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EDITORIAL



Friends,

The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), Delhi, in *Discovery Communication India vs JCIT, Special Range-3, New Delhi (AY 2012-13) [2026-VIL-1558-ITAT-DEL]*, held that AMP expenses, already factored into the operating cost under the Transactional Net Margin Method (TNMM), could not be separately benchmarked as an international transaction.

Background

Discovery Communication India, a subsidiary of Discovery Channel Mauritius, acted as an agent for its Associated Enterprises (AEs) - Discovery Asia LLC (DALLC) and Animal Planet Asia LLC (APLLC). Its activities included marketing and distributing channels, selling commercial airtime, and providing program sourcing services. The company benchmarked its international transactions using TNMM, declaring an OP/OC margin of 13.57% against comparables at 10.77%. AMP expenses of over ₹52 crore were included in operating costs.

Despite TNMM acceptance, the Transfer Pricing Officer (TPO) and Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP) treated AMP expenses as separate international transactions, applying the Cost-Plus Method on a substantive basis and the Bright Line Test (BLT) on a protective basis. This resulted in substantial additions.

Tribunal's Findings

The ITAT held that once AMP expenses are included in the operating cost under TNMM and transactions are found at Arm's Length Price (ALP), separate benchmarking of AMP expenses is impermissible. Citing *Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications India Pvt. Ltd. (Delhi HC, 2015)* and *Magneti Marelli Powertrain India Pvt. Ltd. (Delhi HC, 2016)*, the Tribunal emphasized that TNMM is a holistic method. Segregating one cost element like AMP distorts the analysis and leads to incongruous results. Consequently, the additions made on substantive and protective bases were deleted.

Other Issues

- **Interest on Receivables:** The Tribunal remitted the issue back to the AO/TPO to verify whether working capital adjustments had already been factored in. If so, no separate adjustment was warranted, following *PCIT vs Kusum Health Care Pvt. Ltd. (Delhi HC, 2017)*.
- **Income Mismatch:** The AO had added 24.95 crore citing differences between the assessee's return and Form 26AS. The assessee argued this income pertained to its AEs and was already assessed under the Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP). The Tribunal remitted the matter for verification.

Conclusion

The ruling reinforces the principle that once TNMM is accepted and AMP expenses are part of operating costs; separate benchmarking is unwarranted. It provides clarity for taxpayers facing AMP-related transfer pricing disputes, while also underscoring the importance of proper verification in cases involving receivables and MAP assessments.

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

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TAX CALENDAR

Date	Form/Return/Challan	Reporting Period	Descriptions
7th October	Form No. 121	Sep-26	Upload the declarations received from recipients in Form No. 121 (Income-tax Rules, 2026) during the quarter ending September, 2026
7th October	Form No. 127	Sep-26	Uploading of declarations received in Form No. 127 (Income-tax Rules, 2026) from the buyer in the month of September, 2026
7th October	Deposit of tax deducted/collected	Sep-26	Due date for deposit of tax deducted/collected for the month of September 2026. However, all sum deducted/collected by an office of the government shall be paid to the credit of the Central Government on the same day where tax is paid without production of challan
7th October	Form No. 137	Sep-26	Due date for furnishing Form No. 137 (Income-tax Rules, 2026) by an office of the Government where TDS/TCS for the month of September, 2026 has been paid without the production of a challan.
10 th October	GSTR-7	Sep-26	Monthly return filed by individuals who deduct tax at source or TDS under the Goods and Services Tax (GST)
10 th October	GSTR-8	Sep-26	Monthly return to be filed by e-commerce operators registered under the GST.

INCOME TAX

NOTIFICATION

SEEKS TO AMEND NOTIFICATION NO. 7816 [S.O. 359(E)] DATED 30TH MARCH, 1988 - CONTROL OF NOTIFIED SUBORDINATE OFFICER UNDER INCOME-TAX AUTHORITIES.

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 133/2026 dated 30.09.2026 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by section 238 of the Income-tax Act, 2025, the Central Board of Direct Taxes hereby makes the following further amendments to the Notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, Central Board of Direct Taxes, vide number S.O. 359, dated the 30th March, 1988, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, section 3, sub-section (ii), namely:—

In the said notification, -

i. for clause (ba), the following clause shall be substituted, namely: -

"(ba) Joint Commissioners of Income-tax (Appeals) or Additional Commissioners of Income-tax (Appeals) shall be subordinate to the Principal Chief Commissioners of Income-tax or Chief Commissioners of Income-tax within whose jurisdiction they perform their functions."

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

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 45(4)(B) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 2025 FOR "JAI RESEARCH FOUNDATION, VALSAD, GUJARAT"

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 132/2026 dated 29.09.2026 notified that in pursuance of the section 45(4)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, the Central Government hereby approves the Jai Research Foundation, Valsad, Gujarat (PAN: AAATJ1806H) for Scientific Research under the category of Research Association, for the purposes of section 45(3) (a) (i) of the said Act of 2025 and rules 32 and 33 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

2. This notification shall be applicable to the Jai Research Foundation, Valsad, Gujarat for the tax years 2026-2027 to 2030-2031, subject to the conditions that it shall—

(i) comply with the conditions specified in rule 33 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026;

(ii) prepare statement under section 45(4)(a) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 for each tax year in Form No.15 and deliver or cause to be delivered to the Director General of Income-tax (Systems) or the person authorised by him on or before the 31st May, immediately following the tax year in which the donation is received, in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026:

(iii) furnish to the donor, a certificate in Form No.16 specifying the amount of donation in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.s

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 45(4)(B) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 2025 FOR "SANTHIGIRI ASHRAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM"

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 131/2026 dated 28.09.2026 notified that in pursuance of the section 45(4)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, the Central Government hereby approves the Santhigiri Ashram, Thiruvananthapuram (PAN: AABTS9123P) for Scientific Research under the category of University, college or other institution, for the purposes of section 45(3)(a)(i) of the said Act of 2025 and rules 32 and 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

2. This notification shall be applicable to the Santhigiri Ashram, Thiruvananthapuram (PAN: AABTS9123P), subject to the conditions that:

(A) Santhigiri Ashram, Thiruvananthapuram continues to be approved as Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India during each of the Tax Years for which this notification is effective.

(B) it shall—

(i) comply with the conditions specified in rule 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026;

(ii) prepare statement under section 45(4)(a) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 for each tax year in Form No.15 and deliver or cause to be delivered to the Director General of Income-tax (Systems) or the person authorised by him on or before the 31st May, immediately following the tax year in which the donation is

INCOME TAX

received, in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026:

(iii) furnish to the donor, a certificate in Form No.16 specifying the amount of donation in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

This notification shall be effective for the tax years 2026-2027 to 2030-2031.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 45(4)(B) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 2025 FOR "INSTITUTE FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH, CHENNAI"

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 130/2026 dated 28.09.2026 notified that in pursuance of the section 45(4)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, the Central Government hereby approves Institute for Financial Management and Research, Chennai (PAN: AAATI2605P) for Research in Social Science or Statistical Research as other institution under the category of University, college or other institution, for the purposes of section 45(3)(a)(ii) of the said Act of 2025 and rules 32 and 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

2. This notification shall be applicable to the Institute for Financial Management and Research, Chennai (PAN: AAATI2605P) subject to the conditions that:

(A) Institute for Financial Management and Research, Chennai continues to be approved as Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India during each of the Tax Years for which this notification is effective.

(B) it shall -

(i) comply with the conditions specified in rule 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026;

(ii) prepare statement under section 45(4)(a) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 for each tax year in Form No.15 and deliver or cause to be delivered to the Director General of Income-tax (Systems) or the person authorised by him on or before the 31st May, immediately following the tax year in which the donation is received, in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026:

(iii) furnish to the donor, a certificate in Form No.16 specifying the amount of donation in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

This notification shall be effective for the tax years 2026-2027 to 2030-2031.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 45(4)(B) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 2025 FOR "UPASI TEA RESEARCH FOUNDATION, TAMIL NADU"

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 129/2026 dated 28.09.2026 notified that in pursuance of the section 45(4)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, the Central Government hereby approves UPASI Tea Research Foundation, Tamil Nadu (PAN: AAATU0634L) for Scientific Research as 'Other Institution' under the category of University, college or other institution, for the purposes of section 45(3)(a)(i) of the said Act of 2025 and rules 32 and 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

2. This notification shall be applicable to the UPASI Tea Research Foundation (PAN: AAATU0634L), subject to the conditions that:

(A) UPASI Tea Research Foundation, Tamil Nadu continues to be approved as Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India during each of the Tax Years for which this notification is effective.

(B) it shall —

(i) comply with the conditions specified in rule 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026;

(ii) prepare statement under section 45(4)(a) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 for each tax year in Form No.15 and deliver or cause to be delivered to the Director General of Income-tax (Systems) or the person authorised by him on or before the 31st May, immediately following the tax year in which the donation is received, in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026:

(iii) furnish to the donor, a certificate in Form No.16 specifying the amount of donation in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

This notification shall be effective for the tax years 2026-2027 to 2030-2031.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

INCOME TAX

NOTIFICATION

APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 45(4)(B) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 2025 FOR "SANTHIGIRI ASHRAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM"

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 128/2026 dated 28.09.2026 notified that in pursuance of the section 45(4)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, the Central Government hereby approves the Santhigiri Ashram, Thiruvananthapuram (PAN: AABTS9123P) for Research in Social Science or Statistical Research under the category of University, college or other institution, for the purposes of section 45(3)(a)(ii) of the said Act of 2025 and rules 32 and 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

2. This notification shall be applicable to the Santhigiri Ashram, Thiruvananthapuram (PAN: AABTS9123P), subject to the conditions that:

(A) Santhigiri Ashram, Thiruvananthapuram continues to be approved as Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India during each of the Tax Years for which this notification is effective.

(B) it shall—

(i) comply with the conditions specified in rule 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026;

(ii) prepare statement under section 45(4)(a) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 for each tax year in Form No.15 and deliver or cause to be delivered to the Director General of Income-tax (Systems) or the person authorised by him on or before the 31st May, immediately following the tax year in which the donation is received, in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026:

(iii) furnish to the donor, a certificate in Form No.16 specifying the amount of donation in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

This notification shall be effective for the tax years 2026-2027 to 2030-2031.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 45(4)(B) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 2025 FOR "INDIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH MANAGEMENT RESEARCH, JAIPUR"

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 127/2026 dated 28.09.2026 notified that in pursuance of the section 45(4)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, the Central Government hereby approves the Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur (PAN: AAATI0517J) for Scientific Research under the category of University, college or other institution, for the purposes of section 45(3)(a)(i) of the said Act of 2025 and rules 32 and 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

2. This notification shall be applicable to the Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur (PAN: AAATI0517J) subject to the conditions that:

(A) Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur continues to be approved as Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India during each of the Tax Years for which this notification is effective.

(B) it shall —

(i) comply with the conditions specified in rule 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026;

(ii) prepare statement under section 45(4)(a) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 for each tax year in Form No.15 and deliver or cause to be delivered to the Director General of Income-tax (Systems) or the person authorised by him on or before the 31st May, immediately following the tax year in which the donation is received, in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026:

(iii) furnish to the donor, a certificate in Form No.16 specifying the amount of donation in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

This notification shall be effective for the tax years 2026-2027 to 2030-2031.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 45(4)(B) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 2025 FOR "BHARTIYA SANSKRITI DARSHAN TRUST, PUNE"

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 126/2026 dated 28.09.2026 notified that in pursuance of the section 45(4)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, the Central Government hereby approves the Bhartiya Sanskriti Darshan Trust, Pune

INCOME TAX

(PAN: AAATB1169R) for Scientific Research under the category of University, college or other institution, for the purposes of section 45(3)(a)(i) of the said Act of 2025 and rules 32 and 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

2. This notification shall be applicable to the Bhartiya Sanskriti Darshan Trust, Pune (PAN: AAATB1169R) subject to the conditions that:

(A) Bhartiya Sanskriti Darshan Trust, Pune continues to be approved as Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India during each of the Tax Years for which this notification is effective.

(B) it shall—

(i) comply with the conditions specified in rule 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026;

(ii) prepare statement under section 45(4)(a) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 for each tax year in Form No.15 and deliver or cause to be delivered to the Director General of Income-tax (Systems) or the person authorised by him on or before the 31st May, immediately following the tax year in which the donation is received, in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026;

(iii) furnish to the donor, a certificate in Form No.16 specifying the amount of donation in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

This notification shall be effective for the tax years 2026-2027 to 2030-2031.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 45(4)(B) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 2025 FOR "VOLUNTARY HEALTH SERVICES, CHENNAI"

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 125/2026 dated 28.09.2026 notified that in pursuance of the section 45(4)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, the Central Government hereby approves The Voluntary Health Services, Chennai (PAN: AAAAT0017H) for Scientific Research as 'other institution' under the category of 'University, college or other institution', for the purposes of section 45(3)(a)(i) of the said Act of 2025 and rules 32 and 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

2. This notification shall be applicable to The Voluntary Health Services, (PAN: AAAAT0017H), subject to the conditions that:

(A) The Voluntary Health Services, Chennai continues to be approved as Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India during each of the Tax years for which this notification is effective.

(B) it shall—

(i) comply with the conditions specified in rule 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026;

(ii) prepare statement under section 45(4)(a) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 for each tax year in Form No.15 and deliver or cause to be delivered to the Director General of Income-tax (Systems) or the person authorised by him on or before the 31st May, immediately following the tax year in which the donation is received, in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026;

(iii) furnish to the donor, a certificate in Form No.16 specifying the amount of donation in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

This notification shall be effective for the tax years 2026-2027 to 2030-2031.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 45(4)(B) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 2025 FOR "ZANDU FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH CARE, MUMBAI"

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 124/2026 dated 28.09.2026 notified that in pursuance of the section 45(4)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, the Central Government hereby approves the Zandu Foundation for Health Care, Mumbai, (PAN: AAATZ1289L) for Scientific Research under the category of Research Association, for the purposes of section 45(3)(a)(i) of the said Act of 2025 and rules 32 and 33 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

2. This notification shall be applicable to the Zandu Foundation for Health Care, Mumbai (PAN: AAATZ1289L), subject to the conditions that:

(A) Zandu Foundation for Health Care, Mumbai, continues to be approved as Scientific and Industrial Research Organization

INCOME TAX

(SIRO) by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India during each of the Tax Years for which this notification is effective.

(B) it shall—

(i) comply with the conditions specified in rule 33 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026;

(ii) prepare statement under section 45(4)(a) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 for each tax year in Form No.15 and deliver or cause to be delivered to the Director General of Income-tax (Systems) or the person authorised by him on or before the 31st May, immediately following the tax year in which the donation is received, in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026:

(iii) furnish to the donor, a certificate in Form No.16 specifying the amount of donation in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

This notification shall be effective for the tax years 2026-2027 to 2030-2031.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 45(4)(B) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 2025 FOR "ASHOKA TRUST FOR RESEARCH IN ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT, BENGALURU"

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 123/2026 dated 28.09.2026 notified that in pursuance of the section 45(4)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, the Central Government hereby approves Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru (PAN: AAATA3176D) for Scientific Research as 'other institution' under the category of University, college or other institution, for the purposes of section 45(3)(a)(i) of the said Act of 2025 and rules 32 and 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

2. This notification shall be applicable to the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru (PAN: AAATA3176D) subject to the conditions that:

(a) Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru continues to be approved as Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India during each of the Tax Years for which this notification is effective.

(b) It shall –

(i) Comply with the conditions specified in rule 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026;

(ii) Prepare statement under section 45(4)(a) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 for each tax year in Form No. 15 and deliver or cause to be delivered to the Director General of Income-tax (Systems) or the person authorised by him on or before the 31st May, immediately following the tax year in which the donation is received, in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026;

(iii) Furnish to the donor, a certificate in Form No. 16 specifying the amount of donation in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

This notification shall be effective for the tax years 2026-27 to 2030-31.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 45(4)(B) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 2025 FOR "SCHIZOPHRENIA RESEARCH FOUNDATION (I), CHENNAI"

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 122/2026 dated 28.09.2026 notified that in pursuance of the section 45(4)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, the Central Government hereby approves Schizophrenia Research Foundation (I), Chennai (PAN: AABTS1181R) for Scientific Research as 'other institution' under the category of University, college or other institution, for the purposes of section 45(3)(a)(i) of the said Act of 2025 and rules 32 and 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

2. This notification shall be applicable to the Schizophrenia Research Foundation (I), Chennai (PAN: AABTS1181R), subject to the conditions that:

(A) Schizophrenia Research Foundation (I), Chennai continues to be approved as Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India during each of the Tax Years for which this notification is effective.

(B) it shall—

(i) comply with the conditions specified in rule 34 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026;

INCOME TAX

(ii) prepare statement under section 45(4)(a) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 for each tax year in Form No.15 and deliver or cause to be delivered to the Director General of Income-tax (Systems) or the person authorised by him on or before the 31st May, immediately following the tax year in which the donation is received, in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026:

(iii) furnish to the donor, a certificate in Form No.16 specifying the amount of donation in accordance with rule 31 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

This notification shall be effective for the tax years 2026-2027 to 2030-2031.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

PR. CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX (EXEMPTIONS), DELHI ACCORDS APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 45(3)(B) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 2025 FOR THE "M/S GCS FOUNDATION (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE GUJARAT CANCER SOCIETY, AHMEDABAD)"

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 08/2026 dated 28.09.2026 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by section 45(3)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 read with Rule 35 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026, the Pr. Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (Exemptions), Delhi hereby accords approval to the company M/s GCS Foundation (Formerly known as The Gujarat Cancer Society, Ahmedabad), Nr. Chamunda Bridge, Opp. DRM Office, Ahmedabad City, Civil Hospital SO, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-380016, for 'Scientific Research' for the purpose of the section 45(3)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 read with rule 35 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

2. This Notification shall be applicable for five Tax Years from Tax Year 2026-27 to 2030-31.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

CIRCULAR

EXTENSION OF TIMELINES FOR FILING OF VARIOUS REPORTS OF AUDIT AND INCOME TAX RETURNS (ITRS) FOR THE ASSESSMENT YEAR 2026-27

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 7/2026 dated 28.09.2026 clarified that the Central Board of Direct Taxes

(CBDT), in exercise of its powers under Section 119 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (the Act) read with section 536 of the Income-tax Act, 2025, hereby extends the due date for furnishing Return of Income for the Assessment Year 2026-27 (Previous Year 2025-26) for the persons referred in sl.no.2 of the table below Explanation 2 to sub-section (1) of section 139 of the Act, from 31.10.2026 to 21.11.2026. Consequently, the specified date for furnishing of report of audit for the Assessment Year 2026-27 (Previous Year 2025-26) shall stand extended to 21.10.2026 in terms of clause (ii) of Explanation to section 44AB of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

[For further details please refer the Circular]

GST

ADVISORY

ADVISORY ON “MULTISTATE REGISTRATION” FACILITY FOR GST REGISTRATION

OUR COMMENT: GSTN has issued advisory on the GST portal on 01.10.2026 that:

1. It is informed that an option for “Multistate Registration” has been introduced. The functionality enables taxpayers to apply for registration in multiple States/UTs simultaneously. Taxpayers seeking GST registration in more than one State/UT under the same PAN can use this functionality. Currently, the functionality is available only for Normal Taxpayers.

2.A “Multistate Registration” tab has been introduced in the homepage of the Common Portal, where Taxpayers can select multiple States/UTs for registration. Upon selection of the required States/UTs, a Master TRN is generated.

3.Using the Master TRN, the applicant can provide the Common Registration Information (CRI), comprising details such as Business Details, Promoter/Partner details, authorised signatory, Authorised representative, and Goods and Services. The Master TRN is required to be submitted within 15 days.

4.Once the CRI is submitted, individual TRNs are generated for each selected State/UT. In the respective individual TRN, the common information already provided through the CRI is auto populated and remains editable. Further, the applicant is required to provide the remaining information such as Principal Place of Business (PPoB), Additional Place of Business (APoB), State-specific Information, and Aadhaar authentication.

5.Thus, the applicant is not required to enter the common information separately for each State/UT Registration application. The functionality reduces repetitive data entry and facilitates ease of doing business.

[For further details please refer the Advisory]

ADVISORY

ADVISORY ON USE OF VERSION 3.3 OF EMSIGNER

OUR COMMENT: GSTN has issued advisory on the GST portal on 19.09.2026 that an advance information to the all users – Taxpayers and Tax Officers, of GST System who use Digital Certificate Signature on the GST Portal.

A new version of emSigner (v3.3) is being made available for download for the purpose of providing compatibility with tokens (USB dongles) that are issued on or after 21-September-2026.

A. Users with valid certificates: There is no change for the users having existing valid digital certificates and their existing token (USB Dongle) are working, as of 21-Sep-2026. If your existing DSC works normally, you may continue using your current emSigner version.

If you encounter signing failures or if your certificate does not appear for selection despite correctly installed token drivers, upgrade to the emSigner version 3.3 by following steps given under point-B below. The emSigner version 3.3 is backward compatible to support the existing tokens (USB dongles).

B. Users with newly issued tokens: The users who have been issued a new token (USB Dongle) on or after 21-Sep-2026, either due to issuance of new certificate and dongle, or renewal of certificate in a new dongle, shall have to upgrade to version 3.3 of emSigner by following below steps:

Step-1. Please ensure that your system – desktop / laptop / AIO which on which the DSC is used for the GST System, meets the following minimum system requirements:

1.1 Operating system and hardware

Item	Requirement
Operating system	Windows 10 or 11 (64-bit); Linux (Ubuntu 18 and above); macOS (10.6 and above)
System type	64-bit operating system
Installed RAM	8 GB and above
Storage	64 GB and above

1.2 Java

Item	Requirement
Java runtime	Java 1.8 - OpenJDK or Oracle
Availability	Java must be pre-installed; it is not bundled with the installer

GST

Higher versions	Java 9 and above are not supported
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1.3 Browser

Browser	Supported version
Internet Explorer	10.0 and above
Firefox	6.0 and above
Chrome	16.0 and above
Safari	6.0 and above
Opera	12.1 and above
Microsoft Edge	Since first version

Step-2. Download & install the version 3.3 of emSigner from the GST Portal by navigating to <https://www.gst.gov.in/help/docsigner-the-older-versions-of-emSigner-will-not-work-for-such-new-DSC-dongles-issued-from-21-September-2026-onwards>.

C. Validity and future renewal: Under CCA's advisory, DSCs downloaded onto FIPS 140-2 dongles on or before 21 September 2026 can continue to be used until the DSC expires. That date does not automatically invalidate existing DSCs. Subsequent renewal or fresh issuance generally requires a FIPS 140-3 dongle, subject to CCA's specified exceptions. The CCA migration advisory may be referred for more details on this aspect by navigating to https://cca.gov.in/sites/files/pdf/news/Advisory_on_Migration_from_FIPS_140-2_to_FIPS_140-3.pdf

Please create a ticket on the GST Helpdesk if you need any assistance while upgrading to the emSigner version 3.3 and our teams shall get in touch for resolution.

[For further details please refer the Advisory]

FEMA

CASE LAW

M/S. MIDAS COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD., REP. BY ITS AUTHORISED SIGNATORY SHIRISH PUROHIT, SHIRISH PUROHIT VERSUS THE SPECIAL DIRECTOR, DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT (ADJUDICATION), CHENNAI: MADRAS HIGH COURT

OUR COMMENTS: In the present case, the petitioners challenged the maintainability and legality of the adjudication proceedings under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 ("FEMA"), including the adjudication order dated 17.06.2021 and the consequential demand notice dated 14.06.2022. The principal issue involved in the petitions was whether a writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution was maintainable despite the availability of statutory appellate remedies under FEMA, and whether the impugned proceedings could be sustained where the adjudicating authority had relied upon material obtained from authorised dealers/banks without providing the petitioners an opportunity to confront or challenge such material, coupled with an inordinate and unexplained delay in initiating the proceedings.

The learned counsel appearing for the petitioners submitted that although FEMA provides a self-contained mechanism of appeal, the existence of an alternative statutory remedy does not constitute an absolute bar to the exercise of writ jurisdiction under Article 226, particularly where there is a violation of the principles of natural justice. It was further contended that the proceedings had been initiated after an excessive and unexplained lapse of time and that the adjudicating authority had relied upon information obtained from banks and authorised dealers without furnishing the same to the petitioners or affording them an effective opportunity to dispute its correctness. The petitioners also relied upon the fact that their request for write off had neither been finally accepted nor rejected by the authorised dealers and that the petitioning company had ceased operations and was facing liquidation.

After considering the rival submissions, the Court observed that although FEMA provides a statutory appellate mechanism, the availability of an alternative remedy does not operate as an absolute bar to the exercise of jurisdiction under Article 226 where exceptional circumstances, including violation of principles of natural justice, are established. The Court found that the allegations of breach of natural justice and inordinate delay justified interference in writ jurisdiction and, accordingly, held that the petitions were maintainable notwithstanding the availability of the statutory appeal remedy.

The Court further examined the manner in which the adjudication proceedings had been conducted and found that material obtained from authorised dealers/banks had been relied upon without providing the petitioners an opportunity to confront or challenge such material. The Court emphasised that

information or material collected "behind one's back" cannot ordinarily be relied upon against an affected party without affording such party a reasonable opportunity to question its correctness and accuracy.

The Court also took note of the considerable and unexplained delay in initiating the proceedings. The request for write off made by the petitioners had not been finally accepted or rejected by the authorised dealers, yet the proceedings were initiated after the passage of more than a decade. Having regard to the prolonged delay, the violation of natural justice and the fact that the petitioning company had ceased operations and was facing liquidation, the Court concluded that the adjudication proceedings and the consequential demand could not be sustained.

Accordingly, the Court held that the impugned adjudication order dated 17.06.2021 and the demand notice dated 14.06.2022 were liable to be quashed on account of violation of the principles of natural justice and inordinate delay in initiating and concluding the proceedings.

In conclusion, the Court allowed the writ petition and quashed the adjudication order and consequential demand notice. The connected petitions were accordingly closed with no order as to costs.

[Decided in the favour of Appellant]

CUSTOMS

NOTIFICATION

FIXATION OF TARIFF VALUE OF EDIBLE OILS, BRASS SCRAP, ARECA NUT, GOLD AND SILVER

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issued Notification No. 80/2026-Customs (N.T) dated 30.09.2026 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	1229
2	1511 90 10	RBD Palm Oil	1240
3	1511 90 90	Others – Palm Oil	1235
4	1511 10 00	Crude Palmolein	1248
5	1511 90 20	RBD Palmolein	1251
6	1511 90 90	Others – Palmolein	1250
7	1507 10 00	Crude Soya bean Oil	1280
8	7404 00 22	Brass Scrap (all grades)	8149

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	1339 per 10 grams

		dated 24.10.2025 is availed	
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	1965 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.	1965 per kilogram
4.	71	(i) Gold bars, other than tola bars, bearing manufacturer's 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.	1339 per 10 grams

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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.

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	11574 (i.e., no change)"

2. This notification shall come into force with effect from the 1st day of October, 2026.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

PUBLIC NOTICE

AMENDMENT TO THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE PRESCRIBED UNDER PUBLIC NOTICES NO. 114/2018 AND 106/2026 FOR MOVEMENT OF DOMESTIC/CUSTOMS-CLEARED CARGO AND EXIM CARGO BETWEEN JNPT/PORT TERMINALS AND HINTERLAND ICDS/CFSS

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issued Public Notice No. 117/2026 dated 28.09.2026 notified that:

1. Attention of all Importers, Exporters, Customs Brokers, Shipping Lines/Shipping Agents, Freight Forwarders, Port Terminal Operators, Custodians, Customs Cargo Service Providers (CCSPs), CONCOR, Container Rail Road Services Pvt. Ltd. (DP World Group) M/s Gateway Distriparks Limited (GDL) and members of the trade is invited to Public Notices No. 114/2018 and 106/2026, prescribing the procedure for movement of domestic containers/customs-cleared cargo along with EXIM cargo between the Port Terminals at JNPT and hinterland ICDS/CFSS.

2. Representation have been received regarding extension of the facility/procedure prescribed under the said Public Notices to M/s Gateway Distriparks Limited (GDL) for movement of containers between the Port Terminals and its designated ICD/CFS facilities, subject to maintenance of Customs control and compliance with the conditions prescribed under the

Customs Act, 1962 and the Handling of Cargo in Customs Areas Regulations, 2009 (HCCAR, 2009).

3. The matter has been examined. In order to facilitate smooth movement of containers and provide operational flexibility to the trade, while ensuring adequate Customs control over EXIM cargo and preventing any misuse of the facility, the following amendment is hereby made to Public Notices No. 114/2018 and 106/2026.

3.1 Para (A) 1.1 of Public Notices No. 114/2018 and 106/2026 shall be substituted and read as under:

"1.1 The procedure prescribed under this Public Notice shall be applicable to CONCOR, Container Rail Road Services Pvt. Ltd., M/s DP World Group and M/s Gateway Distriparks Limited (GDL) for movement of domestic containers/customs-cleared cargo along with EXIM cargo between the Port Terminals at JNPT and the ICDS/CFSS operated by them, subject to the conditions prescribed herein and compliance with the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, HCCAR, 2009 and other applicable instructions/orders issued by the competent authority."

3.2 For operations undertaken by M/s Gateway Distriparks Limited (GDL) the following additional safeguards shall apply:

(i) Domestic cargo and EXIM cargo shall be separately identified, accounted for and stacked at the designated ICD/CFS so as to maintain clear segregation and facilitate Customs verification.

(ii) Prior intimation/pre-advice containing details of the containers proposed to be moved shall be furnished to the concerned Customs authorities in the prescribed manner. The train summary/container details shall also be made available for Customs verification.

(iii) The container number and seal particulars shall be verified at the time of receipt/dispatch and any discrepancy in container number or seal shall be immediately brought to the notice of the jurisdictional Customs officer.

(iv) In case of any suspected tampering of seal or discrepancy in the container number/seal, the container shall not be further processed/released without examination and permission of the proper officer. Where required, 100% examination of the affected container/cargo shall be undertaken as directed by Customs.

(v) No re-working/repacking/re-stuffing of the cargo covered under the facility shall be undertaken except with the

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permission of the proper officer and in accordance with the applicable Customs provisions.

(vi) At least 50% of the outbound cargo handled under the facility shall comprise EXIM cargo, with priority being accorded to EXIM cargo, so as to ensure that the facility is primarily utilized for movement of export/import cargo.

(vii) A proper reconciliation of containers/cargo moved under the facility shall be maintained and furnished to the jurisdictional Customs authority on a weekly basis, or as and when called for.

(viii) Customs officers shall be at liberty to conduct random checks/verification of containers, documents, seals and cargo at any stage, including at the Port Terminal, during movement and at the designated ICD/CFS.

(ix) M/s Gateway Distriparks Limited (GDL) shall execute/submit the requisite indemnity bond/undertaking in favour of the Commissioner of Customs, binding itself to comply with the conditions of the facility and to safeguard the revenue against any loss arising from misuse or violation of the prescribed procedure.

(x) The Custodian/CCSP shall remain responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions prescribed under the Customs Act, 1962, HCCAR, 2009 and other applicable laws, regulations, Public Notices, Standing Orders and instructions issued by Customs from time to time.

(xi) Any violation or misuse of the facility shall render the concerned Custodian/CCSP and other persons responsible liable for action under the applicable provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, HCCAR, 2009 and relevant Standing Orders/instructions, without prejudice to any other action that may be taken under law.

3.3 Wherever the expression "CONCOR" occurs in Public Notices No. 114/2018 and 106/2026 in relation to the operation of the facility, the same shall, wherever applicable, be read to include

M/s Gateway Distriparks Limited (GDL) subject to the conditions prescribed in this Public Notice and other applicable Customs instructions.

3.4 All other provisions of Public Notices No. 114/2018 and 106/2026 shall remain unchanged and shall continue to apply mutatis mutandis.

3.5 Any discrepancy in the container number, seal particulars or any other irregularity noticed during transit or on arrival at the designated ICD/CFS or Port Terminal shall be reported immediately to the jurisdictional AC/DC, and the concerned container/cargo shall not be processed further without the permission of the proper officer.

3.6 This amendment shall not dispense with any Customs examination, statutory requirement or other control prescribed under the Customs Act, 1962, HCCAR, 2009 or any other applicable law/instruction. The facility shall remain subject to such checks as may be considered necessary by the proper officer.

4. This Public Notice shall come into force with immediate effect.

5. 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

VERIFICATION OF MANDATORY COMPLIANCE DOCUMENTS FOR IMPORT OF COSMETICS, DRUGS AND MEDICAL DEVICES BEFORE GRANTING OUT-OF-CHARGE IN PGA-FACILITATED BILLS OF ENTRY

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issued Public Notice No. 19/2026 dated 24.09.2026 notified that:

1. Attention is invited to CBIC Circular No. 40/2026-Customs dated 03.09.2026 (copy enclosed) on the above subject.

2. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in alignment with the Government's objective of enhancing the 'Ease of Doing Business' is taking measures to increase the facilitation of Cosmetics, Drugs and Medical Devices. The said products require certain mandatory compliance in terms of licenses, permissions, registration certificates, etc., as per the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder. The CDSCO has provided checklists for the following 7 such categories of products.

3. Before granting Out-of-Charge (OOC), the proper officer shall verify the applicable documents and particulars as prescribed in the relevant CDSCO checklist contained in Annexure-A of CBIC Circular No. 40/2026-Customs dated 03.09.2026.

4. Importers, Customs Brokers and all other stakeholders are advised to take note of the contents of the said circular and

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PUBLIC NOTICE

STREAMLINING MOVEMENT OF ICD-BOUND CONTAINERS SELECTED FOR SCANNING AT JNCH

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issued Public Notice No. 116/2026 dated 24.09.2026 notified that:

1. At present, five container scanners are operational at JNCH for scanning of import containers selected by NCTC, comprising three Mobile Scanners (MB01, MB02 and MB03) located within the port terminals and two Drive Through Scanners (DTCS01 and DTCS02) located outside the terminals.

2. With a view to streamlining the movement of ICD-bound containers selected for scanning, it has been decided that such containers may get scanned at a Mobile Scanner, irrespective of their original allocation to a Drive Through Scanner. No further permission shall be required from the Container Scanning Division, JNCH in this regard. The objective is to ensure that the scanning of such containers is carried out within the premises of the terminal itself thereby minimizing the movement and to avoid situations wherein such containers inadvertently escape scanning.

3. It is noted here that except BMCT Terminal, all other five port terminals are conveniently located near/with a mobile scanner (MB01- JNPCT/JNFT, MB02- APMT and MB03- NSICT/NSIGT) and also well connected from within. These five terminals can avail the facility of the three Mobile Scanners to undertake scanning of ICD-bound containers.

4. In respect of ICD bound containers pertaining to the BMCT terminal, the scanning facility may be availed either through DTCS02 or through the Mobile Scanner located in close proximity to the terminal.

5. It may be noted that a similar arrangement has also been envisaged under Public Notice No. 60/2024 dated 05th July, 2024 for operational facilitation. Considering the limited number of ICD-bound containers selected for scanning, the additional workload can be accommodated within the existing capacity of Mobile scanners.

6. Accordingly, the concerned Port Terminal Operators shall ensure that containers covered under Para 2 above are scanned at Mobile Scanner, and, in the case of BMCT, at either the nearest Mobile Scanner or DTCS02, as specified in Para 4 above, before onward movement from the terminal. Containers reported as "**Clean**" shall be released in accordance with the prescribed Customs procedure. Containers reported as "**Suspicious**" shall be moved to the nominated CFS for 100% examination in accordance with law.

ensure that the mandatory documents are uploaded on e-SANCHIT to facilitate expedited clearance by the Proper Officers granting Out-of-Charge.

5. Difficulties faced, if any, in the implementation of this Public Notice may be brought to the notice of the Additional/Joint Commissioner of Customs, Chennai Air Cargo Commissionerate.

6. This Public Notice is issued in pursuance of CBIC Circular No. 40/2026-Customs dated 03.09.2026 and shall come into effect immediately.

7. This issues with the approval of the Commissioner of Customs, Air Cargo Commissionerate, New Custom House, Chennai.

[For further details please refer the Public Notice]

PUBLIC NOTICE

CUSTOMS – RENEWAL OF PERMISSION GRANTED FOR HANDLING INTERNATIONAL TRANSSHIPMENT OF LCL CONTAINERS FOR M/S. ALL CARGO TERMINALS LTD CFS

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issued Public Notice No. 127/2026 dated 24.09.2026 notified that:

1. Attention of the Steamer Agents, Importers, Exporters and their representatives (Customs Brokers) is invited to this Custom House Public Notice No. 57/2025 dated 23.10.2025 granting permission for handling of International Transshipment of LCL Containers to M/s. All Cargo Terminals Limited, CFS by the Chennai-IV Commissionerate valid up to 10.09.2026.

2. Now, on the request of the Custodian M/s. All Cargo Terminals Limited, the permission granted for handling of International Transshipment of LCL Containers/Shipments and all operations related thereof, is extended for further period of two years (i.e. up to 10.09.2028).

3. M/s. All Cargo Terminals Ltd. shall follow all the prescribed conditions and procedures as laid down under Board Circular No. 14/2007-Customs dated 16.03.2007 and as per the procedure laid down in Public Notice No. 78/2007 dated 06.06.2007 issued by the Commissioner of Customs, Customs House, Chennai and as provided in the Handling of Cargo in Customs Area Regulations, 2009, Customs Act, 1962, and other Public Notices issued in this regard by this Custom House from time to time. In case of any lapse noticed in due course, the permission granted will be withdrawn without any further notice.

[For further details please refer the Public Notice]

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7. All concerned Port Terminal Operators shall maintain appropriate records and forward a consolidated weekly report to csd.jnch@gov.in every Monday. Format of the report is attached.

8. Difficulties, if any, in implementation of this Public Notice may be brought to the notice of the Deputy/Assistant Commissioner of Customs, Container Scanning Division, JNCH.

9. This Public Notice comes into force with immediate effect.

[For further details please refer the Public Notice]

CIRCULAR

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL NOTIFIED ZONE (SNZ) AT SURAT INTERNATIONAL DIATRADER CENTRE (SIDC), 2ND FLOOR, TOWER-B, SURAT DIAMOND BOURSE, KHAJOD, SURAT

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issued Circular No. 44/2026-Customs dated 28.09.2026 clarified that:

1. The Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), through its wholly owned subsidiary Surat International Diatrader Centre (SIDC), a company registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, is operating a Special Notified Zone (SNZ) operated by SIDC at Gujarat Hira Bourse (GHB), Ichhapore, Surat intended to facilitate import of rough diamonds by eligible foreign mining companies for viewing, tendering/auction/sale to Indian diamond manufacturers and traders and re-export of the unsold lots.

The GJEPC has submitted a proposal shifting of the said Special Notified Zone (SNZ) from Gujarat Hira Bourse (GHB), Ichhapore, Surat to their premises situated at 2nd Floor, Tower B, Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB), Dream City, Khajod, Surat. SIDC. The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Commissioner of Customs, Gujarat Zone, Ahmedabad vide letter dated 14.08.2026, on the basis of the proposal furnished by the Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad vide letter dated 13.08.2026.

2. The matter has been examined.

2.1 Vide Notification No. 74/2023-Customs (N.T.) dated 06.10.2023, as amended Village Khajod, Taluka Majura, District Surat is already notified for unloading of imported goods and loading of export goods under Section 7 of the Customs Act, 1962, for the goods namely 'diamonds, precious and semi-precious stones, pearls, jewellery made of gold or any other precious metal, with or without studding, industrial diamonds including powders, both natural and synthetic, and synthetic stones'. Diamond Club, Surat Diamond Bourse, Plot No. 177/P, Dream City, Village Khajod, Taluka Majura, District Surat having

a multi-storeyed building, the upper basement of which building is already notified under Section 8 of the Customs Act, 1962 by the Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad. The shifting of SNZ is now being proposed in the same building at 2nd floor, Tower-B, Surat Diamond Bourse, Dream City, Village-Khajod, Taluka-Majura, District-Surat.

2.2 The premises have been physically inspected and verified by the jurisdictional Customs officers, and the layout plan has been certified by a registered architect of the Surat Municipal Corporation and duly endorsed by the jurisdictional Customs officers.

2.3 It has, therefore, been decided to allow the facility of a Special Notified Zone at M/s Surat International Diatrader Centre (SIDC), 2nd Floor, Tower-B, Surat Diamond Bourse, Dream City, Village-Khajod, Taluka-Majura, District-Surat (hereinafter referred to as SNZ). The SNZ operations shall commence only after written authorisation by the Principal Commissioner or Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad.

2.4 M/s SIDC shall submit the floor plan, proposed facilities, including security related features, for approval under Section 8 of the Customs Act, 1962 and in terms of the requirements to The Principal Commissioner of Customs or Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad. Necessary notification under Section 8 ibid may be issued by The Principal Commissioner of Customs or Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad, for approval of proper place for unloading and loading of the said goods as well as specification of the limits of Custom area.

2.5 M/s SDB Diamond Bourse may be appointed as Custodian/Customs Cargo Service Provider for the SNZ, subject to fulfilment of the requirements under Section 45 read with Section 141(2) of the Customs Act, 1962 and "Handling of Cargo in Customs Area Regulations, 2009" and necessary notification may be issued by the Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad.

3. The list of companies entitled to avail of the facility of consigning rough diamonds to India for the purpose of viewing and sales from the SNZ shall be those as are permitted vide RBI's Circular No. 116 dated 1.4.2014 as amended from time to time.

4. The import of rough diamonds will be permitted through Air cargo mode only. No import through hand carriage or express courier service mode will be permitted.

5. The rough diamonds arriving for viewing / auction/sale will be accompanied by a declaration of value by way of an invoice, packing list, documents of insurance and a Kimberley Process

CUSTOMS

Certificate as provided in Circular no.53/2003-Cus dated 23rd June, 2003.

6. The imported parcels meant for the purpose of viewing/auction/sale will be initially transhipped from Air Cargo Complex at Sahar, Mumbai to Surat Diamond Bourse, Khajod as per extant procedures with due safeguards. On arrival at Surat Diamond Bourse, Khajod, the imported parcels will be examined by Customs in the presence of the representatives of the mining company, M/s SIDC and M/s SDB Diamond Bourse (custodian) for tallying the carat weight with the import invoice, packing list and Kimberley Certificate. Thereafter the parcel will be sealed and transferred to the strong room at the SNZ.

7. The SNZ will be accessible to traders to visit for viewing the rough diamonds and/or auction / sale by bidding/sale by negotiation. The GJEPC/M/s Surat Diamond Bourse shall define the eligibility conditions for such visitors, under intimation to the Customs. All persons permitted to visit the SNZ shall be issued with photo identity cards by M/s SDB Diamond Bourse (custodian) or SIDC. Suitable security arrangements for controlling access and ensuring against any pilferage, damage or unauthorised removal of goods from the Customs area shall be undertaken by M/s SIDC and M/s SDB Diamond Bourse (custodian).

8. The working hours of the SNZ and timings for viewing, auction/sale shall be notified by M/s SIDC and M/s SDB Diamond Bourse (custodian) in consultation and approval of The Principal Commissioner of Customs or the Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad.

9. Any such viewing, auction/sale may result in all imported lots being sold or only some of the lots being sold or all lots remaining unsold. The sales of rough diamonds from the SNZ shall be of a single or multiple lots but no sale of a sub-lot will be allowed. During the viewing/sale process, mixing of lots of the Rough Diamonds will not be permitted.

10. After the completion of viewing, auction/ sale of the rough diamonds at the SNZ, these will be re-packed, lot wise, in the same manner as had been received in the SNZ no later than 60 days from the date of import. The reconstituted parcels shall be sealed in the presence of customs, representatives of the mining company, M/s SIDC and M/s SDB Diamond Bourse (custodian), after tallying the carat weight with the import invoice, packing list and Kimberley Certificate and transferred to the Surat Diamond Bourse, Khajod under customs escort.

11. A successful auction/sale by bidding/sale by negotiation shall lead to a price discovery in respect of a lot or lots. The diamond mining company shall issue a sale invoice in respect

of such lot or lots, as are sold. The sale invoice, so issued by the diamond mining company, shall be the relevant document for the declaration of value under Section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962. Such a lot or lots shall be cleared by the buyer by filing a bill of entry at the Surat Diamond Bourse, Khajod and the sold lot shall not be delivered or removed from the customs area until assessment, payment of applicable duty and grant of Out-of Charge by the proper officer.

12. The goods which are not sold shall be exported under a shipping bill, filed not later than 75 days of the date of import. In view of the anticipated regularity of such transactions of export of the unsold diamonds, no permission for filing shipping bill would have to be obtained. M/s SDB Diamond Bourse (custodian) "on A/C" of the consignor (Mining company) shall file a shipping bill for export of the unsold diamonds at Surat Diamond Bourse, Khajod and transhipped to Air Cargo Complex at Sahar, Mumbai as per extant procedures for shipment out of India. Export of the unsold rough diamonds will be permitted to any destination outside India.

13. The shipping bill may be filed using the Import Export Code number obtained by M/s SDB Diamond Bourse (custodian) and in conformity with the regulations under the FTP and RBI.

14. M/S SIDC and M/s SDB Diamond Bourse (custodian) shall be responsible for the receipt, sales, custody, delivery, re-export and accounting of the rough diamonds imported for viewing and/or sale in such form as prescribed by The Principal Commissioner of Customs or the Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad.

15. The Principal Commissioner of Customs or The Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad shall issue consequential trade notices / standing orders immediately.

16. Within 10 days of operationalisation of this new SNZ at M/s Surat International Diatrade Centre (SIDC), 2nd Floor, Tower-B, Surat Diamond Bourse, Dream city, Village-Khajod, Taluka-Majura, District-Surat, Principal Commissioner of Customs or the Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad shall initiate de-notification process for closure of old SNZ at Gujarat Hira Bourse, Ichhapore, Surat (earlier issued vide Circular No 36/2019-Customs), while ensuring uninterrupted functioning of the SNZ during the transition.

17. Difficulties, if any, in implementation of the procedure may be brought to the notice of the Board.

This issues with approval of the Board.

[For further details please refer the Circular]

DGFT

NOTIFICATION

CONTINUATION OF RODTEP SCHEME TILL DECEMBER 31ST, 2026

OUR COMMENTS: The Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry issued Notification No. 41/2026-27 dated 30.09.2026 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, as amended, read with Paragraph 1.02 of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023, as amended from time to time, the Central Government hereby notifies that the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme shall continue up to 31st December 2026 and shall be available for exports made by Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) units, Advance Authorisation (AA) holders, Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units and Export Oriented Units (EOUs).

2. The existing RoDTEP rates and value caps, as notified in Appendix 4R and Appendix 4RE, as applicable on September 30, 2026, shall continue unchanged during the aforesaid period.

3. The other terms and conditions governing the Scheme shall remain unchanged.

Effect of this Notification: The RoDTEP Scheme is extended and shall apply to eligible exports from DTA, AA, SEZ, and EOU units up to 31st December 2026.

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

EXTENSION OF MINIMUM IMPORT PRICE (MIP) CONDITION ON SULFADIAZINE API COVERED UNDER CHAPTER 29 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. 40/2026-27 dated 30.09.2026 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 extends the Minimum Import (MIP) condition imposed vide Notification No. 41/2025-26 dated 10.10.2025 on Sulfadiazine API covered under Chapter 29 of ITC HS, 2022, Schedule-1 (Import Policy), for a period up to 30.11.2026 with all other terms and conditions of the above said notification remaining the same.

Effect of the Notification: Minimum Import Price (MIP) @ Rs.1774 per Kg on Cost, Insurance, and Freight (CIF) value, imposed on import of Sulfadiazine API covered under Chapter 29 of ITC HS 2022, Schedule-1(import Policy) has been extended for the period up to 30.11.2026.

This is issued with the approval of the Minister of Commerce & Industry.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

EXTENSION OF MINIMUM IMPORT PRICE (MIP) CONDITION OF SPECIFIC ITEMS COVERED UNDER CHAPTER 29 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. 39/2026-27 dated 30.09.2026 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 extends the Minimum Import (MIP) condition imposed vide Notification No. 30/2025-26 dated 18.09.2025 on specific items covered under Chapter 29 of ITC HS, 2022, Schedule - 1 (Import Policy), for a period up to 30.11.2026 with all other terms and conditions of the above said notification remaining the same.

Effect of the Notification: Minimum Import Price (MIP) @ USD \$ 111 per Kg on Cost, Insurance, and Freight (CIF) value, imposed on import of ATS-8 {(4R-Cis)- 1,1-Dimethylethyl-6-cyanomethyl-2,2-dimethyl-1-3- dioxane-4-acetate} under ITC (HS) Codes 29329990, 29339990, 29333990, 29321990, 29349990, 29420090, 29189990, 29159099, 29163990 and 29225090 has been extended for the period up to 30.11.2026.

This is issued with the approval of the Minister of Commerce & Industry.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

AMENDMENT TO NOTIFICATION NO. 65/2025-26 AND 21/2026-27 FOR EXTENSION OF TIMELINES UNDER COMPONENT II OF RESILIENCE & LOGISTICS INTERVENTION FOR EXPORT FACILITATION (RELIEF) INTERVENTION

DGFT

OUR COMMENTS: The Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry issued Notification No. 37/2026-27 dated 30.09.2026 notified that in exercise of powers conferred under Sections 3 and 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, read with paras 1.02 and 2.01 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, as amended from time to time, the Central Government hereby amends Notification No. 65/2025-26 dated 19.03.2026 and 21/2026-27 dated 29.06.2026 relating to the Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF) under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM).

2. The Para 7.2 of the Annexure to Notification No. 65/2025-26 relating to eligibility and validity criteria under component II shall stand extended up to **31st March 2027** for shipments meant for delivery or transshipment under the intervention, to enhance utilization and to facilitate trade resilience.

3. All other provisions of Notification No. 65/2025-26 dated 19.03.2026 (as amended from time to time) shall remain unchanged.

Effect of this Notification: The eligibility timelines under Component II of the EPM RELIEF intervention are extended up to 31st March 2027 to support Indian exporters and mitigate logistics challenges arising out of the continuing West Asia Crisis.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

TRADE NOTICE

REVISED COMPOSITION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON TRADE FINANCE UNDER THE NIRYAT PROTSAHAN SUB-SCHEME OF THE EXPORT PROMOTION MISSION (EPM)

OUR COMMENTS: The Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry issued Trade Notice No. 29/2026-27 dated 01.10.2026 notified that:

1. The Export Promotion Mission (EPM) was launched through Trade Notices issued from time to time under the Niryat Protsahan sub-scheme. A Sub-Committee on Trade Finance has been constituted to oversee and monitor implementation of the trade finance interventions thereunder. The composition of the Sub-Committee was earlier notified vide Trade Notice No.20/2025-26 dated 02.01.2026, No.21/2025-26 dated 02.01.2026, No.25/2025-26 dated 20.02.2026, No.31/2025-26 dated 06.03.2026, and

No.32/2025-26 dated 06.03.2026 for each intervention under the Niryat Protsahan sub-scheme.

2. The composition of the Sub-Committee on Trade Finance has been revised. The revised composition, applicable uniformly across all Niryat Protsahan Trade Finance interventions, is enclosed as Annexure-I to this Trade Notice.

3. All other provisions of the Trade Notices issued under the Niryat Protsahan sub-scheme of the EPM shall remain unchanged.

This Trade Notice is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

[For further details please refer the Trade Notice]

PUBLIC NOTICE

EXTENSION OF TIMELINE FOR SURRENDER OF UNUTILISED TRQ QUANTITY ALLOCATED FOR IMPORT OF 10 LMT OF RAW SUGAR

OUR COMMENTS: The Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry issued Public Notice No. 31/2026-27 dated 30.09.2026 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred under Paragraphs 1.03 and 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023, and in continuation of Public Notice No. 27/2026-2027 dated 20.08.2026 read with Public Notice No. 30/2026-2027 dated 14.09.2026 the Directorate General of Foreign Trade hereby extends the timeline prescribed of the said Public Notice for surrender of the unutilised TRQ quantity allocated for import of Raw Sugar under TRQ.

2. Accordingly, TRQ holders may surrender any unutilised quantity allocated under the said TRQ up to 15th October, 2026, subject to payment of an amount equivalent to 0.5% of the CIF value of the surrendered quantity, as prescribed under the existing modalities.

3. All other terms and conditions of Public Notice No. 27/2026-2027 dated 20.08.2026 shall remain unchanged.

[For further details please refer the Public Notice]

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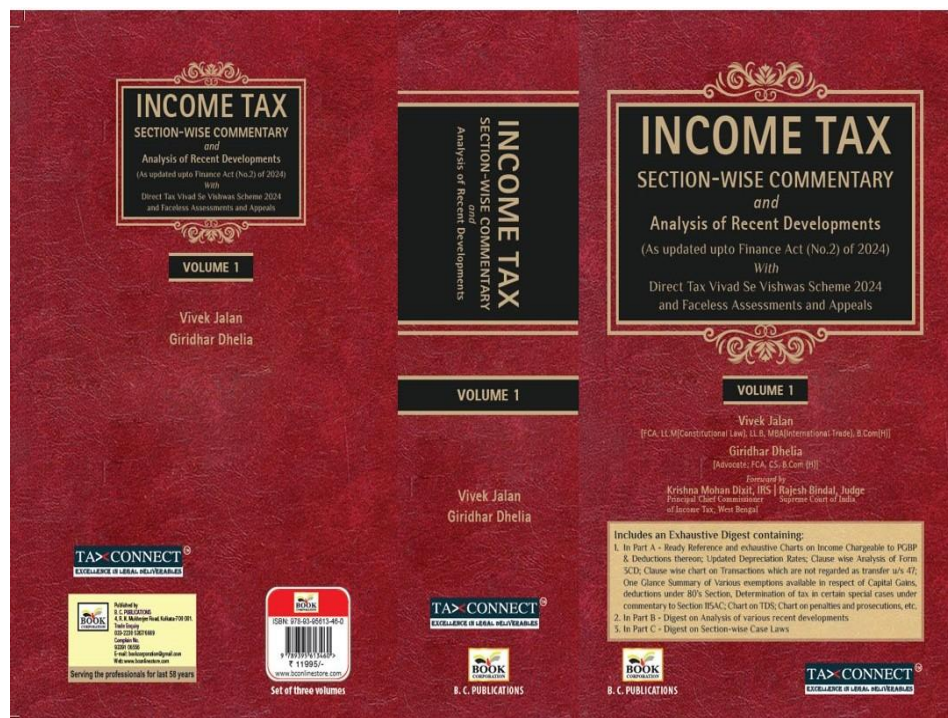
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