoning of higher and coordinate courts, the Court concluded that the later tax attachment could not prevail over the pre-existing security interest because the SARFAESI/RDBI provisions operate with an overriding effect vis-a -vis competing enactments. The Court further observed that because the mortgage preceded the Revenue's proceedings, the Tax Recovery Officer lacked jurisdiction to sustain the attachment in respect of the mortgaged property, and that setting aside the attachment would not prejudice the secured creditor's rights which remain enforceable under SARFAESI/RDBI. Applying these legal principles to the recorded facts, the Court concluded that the impugned order of attachment was impermissible and deserved to be quashed.

Impugned attachment order dated 06.03.2023 quashed insofar as it relates to the subject property mortgaged in favour of the petitioner; petition allowed.

In conclusion the High Court quashed the Tax Recovery Officer's attachment of the subject property on the ground that the petitioner's secured interest created in 2013-14 has priority under Section 26E of the SARFAESI Act (and Section 31B of the RDBI Act), which operate with overriding effect over subsequent recovery/attachment proceedings by the Revenue.

[For further details please refer the Case Law]

NOTIFICATION

CORRIGENDUM - NOTIFICATION NO. 14/2026-CUSTOMS, DATED THE 30TH APRIL, 2026 - G.S.R. 375(E) – CUSTOMS.

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issued corrigendum Notification No. 14/2026-Customs dated 30.04.2026 in relation to Notification No. G.S.R. 375(E) dated 19.05.2026 that in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R. 330 (E), dated the 30th April, 2026,—

(1) at page 40, in line 15, in column (3), *for* "inserted" *read* "substituted";

(2) at page 40, in line 26, in column (3), *for* "2202 91 29" *read* "2202 99 29";

(3) at page 57, after line 25, the following entry shall be inserted, namely: -

"24.	Notification No. 45/2025-Customs, dated the 24th October, 2025, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide G.S.R. 781(E), dated the 24th October, 2025	In the said notification, in TABLE I, - (i) against S. No. 110A, for the entry in column (2), the entry "2841 90" shall be substituted; (ii) against S. No. 110B, for the entry in column (2), the entry "2841 90" shall be substituted."

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

FIXATION OF TARIFF VALUE OF EDIBLE OILS, BRASS SCRAP, ARECA NUT, GOLD AND SILVER - 47/2026 - CUSTOMS - NON-TARIFF.

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issued Notification No: 47/2026-Customs (N.T) dated 19.05.26 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, being satisfied that it is necessary and expedient to do so, hereby makes the following amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 36/2001-Customs (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (ii), vide number S. O. 748 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2001, namely:-

In the said notification, for TABLE-1, TABLE-2, and TABLE-3 the following Tables shall be substituted, namely: -

TABLE-1

Sl. No.	Chapter/ heading/ sub-heading/tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value (US $ Per Metric Tonne)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	1511 10 00	Crude Palm Oil	1205 (i.e., no change)
2	1511 90 10	RBD Palm Oil	1212 (i.e., no change)
3	1511 90 90	Others – Palm Oil	1209 (i.e., no change)
4	1511 10 00	Crude Palmolein	1216 (i.e., no change)
5	1511 90 20	RBD Palmolein	1219 (i.e., no change)
6	1511 90 90	Others – Palmolein	1218 (i.e., no change)
7	1507 10 00	Crude Soya bean Oil	1256 (i.e., no change)
8	7404 00 22	Brass Scrap (all grades)	7433 (i.e., no change)

TABLE-2

Sl. No.	Chapter/ heading/ sub-heading/tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value (US $)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	71 or 98	Gold, in any form, in respect of which the benefit of entries at serial number 194 of the Notification No. 45/2025-Customs dated 24.10.2025 is availed	1508 per 10 grams (i.e., no change)

CUSTOMS

2.	71 or 98	Silver, in any form, in respect of which the benefit of entries at serial number 195 of the Notification No. 45/2025-Customs dated 24.10.2025 is availed	2455 per kilogram
3.	71	(i) Silver, in any form, other than medallions and silver coins having silver content not below 99.9% or semi-manufactured forms of silver falling under sub-heading 7106 92; (ii) Medallions and silver coins having silver content not below 99.9% or semi-manufactured forms of silver falling under sub-heading 7106 92, other than imports of such goods through post, courier or baggage. **Explanation.** - For the purposes of this entry, silver in any form shall not include foreign currency coins, jewellery made of silver or articles made of silver.	2455 per kilogram
4.	71	(i) Gold bars, other than tola bars, bearing manufacturers or refiner's engraved serial number and weight expressed in metric units; (ii) Gold coins having gold content not below 99.5% and gold findings, other than imports of such goods through post, courier or baggage. **Explanation.** - For the purposes of this entry, "gold findings" means a small component such as hook, clasp, clamp, pin, catch, screw back used to hold the whole or a part of a piece of Jewellery in place.	1508 per 10 grams (i.e., no change)

TABLE-3

Sl. No.	Chapter/ heading/ sub-heading/tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value (US $ Per Metric Ton)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	080280	Areca nuts	9155 (i.e., no change)"

2. This notification shall come into force with effect from the 20th day of May, 2026.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

SEEKS TO IMPOSE ANTI-DUMPING DUTY ON IMPORTS OF "ANODIZED ALUMINIUM FRAMES FOR SOLAR PANELS/MODULES" ORIGINATING IN OR EXPORTED FROM CHINA PR - 07/2026 - ANTI DUMPING DUTY.

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issued Notification No: 07/2026-Customs (ADD) dated 19.05.2026 notified that in the matter of import of "Anodized Aluminium Frames for Solar Panels/Modules" (hereinafter referred to as the subject goods), falling under the tariff items 7610 9010, 7610 9030 or 7616 9990 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975), originating in or exported from China PR (hereinafter referred to as the subject country), the designated authority, vide its final findings in notification No. 6/7/2023-DGTR, dated the 29th June, 2024, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, dated the 29th June, 2024, had come to the conclusion that,-

(i) the subject goods have been exported to India from the subject country at dumped prices;

(ii) the dumping of subject goods from subject country has materially retarded the establishment of domestic industry;

(iii) material retardation to the establishment of the domestic industry has been caused by the dumped imports of subject goods from the subject country, and had recommended imposition of definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of the subject goods originating in, or exported from, the subject country;

And whereas, on the basis of the aforesaid findings of the designated authority, the Central Government had imposed anti-dumping duty on the subject goods vide notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 16/2024-Customs (ADD), dated the 27th September, 2024, published vide number G.S.R. 599(E), in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), dated the 27th September, 2024;

And whereas, M/s Anhui Krant Aluminum Products Co., Ltd (Producer and Exporter), has requested for review in terms of rule 22 of the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-dumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995, in respect of exports of the subject goods made by them, and the designated authority, vide new shipper review notification No. 7/28/2025-DGTR dated the 20th March, 2026, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, dated the 20th March, 2026, has recommended provisional assessment of all exports of the subject goods made by the above stated party till the completion of the review by it;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (2) of rule 22 of the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-dumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995, the Central Government, after considering the aforesaid recommendation of the designated authority, hereby orders that pending the outcome of the said review by the designated authority, the subject goods, when originating in or exported from the subject country by M/s Anhui Krant Aluminum Products Co., Ltd (Producer and Exporter), and imported into India, shall be subjected to provisional assessment till the review is completed.

2. The provisional assessment may be subject to such security or guarantee as the proper officer of customs deems fit for payment of the deficiency, if any, in case a definitive anti-dumping duty is imposed retrospectively, on completion of investigation by the designated authority.

3. In case of recommendation of anti-dumping duty after completion of the said review by the designated authority, the importer shall be liable to pay the amount of such anti-dumping duty recommended on review and imposed on all imports of subject goods when originating in or exported from the subject country by M/s Anhui Krant Aluminum Products Co., Ltd (Producer and Exporter), and imported into India, from the date of initiation of the said review.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

FIXATION OF TARIFF VALUE OF EDIBLE OILS, BRASS SCRAP, ARECA NUT, GOLD AND SILVER - 46/2026 – CUSTOMS-NON-TARIFF.

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issued Notification No 46/2026-Customs (N.T) dated 15.05.26 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, being satisfied that it is necessary and expedient to do so, hereby makes the following amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 36/2001-Customs (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (ii), vide number S. O. 748 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2001, namely:-

In the said notification, for TABLE-1, TABLE-2, and TABLE-3 the following Tables shall be substituted, namely: -

TABLE-1

Sl. No.	Chapter/ heading/ sub-heading/ tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value (US $Per Metric Tonne)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	1511 10 00	Crude Palm Oil	1205
2	1511 90 10	RBD Palm Oil	1212
3	1511 90 90	Others – Palm Oil	1209
4	1511 10 00	Crude Palmolein	1216
5	1511 90 20	RBD Palmolein	1219
6	1511 90 90	Others – Palmolein	1218
7	1507 10 00	Crude Soya bean Oil	1256
8	7404 00 22	Brass Scrap (all grades)	7433

TABLE-2

Sl. No.	Chapter/ heading/ sub-heading/tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value (US $)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)

CUSTOMS

1.	71 or 98	Gold, in any form, in respect of which the benefit of entries at serial number 194 of the Notification No. 45/2025-Customs dated 24.10.2025 is availed	1508 per 10 grams
2.	71 or 98	Silver, in any form, in respect of which the benefit of entries at serial number 195 of the Notification No. 45/2025-Customs dated 24.10.2025 is availed	2810 per kilogram
3.	71	(i) Silver, in any form, other than medallions and silver coins having silver content not below 99.9% or semi-manufactured forms of silver falling under sub-heading 7106 92; (ii) Medallions and silver coins having silver content not below 99.9% or semi-manufactured forms of silver falling under sub-heading 7106 92, other than imports of such goods through post, courier or baggage. **Explanation. -** For the purposes of this entry, silver in any form shall not include foreign currency coins, jewellery made of silver or articles made of silver.	2810 per kilogram
4.	71	(i) Gold bars, other than tola bars, bearing manufacturers or refiner's engraved serial number and weight expressed in metric units; (ii) Gold coins having gold content not below 99.5% and gold findings, other than imports of such goods through post, courier or baggage. **Explanation. -** For the purposes of this entry, "gold findings" means a small component such as hook, clasp, clamp, pin, catch, screw back used to hold the whole or a part of a piece of Jewellery in place.	1508 per 10 grams

TABLE-3

Sl. No.	Chapter/ heading/ sub-heading/tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value (US $ Per Metric Ton)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	080280	Areca nuts	9155 (i.e., no change)"

2. This notification shall come into force with effect from the 16th day of May, 2026.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

PUBLIC NOTICE

TRADE FACILITATION TO ALLOW "PART DELIVERY" OF OUT OF CHARGED (OOC) CARGO AT CONTAINER FREIGHT STATIONS (CFSS).

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issued Public Notice No 57/2026-Customs dated 15.05.26 notified that:

1. Attention of the Importers, Exporters, General Trade, and CFSs is invited to Public Notice No. 184/2016 dated 02.01.2017 regarding the procedure for part delivery of cargo

after obtaining Out of Charged (OOC) at the RMS Facilitation Centre.

2. Under the existing PN 184/2016, it was mandated that permission for part delivery of RMS facilitated OOC cargo, must be obtained from the Customs.

3. As a further measure of 'Ease of Doing Business' and to reduce the physical interface between Trade and Customs, it has been decided that once a Bill of Entry has been granted Out of Charge (OOC) by the RMS Facilitation Centre, the Container Freight Stations (CFSs) in the jurisdiction of JNCH, are authorized to allow part delivery of the cargo contained therein. The Importers are no longer required to seek separate permission from the AC/DC, Docks for part delivery of OOC cargo."

4. The CFSs shall ensure that appropriate records of such part deliveries are maintained.

Difficulties, if any, in the implementation of this Public Notice may be brought to the notice of the undersigned.

[For further details please refer the Public Notice]

PUBLIC NOTICE

STREAMLINING OF SAMPLE COLLECTION AND DISPATCH PROCEDURE BY CENTRAL SAMPLE CELL (CSC), JNCH.

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issued Public Notice No 56/2026-Customs dated 14.05.26 notified that Attention of all Importers, Customs Brokers, Container Freight Stations (CFSs), Terminal Operators and other stakeholders is invited to Public Notice No. 97/2017 dated 28.07.2017 issued vide F. No. S/12-GEN-822/2015-16 AM(X) and Public Notice No. 159/2017 dated 18.12.2017 issued vide F. No. S/12-GEN-402/2017-18 AM(I) Pt.I regarding the functioning of the Central Sample Cell (CSC), Jawaharlal Nehru Custom House.

2. With a view to further enhancing trade facilitation and ensuring timely movement of samples for testing, the following procedure shall be followed by the Central Sample Cell (CSC), JNCH:

a. The CSC Officer shall visit all CFSs twice daily, except on Second Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays, for collection of sealed samples, subject to availability of samples at the respective CFSs.

b. Samples collected for testing at CRCL and Textile Committee Laboratories shall be deposited with the concerned laboratories on the same day. Samples shall be deposited to the above-mentioned laboratories twice daily, by 1 PM and by 5 PM.

c. Joint Director/Chief Chemical Examiner (in charge) of the CRCL, JNCH Lab shall ensure that proper officers/staffs are posted to collect the samples as mentioned above.

d. Samples required to be sent to Government-approved Public/Private Laboratories located outside the Mumbai Metropolitan Region shall be dispatched through Customs authorised Courier on the same day evening.

e. In cases where laboratories located within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region do not arrange collection of samples through their representatives, such samples shall also be dispatched through Customs authorised Courier on the same day evening.

f. The responsibility for payment of applicable courier charges and laboratory testing charges shall rest with the Importer/Customs Broker/CFS concerned. Such charges shall be paid prior to deposit of sealed samples at the designated Sample Collection Points.

g. Collection of samples by CSC shall be undertaken only after confirmation of payment of the applicable courier charges.

h. The Scaleman/Tax Assistant posted at the CFS Sample Collection Point shall ensure compliance of the conditions mentioned at Para 2(e) and 2(f) above before accepting sealed samples in duplicate.

i. Samples from Boarding Points / JNCH Port Terminals shall be collected only once in a day.

3. The above measures are being implemented to ensure uninterrupted trade facilitation and expeditious processing of EXIM consignments requiring laboratory testing.

4. Difficulties, if any, faced in implementation of this Public Notice may be brought to the notice of the Additional/Joint Commissioner in charge of the Central Sample Cell, JNCH.

5. All concerned stakeholders and officers are requested to take note of the above and ensure strict compliance.

[For further details please refer the Public Notice]

CUSTOMS

CIRCULAR

STREAMLINING OF SAMPLE COLLECTION AND DISPATCH PROCEDURE BY CENTRAL SAMPLE CELL (CSC), JNCH.

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issued Circular No 52/2026-Customs dated 15.05.26 notified that attention is invited to the varying practices followed across ports with regard to grant of Entry Inward and Vessel Sail-out Clearance, which in certain cases are being linked with physical boarding of Customs officers on the vessel, resulting in avoidable delays in commencement and completion of cargo operations.

2. The matter has been examined. It is observed that at some ports, Entry Inward is granted only after physical boarding of the vessel post-berthing, and similarly, Sail-out Clearance is also being linked with completion of boarding formalities. Such practices may lead to delays.

3. In this regard, it is clarified that:

i. The provisions relating to Entry Inward are governed by Sections 30 and 31 of the Customs Act, 1962, and Vessel Sail-out Clearance is governed by Sections 41 and 42 of the said Act. The boarding of vessels by the officers is independent statutory process.

ii. Physical boarding of Customs officers on vessels is independent statutory process governed under Section 37 of the Customs Act, 1962 and the Imported Stores (Retention on Board) Regulations, 1963, which provide for Customs control over imported stores, including sealing or inventory, wherever required issued in exercise of the powers conferred by section 157 of the Customs Act, 1962.

iii. Thus grant of Entry Inward and Vessel Sail-out Clearance shall not be made contingent upon physical boarding of Customs officers on the vessel.

4. Field formations may take note that:

i. CBIC has already rolled out Sea Arrival Manifest (SAM) and Sea Departure Manifest (SDM) messages under SCMTR, to be filed by Shipping lines and Shipping Agents. The Shipping lines and Shipping agents may declare crew effects, ship stores and persons under SCMTR, wherein provision has been enabled for upload of such details in PDF format through e-Sanchit with IRN-based referencing in message filings. The messages include filing of crew and stock declaration details required by Customs Officers to grant Entry Inwards/Sail out clearance.

ii. All stakeholders are required to file online messages, so that customs officers can grant Entry Inward/Sail out remotely.

5. Accordingly, it is directed that Entry Inward and Sail Out Clearance are granted promptly upon filing of requisite documents, including Sea Arrival Manifest (SAM)/ Sea Departure Manifest (SDM), and completion of prescribed checks, without insisting on physical boarding of the vessel. Further, physical boarding of vessels by Customs officers shall be undertaken based on risk profiling of the vessels. Concerned field formations may devise suitable mechanism for risk based boarding by Customs officers considering compliance behaviour, nature of voyage, itinerary of vessel on move, nature of cargo being carried and other relevant parameter having bearing of safety and security of cargo.

6. Suitable Public Notice may be issued by field formations to inform stakeholders. Difficulties, if any, in implementation of this Circular may be brought to the notice of the Board.

[For further details please refer the Circular]

DGFT

NOTIFICATION

AMENDMENT IN IMPORT POLICY OF SILVERCOVERED UNDER ITC (HS) CODES 71069221 AND 71069229 OF CHAPTER 71 OF ITC (HS), 2022, SCHEDULE - I (IMPORT POLICY).

OUR COMMENTS: The Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry issued Notification No. 17/2026-27 dated 16.05.2026 notified that in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 and Section 5 of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, read with paragraph 1.02 and 2.01 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, as amended from time to time, the Central Government hereby amends the import policy of ITC (HS) code 71069221 and 71069229 covered under Chapter 71 of ITC (HS) 2022, Schedule - I (Import Policy) with immediate effect:

ITC(HS) Code	Item description	Existing Import Policy	Existing Import Policy Condition	Revised Import Policy	Revised Import Policy Condition
7106	Silver (including silver plated with gold or platinum), unwrought or in semi manufactured forms, or in powder form.	-		-	-
710692	- Other : - - Semi-manufactured	-		-	-
71069221	Bar: Containing 99.9 percent or more by weight of silver	Free	Subject to RBI Regulations.	**Restricted**	**Subject to Policy Condition No. 7 of this Chapter**
71069229	Bar ------ Other	Free	Subject to RBI Regulations.	**Restricted**	**Subject to Policy Condition No. 7 of this Chapter**

Effect of the Notification: The Import Policy of items covered under ITC HS Code 71069221 and 71069229 are revised from "**Free**" to "**Restricted**" subject to Policy Condition No. 7 of Chapter 71 of ITC (HS) 2022, Schedule - I (Import Policy) with immediate effect.

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

DGFT

PUBLIC NOTICE

INSERTION OF SION NOTES BELOW THE SIONS M1 TO M8

OUR COMMENTS: The Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry issued Public Notice No. 11/2026-27 dated 14.05.2026 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred under paragraph 1.03 & 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, as amended from time to time, the Director General of Foreign Trade hereby notifies the insertion of the following Notes under Standard Input Output Norms (SIONs) M-1 to M-8 (Gems and Jewellery Product Group), with immediate effect.

Note 1. Advance Authorisation (AA) for import of gold shall be issued, subject to a maximum permissible quantity limit of 100 kilograms.

Note 2. In case of application for Advance Authorisation by a first-time applicant, a mandatory physical inspection of the applicant's manufacturing facility shall be undertaken by the concerned regional authority to verify the existence, capacity and operational status of the manufacturing facility.

Note 3. Any subsequent Advance Authorisation for the import of gold, shall be considered for issuance only upon fulfilment of at least 50% of the export obligation prescribed under the preceding Advance Authorisations for gold, thereby ensuring progressive compliance and monitoring.

Note 4. The Advance Authorisation holder shall submit a fortnightly performance report to the concerned Regional Authority (RA), duly certified by an independent Chartered Accountant certifying gold imports and exports undertaken under the authorisation, to facilitate effective oversight and compliance monitoring.

Note 5. The concerned Regional Authority shall submit a monthly consolidated report to DGFT Headquarters containing details regarding the issuance of Advance Authorisations and corresponding import/export transactions of gold, to enable centralised monitoring and policy oversight.

Effect of this Public Notice: 05(Five) Notes are inserted under SIONs M-1 to M-8 of the Handbook of Procedures, 2023, prescribing conditions for the issuance and monitoring of Advance Authorisations for import of gold

[For further details please refer the Public Notice.]

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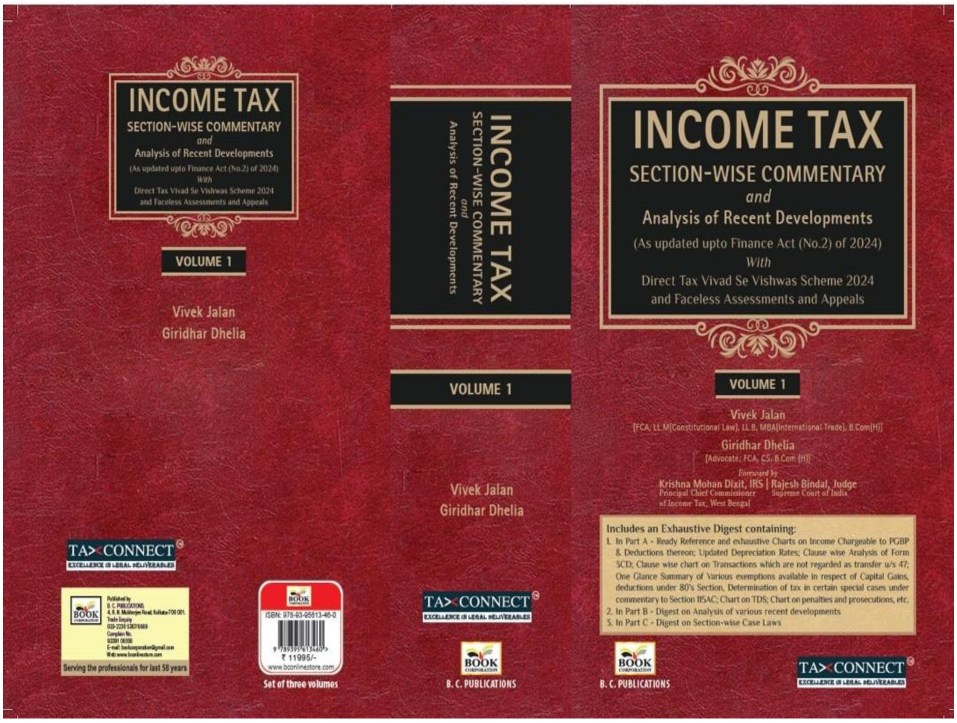

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