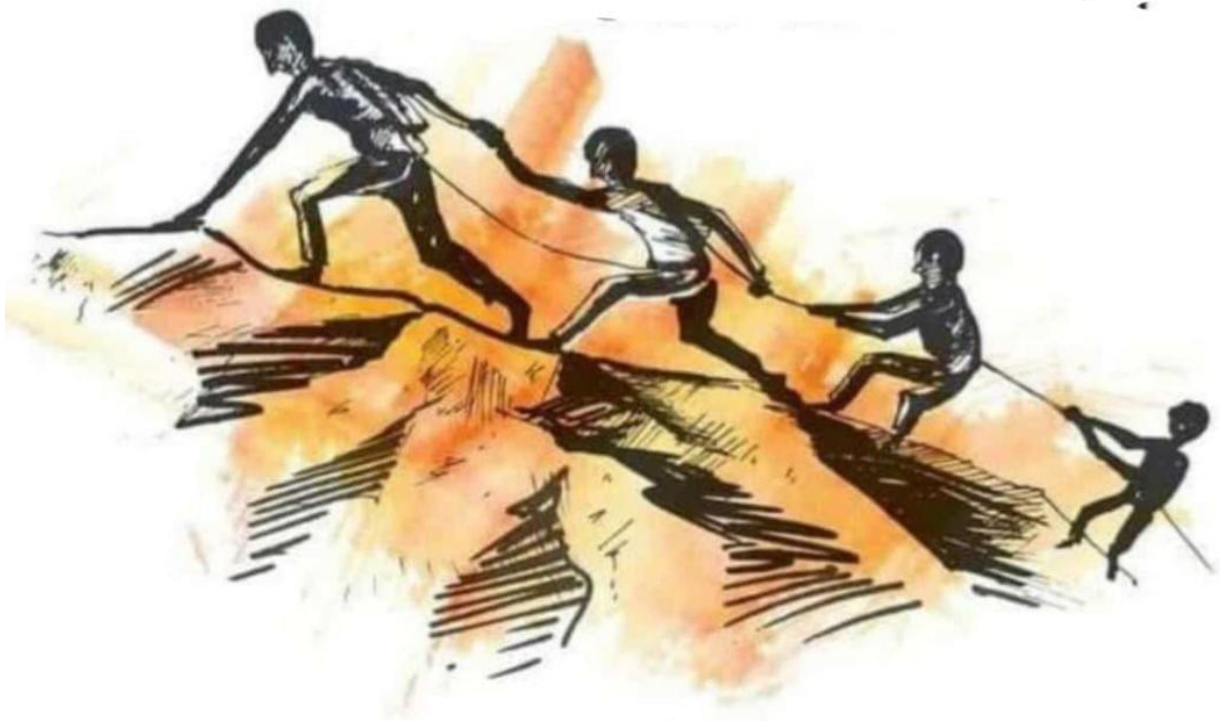




# **CHARTERED SCANNER**

MAGNIFYING LAW & COMPLIANCE

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when we lift others.



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Dear Readers,

Greetings from **DLS & Associates LLP**.

As we step into March, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment—the financial year-end is fast approaching, bringing with it the urgency of final reconciliations, tax planning, regulatory compliance, and strategic decision-making. ***For businesses, professionals, and individuals alike, this is a crucial time to reflect on the past year's financial performance, optimize tax strategies, and set a strong foundation for the year ahead.*** Whether it's closing books, preparing reports, or reassessing goals, every decision made now will shape the future.

However, March is more than just a month of financial assessments and deadlines. With festivals like Holi, we are reminded of the vibrancy of life, the importance of togetherness, and the beauty of new beginnings.

At the same time, March also brings International Women's Day, a moment to celebrate the strength, resilience, and achievements of women across all walks of life. Their contributions shape our businesses, communities, and futures. Let's continue to support and uplift each other, fostering an environment where talent and potential thrive. As we navigate this period, let's embrace both the challenges and opportunities that come our way. Let's plan wisely, act decisively, and step into the new financial year with confidence and clarity.

Happy Holi & Happy Women's Day!

Happy Reading!

*Sumit Dhadda*

With Regards  
Sumit Dhadda  
Managing Partner

# **Amendments to Rule 2F for Infrastructure Debt Funds Under Income-Tax Rules, 1962**

**Notification No. 13/2025-Income Tax**

**Dated : February 7, 2025**

The Ministry of Finance, through the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), has issued Notification No. 13/2025 on February 7, 2025, introducing significant amendments to the Income-tax Rules, 1962. This notification specifically revises Rule 2F, which governs the Infrastructure Debt Fund (IDF). The amendments align IDF regulations with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) guidelines and international investment standards. These changes are expected to enhance the attractiveness of IDFs for both domestic and foreign investors while ensuring robust financial management.

## **Key Changes Introduced in Rule 2F1.**

### **1. IDF to Function as an NBFC**

- The amended rule mandates that an Infrastructure Debt Fund must operate as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- The IDF must adhere to the regulatory framework set by the RBI, ensuring better financial oversight and risk management.

### **2. Investment Restrictions for IDFs**

IDFs are now permitted to invest only in:

- Infrastructure projects that have completed at least one year of satisfactory commercial operations post-commencement.
- Toll-Operate-Transfer (TOT) projects as direct lenders.

This ensures that funds are deployed in stable and operational infrastructure assets, reducing investment risks.

### **3. Fundraising Mechanisms for IDFs**

IDFs can raise funds through:

- Issuance of rupee-denominated or foreign currency bonds as per RBI's directions.

- Issuance of zero-coupon bonds in compliance with Rule 8B.
- External commercial borrowings (ECBs), providing more flexibility for fund mobilization.

#### **4. Conditions for Bonds and ECBs**

- Bonds issued under IDFs must comply with RBI regulations and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) guidelines.
- ECBs must have a minimum tenure of five years and cannot be sourced from foreign branches of Indian banks.

#### **5. Restrictions on Investments in Related Entities**

- IDFs are prohibited from investing in projects where their specified shareholder, associated enterprise, or a group of such shareholders holds a substantial interest.
- The definition of "specified shareholder" has been revised to include any NBFC, bank, or individual holding at least 30% voting power in the IDF.

#### **Implications for Stakeholders**

##### **For IDFs:**

- The shift towards a stricter regulatory framework under the RBI ensures greater credibility and operational efficiency.
- The revised investment criteria will help IDFs mitigate risks and enhance returns for investors.

##### **For Investors:**

- The amendments bring clarity and stability to IDF investments, making them more attractive to both domestic and international stakeholders.
- The introduction of regulated fundraising methods, including ECBs, expands investment opportunities.

##### **For Regulatory Authorities:**

- These amendments enhance financial transparency and bring IDF operations in line with global infrastructure investment standards.
- The clear definition of shareholder control ensures greater accountability and prevents conflicts of interest.

**Conclusion**

The amendments introduced under the Income-tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 2025, mark a crucial step toward strengthening infrastructure financing in India. By ensuring IDFs function under a robust regulatory framework and defining strict investment guidelines, the government aims to foster a stable and efficient infrastructure financing ecosystem.

[Click here for original Notification](#)

# **Tax Exemption for Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Punjab**

**Notification No. 16/2025**

**Dated : 12.02.2025**

The Central Government issued Notification No. 16/2025 on 12th February 2025, granting tax exemption to RERA Punjab under section 10(46A) of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

## **Key Highlights:**

- Exemption Status: RERA Punjab is now tax-exempt under section 10(46A).
- Effective Date: Applicable from assessment year 2024-25.
- Condition: Exemption continues as long as RERA Punjab operates under RERA Act, 2016 for specified purposes.

## **Impact:**

This notification brings significant benefits for RERA Punjab, ensuring that its income remains exempt from taxation, allowing the authority to focus on its core functions of regulating and promoting real estate development in the state. The exemption strengthens the financial sustainability of the authority, reinforcing its role in ensuring transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the real estate sector.

This move aligns with the government's commitment to effective real estate regulation and strengthening the institutional framework in the sector. Stakeholders should stay updated on further notifications and compliance requirements associated with this exemption.

[Click here for original Notification](#)



# **Amendments to Rules 12CA & 12CC and** **Updates to Forms 10IH & 64 Series**

**Notification No. 17/2025**

**Dated : February 24, 2025**

On February 24, 2025, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) issued Notification No. 17/2025, introducing significant amendments to the Income-tax Rules, 1962. This notification primarily focuses on revising compliance requirements for business trusts and securitization trusts, aiming to enhance transparency and streamline reporting processes.

## **Key Amendments Introduced:**

### **1. Revisions to Rules 12CA and 12CC:**

- **Rule 12CA:** Modifications have been made to the filing procedures and documentation requirements for business trusts, ensuring more comprehensive disclosure of financial activities.
- **Rule 12CC:** Adjustments pertain to the reporting standards for securitization trusts, aiming to align them with current financial practices and regulatory expectations.

### **2. Updates to Forms 10IH and 64 Series:**

- **Form 10IH:** This form, related to specific reporting by business trusts, has been updated to capture detailed financial information, promoting greater accuracy in tax assessments.
- **Forms 64A to 64F:** These forms, associated with various declarations and statements by trusts, have undergone revisions to simplify submission processes and ensure consistency in information reporting.

## **Implications for Stakeholders:**

- *Business and Securitization Trusts:* Entities falling under these categories must familiarize themselves with the revised rules and forms to ensure compliance.

*The changes necessitate a thorough review of current reporting practices and may require updates to internal systems and processes.*

- Tax Professionals and Accountants: Professionals assisting these trusts should update their knowledge base to provide accurate guidance, ensuring that all submissions align with the new requirements.*

**Compliance Timeline:**

The notification specifies that the revised rules and forms are effective immediately from the date of issuance, i.e., February 24, 2025. Trusts are advised to implement necessary changes promptly to adhere to the updated compliance framework.

**Recommendations:**

- Review and Update Processes:** Trusts should conduct a comprehensive review of their reporting procedures and make necessary adjustments to align with the new rules.
- Seek Professional Guidance:** Engaging with tax professionals can provide clarity on the amendments and assist in seamless integration of the new requirements into existing practices.

[Click here for original Notification](#)



# **CBDT Extends Due Date for Filing Form No. 56F Under Income-Tax Act, 1961**

**Circular No. 02/2025**

**Dated : February 18, 2025**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued Circular No. 2/2025, dated February 18, 2025, extending the due date for filing Form No. 56F under the Income-tax Act, 1961. This extension is granted to alleviate the difficulties faced by taxpayers and stakeholders in complying with the timely submission of the accountant's report under Section 10AA(8) read with Section 10A(5) of the Act.

## **Key Highlights of the Circular:**

- 1. Reason for Extension:** The decision follows concerns raised by taxpayers regarding challenges in filing the required accountant's report.
- 2. Legal Basis:** The extension is granted under Section 119(2)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, which empowers CBDT to provide relief in cases of genuine hardship.
- 3. Revised Due Date:** The due date for filing Form No. 56F for Assessment Year 2024-25 has been extended from the date specified under Section 44AB of the Act to March 31, 2025.

## **Implications for Taxpayers:**

- Taxpayers eligible for deductions under Section 10AA (Special Economic Zones) and Section 10A (Export-oriented Units) now have additional time to comply with the statutory filing requirements.
- Ensures businesses and accountants can complete the necessary documentation without undue pressure.
- Helps mitigate non-compliance risks and potential penalties associated with delayed filing.

**Actionable Steps:**

- Businesses and professionals should take note of the revised deadline and plan accordingly.
- Tax consultants and chartered accountants must ensure timely filing to avoid last-minute issues.

The CBDT's proactive step in extending the deadline reflects its commitment to easing compliance challenges for taxpayers. For further details, stakeholders are advised to refer to the official notification issued by the CBDT.

[Click here for original Circular](#)

## **Clarification on TDS Deduction and Revised Tax Slabs for Salaried Individuals**

**Circular No. 03/2025**

**Dated : February 20, 2025**

On February 20, 2025, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) issued Circular No. 3/2025, providing updated guidelines for income tax deduction from salaries under Section 192 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, for the financial year 2024-25.

### **Key Highlights of Circular No. 3/2025:**

#### **1. Revised Tax Slabs and Rates:**

- The circular outlines the new income tax slabs and rates applicable to salaried individuals for the assessment year 2025-26.
- Notably, the tax-free income threshold has been increased to ₹12 lakh, with reduced rates for higher income brackets.

#### **2. Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) Adjustments:**

- Employers are required to adjust the TDS calculations to reflect the revised tax rates.

- The circular provides detailed instructions on recalculating TDS for the remaining months of the financial year to ensure compliance.

### **3. Impact on Salary Structures:**

- The changes may necessitate modifications in salary structures, including adjustments to taxable allowances and exemptions.
- Employers are advised to review and, if necessary, revise their payroll systems to accommodate these changes.

### **4. Compliance Deadlines:**

- The circular specifies the deadlines for implementing the revised TDS rates and submitting the updated TDS returns.
- Employers must ensure timely compliance to avoid penalties.

### **Implications for Taxpayers:**

- Increased Disposable Income: The reduction in tax rates is expected to enhance disposable income for salaried individuals, potentially boosting consumption and savings.
- Tax Planning Opportunities: With the revised tax structure, taxpayers may need to reassess their tax planning strategies to optimize benefits under the new regime.

### **Recommendations for Employers and Taxpayers:**

- Review Payroll Systems: Employers should update their payroll systems to incorporate the new tax rates and ensure accurate TDS calculations.
- Consult Tax Professionals: Taxpayers are encouraged to consult with tax professionals to understand the full impact of the changes on their tax liabilities and to explore potential tax-saving opportunities.

[Click here for original Notification](#)

# **Government of India Issues Notification No. 04/2025–Customs: Key Updates on Import Duty Exemptions and Modifications**

**Notification No. 04/2025–Customs**

**Dated: February 01, 2025**

The Government of India, through Notification No. 04/2025–Customs dated 1st March 2025, has introduced crucial amendments to customs duty rates on various imported goods. Issued under the powers conferred by Section 25(1) of the Customs Act, 1962, the notification seeks to revise duties in the public interest, ensuring a strategic balance between domestic industry protection and trade facilitation. These changes take effect from 2nd March 2025.

## **Summary of Key Changes**

The notification outlines revised customs duty rates for multiple goods classified under specific headings and sub-headings of the First Schedule of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. The modifications primarily impact industrial raw materials, essential commodities, and finished goods. Below are the major highlights:

## **Increased Import Duties**

A 20% import duty has been imposed on several categories of goods, including:

- Marble slabs (Heading 6802)
- Footwear (Heading 6401–6405)
- PVC flex films, including PVC flex banners and sheets (Heading 3920, 3921)
- Smart electricity meters (Heading 9028)
- Bicycles (Heading 8712)
- Household and office furniture (Heading 9401, 9403, 9404, 9405)
- Parts of electronic toys (Heading 9503)

Additionally, a steep increase to 70% has been enforced on:

- Passenger motor vehicles (Heading 8703)
- Motorcycles (Heading 8711)
- Dutiable articles imported by passengers or crew (Heading 9803)
- Personal use dutiable goods (Heading 9804)

### **Reduced Import Duties and Exemptions**

On the other hand, the notification provides full exemption (Nil duty) for various categories of metal waste and scrap, including:

- Tin, tungsten, molybdenum, tantalum, cobalt, bismuth, zirconium, antimony, beryllium, rhenium, and cadmium waste and scrap (Headings 8002, 8101–8112)
- Certain categories of copper waste and scrap (Heading 7404)

### **Impact on Trade and Industry**

The revised duty structure is expected to have far-reaching implications across multiple sectors:

- **Automobile Industry:** Higher import duties on passenger and commercial vehicles (Headings 8702–8704) aim to boost domestic automobile manufacturing.
- **Construction and Infrastructure:** The increase in duties on marble slabs (Heading 6802) is expected to encourage the use of domestically sourced materials.
- **Consumer Goods:** With increased duties on furniture, electronic toys, and personal-use items, domestic manufacturing in these segments is likely to get a significant push.
- **Metal Industry:** The exemptions on waste and scrap imports support the recycling industry and ensure cost-effective raw material availability for domestic manufacturers.

Notification No. 04/2025–Customs represents a strategic move towards self-reliance while balancing trade considerations. Importers and businesses dealing in the affected categories must reassess their sourcing strategies and compliance measures in light of these duty modifications. The government’s emphasis on domestic manufacturing and recycling industries is evident, and stakeholders should take proactive steps to align with these regulatory changes.

[Click here for original Notification](#)

## **Government Notifies Amendments to Customs Duty Exemptions for Lithium-Ion Cell Manufacturing Equipment**

**Notification No. 11/2025–Customs**

**Dated: February 01, 2025**

**Introduction:** On February 1, 2025, the Ministry of Finance issued Notification No. 11/2025–Customs, introducing significant amendments to the long-standing Notification No. 25/2002-Customs. This amendment revises the customs duty exemptions for specific machinery and equipment used in the production of lithium-ion cells, particularly for mobile handset batteries and electric vehicle (EV) batteries.

**Key Amendments** The notification replaces and expands Serial No. 69 in the original 2002 notification, introducing new categories of exempted machinery. The amendments aim to support domestic manufacturing in the lithium-ion cell industry by exempting key production equipment from customs duties.

The revised exemption list includes:

- **Machinery for Mobile Handset Battery Manufacturing:** Covers various production equipment such as powder dryers, automatic feeding and blending systems, high vacuum pumps, electrode cutting and slitting machines, electrolyte filling machines, and formation machines.
- **Machinery for EV Battery Manufacturing:** Includes a comprehensive range of machines such as electrode slitting, coating, compression, degassing, electrolyte injection, welding, and helium testing machines.
- **Environmental & Safety Equipment:** The amendment also includes items such as solvent recovery systems, effluent treatment systems, water sprinklers, and dust collectors, emphasizing sustainability in battery production.

### **Implications for Industry**

**1. Boost to Domestic Manufacturing:** By exempting customs duties on critical machinery, the notification aligns with India's 'Make in India' initiative, encouraging local production of lithium-ion batteries and reducing dependence on imports.

**2. Support for EV Growth:** The exemption benefits electric vehicle battery manufacturers, facilitating cost reductions in battery production and contributing to India's e-mobility goals.

**3. Encouragement for Technology Upgradation :** The inclusion of advanced machinery such as laser welding, ultrasonic cleaning, and automated testing equipment will enhance the quality and efficiency of domestic lithium-ion cell production.

By providing duty exemptions on a wide range of production equipment, the government aims to enhance domestic capabilities, promote self-reliance, and accelerate the transition to clean energy solutions.

[Click here for original Notification](#)



## **Government of India Amends Customs Duty on Alcoholic Beverages**

**Notification No. 14/2025 – Customs**

**Dated: February 13, 2025**

On 13th March 2025, the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) issued Notification No. 14/2025 – Customs, bringing significant amendments to Notification No. 11/2021 – Customs, dated 1st February 2021. These amendments, made under Section 25(1) of the Customs Act, 1962, in conjunction with Section 124 of the Finance Act, 2021, revise the import duty structure on certain alcoholic beverages.

### **Key Amendments**

The notification introduces the following revisions to customs duties:

#### **1. Modification of Sl. No. 9**

The previous entry under Sl. No. 9 has been replaced with the following:

Sl. No.	Tariff Headings	Description	Applicable Customs Duty
9	2204, 2205, 2206, 2208 (excluding 2208 30 11 and 2208 30 91)	All goods (except bourbon whiskey)	100%

#### **2. Introduction of New Sl. No. 9C**

A new entry has been added to specifically address bourbon whiskey:

Sl. No.	Tariff Headings	Description	Applicable Customs Duty
9c	2208 30 11, 2208 30 91	Bourbon whiskey	50%

## **Implications of the Amendments**

- **Increase in Tariffs on Most Alcoholic Beverages:** The customs duty on all alcoholic goods (except bourbon whiskey) remains at 100%, reinforcing the government's policy to regulate liquor imports and promote domestic production.
- **Reduced Duty on Bourbon Whiskey:** Bourbon whiskey now benefits from a reduced customs duty rate of 50%, likely to encourage greater imports and availability in the Indian market.
- **Trade and Industry Impact:** This amendment is expected to benefit importers, distributors, and consumers of bourbon whiskey, making it more competitively priced compared to other imported spirits.
- **Policy and Revenue Considerations:** The revision aligns with India's evolving trade agreements and international commitments, potentially fostering stronger economic ties with bourbon-exporting nations.

## **Effective Date**

The amendments come into immediate effect from 13th March 2025, as per the official notification.

Thus, Notification No. 14/2025 – Customs marks a strategic shift in India's tariff structure on alcoholic beverages, particularly favoring bourbon whiskey imports. Industry stakeholders, including importers, distributors, and consumers, should assess these changes and adjust their strategies accordingly.

[Click here for original Notification](#)

## **Government Notifies Implementation Dates for Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2024**

**Notification No. 09/2025**

**Dated: February 11, 2025**

The Ministry of Finance, through the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), has issued Notification No. 09/2025–Central Tax on February 11, 2025, marking the phased implementation of the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2024. This notification, issued under Section 164 of the CGST Act, 2017, specifies the commencement dates for various provisions of the amended rules.

### **Key Implementation Dates and Rules**

As per the notification, the following rules will come into effect on their designated dates:

S. No	Rules Covered	Effective Date
1	Rules 2, 24, 27, and 32	February 11, 2025
2	Rules 8, 37, and clause (ii) of Rule 38	April 1, 2025

### **Implications for Taxpayers and Businesses**

The phased introduction of these amendments is expected to streamline GST compliance and enhance the efficiency of tax administration. Businesses and tax professionals should take note of the upcoming changes and ensure compliance with the new provisions.

### **Official Notification Reference**

The amendments are issued under Notification No. 12/2024-Central Tax, which was earlier published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide G.S.R. 376(E) on July 10, 2024. Taxpayers and industry stakeholders are advised to review the amendments in detail and implement necessary procedural changes in accordance with the specified timelines.

[Click here for original Notification](#)

## **GST Clarifications from the 55th Council Meeting – Impact on Various Goods**

**Circular No. 247/04/2025-GST**

**Dated: February 14, 2025**

The GST Council, in its 55th meeting held on December 21, 2024, at Jaisalmer, recommended various clarifications regarding the classification and applicable tax rates on multiple goods. These recommendations have been formalized through Circular No. 247/04/2025-GST issued on February 14, 2025, by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). Below are the key clarifications:

### **1. GST Classification and Rate for Pepper (Genus Piper)**

The Council has clarified that pepper, whether green (fresh), white, or black, falls under HS Code 0904 and attracts a 5% GST under S. No. 38 of Schedule I of Notification No. 1/2017-Central Tax (Rate). Furthermore, agriculturists supplying dried pepper from their plantations are exempt from GST under Section 23(1)(b) of the CGST Act.

### **2. GST Exemption on Raisins Supplied by Agriculturists**

The Council confirmed that raisins supplied directly by agriculturists are exempt from GST. This decision aligns with the exemption provided to agriculturists under Section 23(1) of the CGST Act.

### **3. GST Rate on Ready-to-Eat Popcorn**

The Council provided clarity on the GST rate applicable to ready-to-eat popcorn:

- If mixed with salt and spices, it falls under HS Code 2106 90 99:
  - 5% GST for non-packaged and non-labelled products (S. No. 101A of Schedule I).
  - 12% GST for pre-packaged and labelled products (S. No. 46 of Schedule II), as it is categorized under 'namkeens.'

- If mixed with sugar, altering its character to sugar confectionery (e.g., caramel popcorn), it falls under HS Code 1704 90 90 and attracts an 18% GST (S. No. 12 of Schedule III).
- To address past uncertainties, the Council has regularized past transactions up to February 14, 2025, on an 'as is where is' basis.

#### **4. GST Classification of Fly Ash-Based AAC Blocks**

Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (AAC) blocks with at least 50% fly ash content have been classified under HS Code 6815, attracting a 12% GST rate under S. No. 176B of Schedule II. In contrast, cement-based concrete articles (HS 6810) remain subject to an 18% GST rate.

#### **5. Effective Date of Amended Entry on Ground Clearance**

Clarifications were sought on the effective date of the amendment to Entry 52B of Notification No. 1/2017-Compensation Cess (Rate). The Council has provided guidance on its implementation to ensure uniform compliance across jurisdictions.

These clarifications aim to provide uniformity in GST implementation and reduce ambiguities. Businesses and stakeholders are advised to review these changes to ensure compliance with the latest GST regulations.

[Click here for original Circular](#)

## **SEBI Introduces MITRA: A Platform to Trace Inactive and Unclaimed Mutual Fund Folios**

**SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-SEC-3/P/CIR/2025/15**

**Dated: February 12, 2025**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken a significant step towards investor protection and transparency in the mutual fund industry with the introduction of MITRA (Mutual Fund Investment Tracing and Retrieval Assistant). This industry-wide service platform is designed to assist investors in identifying and reclaiming their inactive or unclaimed mutual fund folios.

### **Addressing Investor Concerns**

Over the years, many mutual fund investors have lost track of their investments, especially those made in physical form with minimal KYC details. Open-ended mutual fund schemes with growth options can remain invested indefinitely unless the investor or their legal heirs take action. In some cases, these folios do not appear in the investor's Consolidated Account Statement due to the absence of PAN, email ID, or a valid address. This has made them vulnerable to fraudulent redemptions.

### **Key Features and Benefits of MITRA**

The MITRA platform, developed by Registrar and Transfer Agents (RTAs), offers a centralized and searchable database of inactive and unclaimed mutual fund folios. The platform aims to:

- 1. Enable Investors to Identify Forgotten Investments:** Investors can search for overlooked investments or those made by another person for which they may have legal claims.
- 2. Encourage KYC Compliance:** By facilitating KYC updates, MITRA helps reduce the number of non-KYC-compliant folios.
- 3. Reduce Unclaimed Folios:** The platform is expected to significantly decrease the number of unclaimed mutual fund folios.

- 1. Enhance Transparency in Financial Investments:** MITRA contributes to a transparent ecosystem where investors can easily access information about their inactive investments.
- 2. Mitigate Fraud Risk:** By maintaining a secure and verified database, the platform will incorporate fraud risk mitigation measures.

### **Defining an Inactive Folio**

A mutual fund folio is classified as inactive if, no investor-initiated financial or non-financial transactions have occurred in the last 10 years, but a unit balance remains available. Investors who are aware of their investments and choose to remain invested will face no consequences due to their folios appearing on the MITRA platform.

### **Platform Implementation and Security**

MITRA will be jointly hosted by two Qualified RTAs (QRTAs)—Computer Age Management Services Limited (CAMS) and KFIN Technologies Limited. The platform will be accessible through a link on the websites of MF Central, Asset Management Companies (AMCs), the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), the QRTAs, and SEBI.

To ensure security and resilience, the platform will adhere to SEBI's cyber security framework as per the Master Circular on Mutual Funds dated June 27, 2024. The QRTAs will be responsible for compliance with cyber security regulations, system audits, and business continuity plans to prevent service disruptions.

[Click here for original Circular](#)



# **SEBI Introduces Industry Standards for Regulation 30 Compliance**

**No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2025/25**

**Dated: February 25, 2025**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued Circular SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2025/25, dated February 25, 2025, addressing all listed entities, recognized stock exchanges, and key industry associations such as ASSOCHAM, FICCI, and CII. This circular aims to streamline compliance with Regulation 30 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (LODR Regulations) through a standardized industry framework.

## **Key Highlights:**

### **1. Industry Standards Forum (ISF) Initiative:**

- SEBI, in collaboration with the Industry Standards Forum (ISF)—comprising ASSOCHAM, CII, and FICCI under the aegis of stock exchanges—has formulated industry standards for effective disclosure of material events or information under Regulation 30 of the LODR Regulations.
- These industry associations and stock exchanges will publish the industry standards note on their respective websites for public access.

### **2. Mandatory Compliance for Listed Entities:**

- All listed entities must adhere to the prescribed industry standards to ensure transparent and efficient disclosures as per Regulation 30.
- This initiative aims to enhance corporate governance practices and facilitate ease of doing business.

### **3. Stock Exchanges' Role:**

- Stock exchanges are required to circulate this circular to all listed entities and ensure strict compliance with the new framework.

### **4. Legal Framework & Implementation:**

- This circular has been issued under Section 11(1) and 11A of the SEBI Act, 1992, read with Regulation 101 of the LODR Regulations.

**Impact on Businesses and Compliance Framework:**

- **Enhanced Clarity:** The uniform industry standards will help eliminate ambiguities in compliance requirements, making it easier for businesses to align with disclosure norms.
- **Regulatory Certainty:** Listed entities will have greater clarity on what constitutes a material event or information, thereby reducing compliance risks.
- **Better Stakeholder Communication:** Investors, regulators, and stakeholders will benefit from standardized and timely disclosures, leading to improved market transparency.

**Way Forward:**

Listed entities should proactively:

- Review the industry standards document once published on the stock exchanges' and industry associations' websites.
- Implement necessary internal controls to align with the new disclosure framework.
- Seek professional guidance to ensure comprehensive compliance with Regulation 30.

With this move, SEBI continues to reinforce its commitment to enhancing disclosure standards and strengthening investor confidence in the Indian securities market. Listed entities must stay vigilant and update their compliance mechanisms to align with these regulatory changes.

[Click here for original Circular](#)

## **SEBI Issues New Industry Standards for Related Party Transactions (RPTs) Compliance**

**SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2025/18**

**Dated: February 14, 2025**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has released Circular SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2025/18, dated February 14, 2025, addressing all listed entities, recognized stock exchanges, and key industry associations such as ASSOCHAM, FICCI, and CII. This circular provides updated industry standards for the minimum information required for audit committee and shareholder review of related party transactions (RPTs), ensuring a uniform approach to compliance under Regulation 23(2), (3), and (4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (LODR Regulations).

### **Key Highlights:**

#### **1. Industry Standards for RPT Disclosures :**

- The Industry Standards Forum (ISF)—comprising ASSOCHAM, CII, and FICCI under the aegis of stock exchanges—has formulated new industry standards for the minimum information required to be disclosed in RPT approvals.
- These industry standards will be published on the websites of the stock exchanges and the participating industry associations.

#### **2. Mandatory Compliance for Listed Entities:**

- All listed entities must adhere to the newly established industry standards to ensure compliance with Part A and Part B of Section III-B of SEBI's Master Circular (dated November 11, 2024).
- This move enhances transparency and accountability in RPT disclosures.

#### **3. Modification of Section III-B of SEBI's Master Circular:**

- Paragraph 4 under Part A of Section III-B now requires listed entities to provide the audit committee with the minimum information as specified in the industry standards while seeking approval for an RPT.

- Paragraph 6 under Part B of Section III-B mandates that notices sent to shareholders for RPT approvals must include the prescribed industry standards information in the explanatory statement.

**4. Effective Date and Implementation:**

- The new compliance requirements will come into effect from April 1, 2025.
- Stock exchanges are required to circulate this circular to all listed entities and ensure its strict compliance.

**5. Regulatory Framework & Authority:**

- This circular is issued under Section 11(1) and 11A of the SEBI Act, 1992, read with Regulation 101 of the LODR Regulations.

**Impact on Businesses and Compliance Framework:**

- Standardized Information Disclosure: The industry standards eliminate ambiguity in required disclosures, ensuring a uniform approach to compliance.
- Enhanced Governance: Strengthening RPT disclosure requirements improves corporate governance practices, fostering investor confidence.
- Improved Transparency: Shareholders and audit committees will benefit from comprehensive and consistent information regarding RPTs, reducing potential conflicts of interest.

**Way Forward:****Listed entities should proactively:**

- Review and integrate the prescribed industry standards into their audit committee and shareholder approval processes.
- Ensure that all RPT-related disclosures align with the revised Master Circular provisions.
- Seek expert guidance to remain fully compliant with these new regulatory expectations.

[Click here for original Circular](#)

## **RBI Reduces Bank Rate by 25 Basis Points to**

**No. RBI/2024-25/111**

**6.50%**

**Dated: February 07, 2025**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a reduction in the Bank Rate from 6.75% to 6.50%, effective immediately, as per Notification RBI/2024-25/111 (DoR.RET.REC.57/12.01.001/2024-25) dated February 07, 2025. This decision aligns with the Monetary Policy Statement for 2024-25 and aims to facilitate improved credit flow and financial stability.

### **Key Highlights of the Announcement**

#### **1. Bank Rate Reduction**

- The Bank Rate has been revised downward by 25 basis points from 6.75% to 6.50%.
- This change is expected to influence lending rates and liquidity conditions in the banking sector.

#### **2. Impact on Penal Interest Rates**

- Penal interest rates linked to the Bank Rate on shortfalls in reserve requirements have also been adjusted:
- ❖ Shortfall up to a certain duration: Bank Rate plus 3.0 percentage points, revised from 9.75% to 9.50%.
- ❖ Extended shortfall duration: Bank Rate plus 5.0 percentage points, revised from 11.75% to 11.50%.

### **Implications for the Banking Sector and Economy**

#### **1. For Banks:**

- Lower Bank Rate could result in reduced borrowing costs for financial institutions.
- May impact the interest rates on loans and deposits, affecting overall credit availability.

- Adjustments in reserve requirement penalties will influence liquidity management strategies.

## **2. For Businesses and Borrowers:**

- Potential reduction in lending rates, making credit more affordable.
- Encourages investments and expansion as borrowing costs decline.
- Eases financial conditions, particularly for industries reliant on bank financing.

## **3. For the Economy:**

- Supports economic growth by enhancing credit accessibility.
- Strengthens liquidity in the financial system, promoting stability.
- Aligns with broader monetary policy objectives to manage inflation and growth dynamics.

## **Conclusion**

RBI's decision to cut the Bank Rate is a strategic move aimed at fostering economic expansion and easing financial conditions. With immediate implications for banking operations, credit markets, and economic growth, stakeholders should assess its impact on lending strategies and investment decisions.

For further details, refer to the official RBI notification and the Monetary Policy Statement 2024-25.

[Click here for original Circular](#)

# **RBI Revises Risk Weights on Bank Exposures to NBFCs: Key Implications**

**No. RBI/2024-25/120**

**Dated: February 25, 2025**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), through its notification RBI/2024-25/120 (DOR.STR.REC.61/21.06.001/2024-25) dated February 25, 2025, has announced a review of the risk weight framework applicable to Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) for their exposures to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). Effective from April 1, 2025, the revised framework reverses the additional 25 percentage point risk weight that was imposed under the November 16, 2023, circular.

## **Key Changes Introduced**

### **1. Reversal of Additional Risk Weight**

- Under the previous directive, SCBs had to apply an additional 25 percentage point risk weight on exposures to NBFCs where the external rating-based risk weight was below 100%.
- The new directive removes this additional risk weight, meaning that exposures will now follow the external rating-based approach as prescribed in Paragraph 5.8.1 of the 'Master Circular – Basel III Capital Regulations' dated April 1, 2024.

### **2. Alignment with Basel III Capital Regulations**

- The revised approach ensures that risk weights assigned to NBFC exposures are consistent with international Basel III norms.
- This move is expected to enhance liquidity flows to NBFCs by reducing the capital burden on banks.

### **3. Effective Date and Compliance**

- The revised framework comes into effect from April 1, 2025.
- Banks must ensure compliance with the updated risk weight methodology while managing their capital adequacy.



## **Implications for Stakeholders**

### **1. For Banks:**

- Reduction in capital requirements for exposures to well-rated NBFCs.
- Improved ability to lend to NBFCs without additional capital allocation constraints.
- Potential boost to overall credit availability in the financial sector.

### **2. For NBFCs:**

- Increased access to bank funding, enhancing liquidity and expansion opportunities.
- Potential reduction in borrowing costs as risk-weighted capital requirements for banks ease.

### **3. For the Financial Sector:**

- Strengthening of credit transmission by ensuring an efficient allocation of capital.
- Enhanced synergy between banks and NBFCs to support credit demand, especially in priority and retail segments.

RBI's decision to restore the original risk weight framework for bank exposures to NBFCs is a significant policy shift aimed at strengthening financial intermediation. By aligning risk weight requirements with external credit ratings, the move balances prudential regulation with financial sector growth. Stakeholders must prepare for this transition by assessing its impact on lending strategies, capital planning, and liquidity management.

[Click here for original Circular](#)

## **Amendment to the Companies (Prospectus and Allotment of Securities) Rules, 2014 – Extension of Compliance Deadline for Private Companies**

**Notification G.S.R. 131(E)**

**Dated: February 12, 2025**

On 12th March 2025, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) issued a significant amendment to the Companies (Prospectus and Allotment of Securities) Rules, 2014 via Notification G.S.R. 131(E). This amendment is intended to provide additional flexibility for private companies regarding compliance with the existing rules, particularly for small and private companies.

### **Key Amendment Highlights:**

The main change introduced through the amendment pertains to Rule 9B of the Companies (Prospectus and Allotment of Securities) Rules, 2014. Specifically, a new proviso has been added to sub-rule (2). This new provision addresses the deadline for compliance with the requirements for private companies, which are not small companies, that were in existence on 31st March, 2023.

Under the revised rule, such private companies (excluding Producer Companies) are granted an extended timeline to comply with the provision of the sub-rule. They are now allowed to meet these requirements by 30th June, 2025, instead of the previous timeline.

### **Why is This Amendment Important?**

This amendment provides much-needed relief for private companies, particularly those that were struggling to meet the existing deadlines or requirements within the stipulated time frame. By offering a grace period until June 2025, the MCA aims to alleviate the regulatory burden on companies, thereby providing them with additional time to align with the compliance obligations laid down in the Companies Act, 2013.

## **A Retrospective Effect**

The notification specifies that the amendment will not adversely affect any person. This indicates that the rules will have a retrospective effect, meaning that no individual or entity will face penalties or issues arising from the amended deadline.

## **What Does This Mean for Private Companies?**

For private companies, especially those that are not small companies as of 31st March 2023, this extension provides a much-needed buffer to complete their regulatory obligations concerning the Prospectus and Allotment of Securities. This amendment allows companies to avoid penalties for non-compliance within the initial timeline while providing them the necessary time to fulfill the statutory requirements.

## **A Call for Action**

Private companies, particularly those that qualify for the extended timeline, should take note of this amendment and ensure that they meet the new deadline of 30th June 2025. It is crucial for companies to review their internal processes and compliance status to ensure they remain on track for fulfilling the updated regulatory requirements.

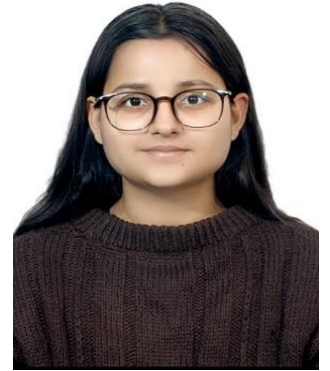
## **Conclusion**

The Companies (Prospectus and Allotment of Securities) Amendment Rules, 2025 represent a timely update that accommodates the evolving needs of private companies. The added flexibility demonstrates the government's commitment to supporting businesses in complying with legal requirements while ensuring no one is penalized due to unforeseen delays.

This amendment should be closely monitored by private companies to ensure that they benefit from the extended timeline, allowing them ample time to align with regulatory expectations.

[Click here for original Circular](#)

# Overview of Ind AS 16: Property, Plant, and Equipment



**Contributed By: Baisly Mishra**

Ind-AS 16 applies to Property, Plant, and Equipment (PPE), which are physical assets that are used in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes. PPE are expected to be used over more than one period.

## **Key Definitions:**

- ❖ **Property, Plant, and Equipment (PPE):** Tangible items that are:
  - Held for use in production or supply of goods or services, or for rental to others, or for administrative purposes. Expected to be used for more than one period.
- ❖ **Cost of PPE:** The amount paid to acquire an asset and bring it to its working condition for its intended use. This can include the purchase price, import duties, non-refundable taxes, and any directly attributable costs to bring the asset into use.
- ❖ **Fair Value:** The amount for which an asset can be exchanged between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

## **1. Recognition of PPE**

An entity should recognize PPE if, and only if:

- Probable future economic benefits associated with the asset will flow to the entity.
- The cost of the asset can be measured reliably.

## **Conditions for Recognition:**

- **Control:** The entity has control over the asset, meaning it can derive

benefits from its use.

- Use: The asset is being used for productive purposes (not for sale).

## **2. Measurement at Initial Recognition**

When PPE is initially recognized, it should be measured at cost. The cost of PPE includes:

- The purchase price, including import duties and non-refundable taxes.
- Any directly attributable costs of bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use. These can include:

-Site preparation costs

-Installation and delivery costs

-Professional fees (e.g., architect fees for construction)

- Any initial estimates of the costs of dismantling, removing, and restoring the site after use.

## **3. Subsequent Costs**

After initial recognition, a company may incur further costs in relation to its PPE. The key principles for treating subsequent costs are:

- **Additions:** If the cost incurred significantly enhances the asset's performance or increases its useful life, it can be capitalized as part of the asset's cost.
- **Repairs and Maintenance:** Routine repairs and maintenance costs are expensed as incurred and should not be capitalized.

## **4. Depreciation**

Depreciation is the systematic allocation of the cost of an asset over its useful life. Depreciation should be recognized as an expense in profit or loss unless it is part of the cost of another asset.

**Depreciation Method:** Ind-AS 16 allows for various methods of depreciation, and it should reflect the pattern of benefits consumed over the asset's useful life. Common methods are:

- **Straight-line method:** The cost of the asset is allocated evenly over its useful life.
- **Reducing balance method:** A higher depreciation is charged in the earlier years of the asset's life.
- **Units of production method:** Depreciation is based on the asset's usage or output.

#### Factors to be considered:

- **Depreciable Amount:** This is the cost of the asset, less its estimated residual value (salvage value).
- **Useful Life:** The period over which the asset is expected to be used.
- **Residual Value:** The estimated amount that the entity would obtain from disposal of the asset at the end of its useful life.

#### Illustration:

A company purchases machinery for ₹500,000 and incurs installation costs of ₹20,000.

Total Cost of Machinery = ₹500,000 + ₹20,000 = ₹520,000. The machinery has a useful life of 5 years, and the company uses the Straight-Line Method (SLM) for depreciation. The residual value is ₹50,000.

#### Depreciation Calculation:

$$\text{Depreciation} = \frac{\text{Cost} - \text{Residual Value}}{\text{Useful Life}} = \frac{520,000 - 50,000}{5} = ₹94,000 \text{ per year}$$

#### Journal Entry for Depreciation:

Date	Account	Debit (₹)	Credit (₹)
YYYY-MM-DD	Depreciation Expense	94,000	
	Accumulated Depreciation (Machinery)		94,000

- **Explanation:** The Depreciation Expense account is debited to reflect the depreciation expense, and Accumulated Depreciation is credited to reduce the carrying amount of the machinery.

## Depreciation Formula for WDV Method:

The formula for WDV depreciation is:

$$\text{Depreciation} = \text{Book Value at Beginning of Year} \times \text{Depreciation Rate}$$

The **depreciation rate** is calculated based on the useful life of the asset.

$$\text{Depreciation Rate} = \frac{100\%}{\text{Useful Life}}$$

In this case:

$$\text{Depreciation Rate} = \frac{100\%}{5} = 20\%$$

## 6. Derecognition

An entity should derecognize a PPE asset when:

- It is disposed of (sold, abandoned, etc.).
- No future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

The gain or loss on derecognition is calculated as the difference between the net proceeds from disposal (if any) and the carrying amount of the asset. This gain or loss is recognized in the Profit and Loss account.

## 7. Disclosures

The disclosures related to PPE in Ind-AS 16 provide transparency to stakeholders, including investors and auditors, by detailing how the assets are recognized, measured, and depreciated. They also help in understanding the impact of asset disposals, impairments, revaluations, and depreciation policies, ensuring that the financial statements reflect the true value of the company's physical assets.

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# **Valuation in Merger & Acquisitions**

**Contributed By: Mr. Ankush Jindal**



Valuation is the backbone of any successful Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) deal. It determines whether an acquisition is financially and strategically sound, ensuring that companies neither overpay nor miss out on valuable opportunities. A practical approach to valuation helps businesses mitigate risks, optimize deal structures, and maximize shareholder value.

## **Key Valuation Methods in M&A**

In practical scenarios, valuation is not just about theoretical calculations but involves deep market insights, financial scrutiny, and strategic considerations. Some widely used valuation methods include:

- Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) Analysis – Estimates future cash flows and discounts them to present value to assess intrinsic worth.
- Comparable Company Analysis (CCA) – Compares valuation multiples (P/E ratio, EV/EBITDA) of similar publicly traded companies.
- Precedent Transactions Analysis – Analyzes past acquisitions of similar businesses to benchmark pricing.

Using a combination of these methods ensures a more comprehensive and realistic valuation.

## Practical Challenges in M&A Valuation

While valuation models provide a framework, real-world M&A deals face practical challenges that can impact valuations, including:

- *Market Volatility* – Economic fluctuations can affect valuations drastically.
- *Information Asymmetry* – Sellers may withhold critical financial or operational data.
- *Synergy Overestimation* – Over-projecting cost savings and revenue growth post-merger can lead to inflated valuations.
- *Regulatory Hurdles* – Compliance with antitrust laws and other regulations can impact deal feasibility.

## Ensuring a Realistic Valuation Approach

To ensure practical and accurate valuation, businesses should:

- *Conduct Thorough Due Diligence* – Assess financial health, liabilities, and operational strengths of the target company.
- *Apply Sensitivity Analysis* – Evaluate different market scenarios to understand valuation risks.
- *Incorporate Non-Financial Factors* – Consider cultural alignment, leadership compatibility, and operational synergies.
- *Structure Deals Effectively* – Utilize earn-outs, stock swaps, and deferred payments to manage valuation risks.

## Case Study: Lessons from Real M&A Deals

A practical example is Facebook's acquisition of WhatsApp for \$19 billion in 2014. While the deal's valuation seemed exorbitant, it was based on WhatsApp's user growth potential rather than immediate financial

returns. This strategic valuation approach helped Facebook dominate the messaging space, showcasing the importance of forward-looking valuation beyond just financial metrics.

## **Conclusion**

In M&A, valuation is not merely a numerical exercise—it is a strategic decision-making process. Companies that adopt a practical, data-driven, and risk-aware valuation approach are more likely to execute successful transactions. Business leaders must balance financial calculations with real-world business insights to achieve long-term value creation in M&A deals.

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# Carbon Accounting Proxies

Contributed By: Ms. Vartika Agrawal



## Introduction

A carbon accounting proxy is an estimated measure used to calculate or approximate an entity's carbon footprint when direct emissions data is unavailable. These proxies help organizations, investors, and policymakers assess greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions based on indirect indicators.

## Key Aspects of Carbon Accounting Proxies

### 1. What is a Carbon Accounting Proxy?

- A substitute metric used when precise emissions data is not available.
- Helps estimate carbon emissions for companies, products, or activities.
- Based on industry benchmarks, financial data, energy consumption, or other factors.

### 2. Why Are Carbon Accounting Proxies Used?

- **Data Gaps:** Many organizations, especially small businesses, do not have direct emissions reporting.
- **Simplification:** Measuring emissions at a granular level can be complex and resource-intensive.
- **Comparability:** Allows for easier comparison across industries, companies, or investment portfolios.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Used in ESG reporting, carbon disclosures, and sustainability assessments.

## Types of Carbon Accounting Proxies

### ❖ Financial-Based Proxies (Spend-Based Approach)

**Definition:**

- Uses financial data (e.g., revenue, procurement spend) to estimate emissions.
- Based on industry- or sector-specific carbon intensity factors (e.g., kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per dollar spent).

**Formula:**

Estimated Emissions = Spending Amount × Emission Factor (kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/\$)

**Example:**

- A company spends \$5M on office supplies.
- Industry-average emission factor = 0.1 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per dollar spent.
- Estimated emissions: 5,000,000 × 0.1 = 500,000 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e (500 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e).

**❖ Activity-Based Proxies****Definition:**

- Uses operational data (e.g., energy use, fuel consumption, distance traveled) to estimate emissions.
- More accurate than financial-based proxies since it relies on physical activity metrics.

**Formula:**

Estimated Emissions = Activity Data × Emission Factor (kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/unit)

**Examples:****1. Electricity Usage:**

- A company consumes 100,000 kWh of grid electricity.
- Local emission factor: 0.45 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per kWh.
- Estimated emissions: 100,000 × 0.45 = 45,000 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e (45 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e).

**2. Employee Commuting:**

- Employees travel 1,000,000 miles annually using gasoline cars.

- Emission factor: 0.411 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per mile driven.
- Estimated emissions:  $1,000,000 \times 0.411 = 411,000$  kg CO<sub>2</sub>e (411 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e).

### ❖ Industry Benchmarks & Sector-Average Proxies

#### Definition:

- Uses pre-existing industry averages or sector-specific emission intensities.
- Useful when company-specific data is unavailable.

#### Examples:

##### 1. Manufacturing Sector:

- Industry average: 200 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per ton of steel produced.
- If a company produces 10,000 tons of steel, estimated emissions = 2,000,000 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e (2,000 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e).

##### 2. Retail Sector:

- Retail stores emit 50 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per square meter annually.
- A store with 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> of space would emit 250,000 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e (250 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e).

### ❖ Hybrid Approach (Combining Methods for Higher Accuracy)

#### Definition:

- Uses a combination of financial, activity-based, and benchmark proxies for a more accurate estimate.

Example: A logistics company calculates emissions using:

1. Activity-Based Data for Fuel Use: Direct fuel consumption data for company-owned trucks.
2. Financial-Based Proxy for Third-Party Transport: Uses spend-based emissions estimates for subcontracted logistics providers.
3. Industry Benchmarks for Warehouses: Uses sector-wide benchmarks to estimate emissions from warehouse operations.

#### **4. Advantages of Carbon Accounting Proxies**

- ❑ Cost-effective – Reduces the need for complex carbon measurement tools.
- ❑ Scalable – Useful for large organizations, investors, and policymakers assessing multiple entities
- ❑ Comparative – Helps compare emissions across industries and time periods.
- ❑ Decision-making support – Used in sustainability strategies, ESG reporting, and investment analysis.

#### **6. Common Use Cases of Carbon Accounting Proxies**

- ESG Reporting & Carbon Disclosure (CDP, TCFD, GHG Protocol)
- Investment Decisions & Carbon Footprinting (Climate risk assessment in portfolios)
- Corporate Sustainability Planning (Tracking indirect emissions for Scope 3 reporting)
- Policy & Regulatory Compliance (Governments using proxies for tax and carbon pricing policies)

Carbon accounting proxies are essential tools for estimating emissions when direct data is unavailable. While financial proxies provide broad estimates, activity-based and hybrid approaches offer higher accuracy. By integrating multiple methods, organizations can enhance transparency, improve ESG reporting, and work toward sustainability goals effectively.

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## **March 2025- Compliance Calendar**

S. No	Compliance Details	Form to be filed	Due Date
1	Due date for furnishing of challan-cum-statement in respect of tax deducted under section 194-IA, 194-IB, 194M, 194S in the month of January, 2025	Form 26QB	02.03.2025
2	Due date for deposit of tax deducted/collected for the month of February 2025.	Challan No. ITNS-281	07.03.2025
3	Report actual ECB transactions through Form ECB-2 return.	ECB-2	07.03.2025
4	Summary of Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) and deposited under GST laws for the month of February, 2025	GSTR-7	10.03.2025
5	E-Commerce operator registered under GST liable to TCS	GSTR-8	10.03.2025
6	Summary of outward supplies where turnover exceeds Rs.5 crore or have not chosen the QRMP scheme for the quarter of Jan - Mar, 25	GSTR-1	11.03.2025
7	GSTR-5 by Non-Resident Taxpayers (13th of the next month or within 7 days after the expiry of the registration, whichever is earlier).	GSTR-5	13.03.2025

S. No	Compliance Details	Form to be filed	Due Date
8	Invoice Furnishing is an optional facility which enables the small registered person, furnishing the quarterly Form GSTR-1, to file their invoice details on monthly basis.	IFF	13.03.2025
9	Input Service Distributors	GSTR-6	13.03.2025
10	Due date for furnishing of Form 24G by government offices where TDS/TCS was paid without a challan	Form-24G	15.03.2025
11	Depositing contribution towards PF/ESI for February 2025	ECR/ESI Challan	15.03.2025
12	For payment of whole amount of advance tax in respect of assessment year 2025-26 for assessee covered under presumptive scheme of section 44AD / 44ADA & Fourth instalment of advance tax for the assessment year 2025-26.	Challan 280	15.03.2025
13	Summary of outward supplies, ITC claimed, and net tax payable for taxpayers with turnover more than Rs.5 crore in the last FY or have not chosen the QRMP scheme for the quarter of Jan - Mar, 25	GSTR-3B	20.03.2025

S. No	Compliance Details	Form to be filed	Due Date
14	Summary of outward taxable supplies and tax payable by a person supplying OIDAR services	GSTR-5A	20.03.2025
15	Due Date of payment of GST for a taxpayer with Aggregate turnover up to INR 5 crores during the previous year and who has opted for Quarterly filing of return under QRMP	PMT-06	25.03.2025
16	LUT under GST is available for online filing for the year 2025-26. This is required to be completed before 31st March, 24 or before supply for Exports and SEZ.. The previous LUT is valid up to 31st March, 25.	LUT Filing	31.03.2025
17	Any taxpayer who is registered as normal tax payer under GST needs to file an application to opt for Composition Levy in Form GST-CMP-02 at GST Portal prior to the commencement of financial year for which the option to pay tax under the aforesaid section is exercised.	CMP-02	31.03.2025
18	Furnishing of an updated return of income for the Assessment Year 2022-23	ITR-U	31.03.2025

S. No	Compliance Details	Form to be filed	Due Date
19	Due date for claiming foreign tax credit, upload statement of foreign income offered for tax for the Previous Year 2023-24 and of foreign tax deducted or paid on such income in Form No. 67.	Form-67	31.03.2025
20	Report by a parent entity or an alternate reporting entity or any other constituent entity, resident in India, for the purposes of sub-section (2) or sub-section (4) of section 286 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (assuming reporting accounting year is April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024).	Form No. 3CEAD	31.03.2025
21	Last date of completing Tax-saving investments for FY 24-25 is 31st March, 25. Deductions can be claimed under sections - 80C (maximum up to Rs 1.5 lakh in financial year), 80D (deduction on the medical policy premium paid), 80E (Interest paid on education loan), Investment in NPS u/s 80 CCD (1B) for additional deduction upto Rs.50,000 over and above Rs. 1.5 lakh, Other payments for deduction under chapter VI-A	Last date of completing Tax-saving investments	31.03.2025

## “Living the Gita”

श्रेयान् स्वधर्मो विगुणः परधर्मात्स्वनुष्ठितात्।  
स्वधर्मे निधनं श्रेयः परधर्मो भयावहः॥

**Meaning:** "This powerful verse from the Bhagavad Gita emphasizes the importance of staying true to one's own purpose, passion, and responsibilities rather than imitating others. It teaches us that real fulfillment comes from embracing our own journey, even if it is difficult, rather than excelling in someone else's path, which may not be meant for us."

**"श्रेयान् स्वधर्मो विगुणः" –**

Even if your own duty has flaws or is difficult, it is still better than performing someone else's duty perfectly.

**"परधर्मात्स्वनुष्ठितात्" –**

Even if another's duty is performed skillfully, it does not bring true satisfaction and fulfillment.

**"स्वधर्मे निधनं श्रेयः" –**

Dying while performing one's own duty is still honorable. It means that one should be fully committed to their own path, regardless of difficulties.

**"परधर्मो भयावहः" –**

Following someone else's path, even if successful, leads to fear, anxiety, and a loss of one's true identity.

## **How This Applies to Our Lives**

- **Believe in Your Unique Journey**
  - Everyone has a different destiny. Instead of comparing yourself with others, focus on your own growth and purpose.
  - Just like a lion does not try to fly like an eagle, nor does an eagle try to roar like a lion—each has its own strength.
- **Perfection is Not the Goal—Progress Is**
  - Fear of imperfection holds us back. Even if your efforts aren’t perfect, they are still valuable if they align with your true calling.
  - Every master was once a beginner. Growth comes from continuous effort, not immediate perfection.
- **Failure is Better Than Regret**
  - It is better to try and fail at something you are meant to do than to succeed in something that does not fulfill you.
  - Those who never fail have probably never truly tried. Every failure brings a lesson that shapes our success.
- **Avoid the Trap of Comparison**
  - Social media and external influences often make us feel like we need to follow someone else’s path. But true success comes from authenticity.
  - A tree does not compare itself to another tree—it simply grows at its own pace.
- **Embrace Challenges as a Part of Growth**
  - Diamonds are formed under pressure. The difficulties you face on your own path are what make you stronger.

- Instead of running away from challenges, see them as opportunities to become the best version of yourself.
- **Fear is the Biggest Obstacle**
  - Walking an unfamiliar path is scary, but so is living with the regret of not following your passion.
  - Confidence comes not from knowing all the answers but from trusting yourself to find them.
- **Long-Term Fulfillment Over Short-Term Comfort**
  - It may be easier to follow the crowd, but true greatness comes from forging your own path.
  - Immediate success in something that isn't your calling will never bring long-term satisfaction.
- **Your Contribution to the World is Unique**
  - The world needs YOUR skills, YOUR ideas, and YOUR perspective.
  - No one else can bring what you bring to the table. The greatest service you can do is to be true to yourself.

Like a river carving its own course through rocks, we must persistently move forward, embracing both obstacles and opportunities. Our journey, no matter how imperfect, holds the key to our true fulfillment.

**So, let us march forward with determination, trusting our own path, and embracing every challenge as a step toward greatness!**



## Event Highlights of the Month

This month we celebrated success of our Intern **Ankush Jindal** for securing **AIR 15** in the **CS Executive exams**. We at DLS & Associates LLP are proud of his deserving success.

We have also conducted the capacity building program for **Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR)** of a largest listed company of manufacturing of ramming mass. It covered essential aspects such as governance structures, environmental and social impact metrics and skills to implement **BRSR effectively**, fostering responsible business practices and transparent ESG disclosures.

Here are some glimpses of the event:

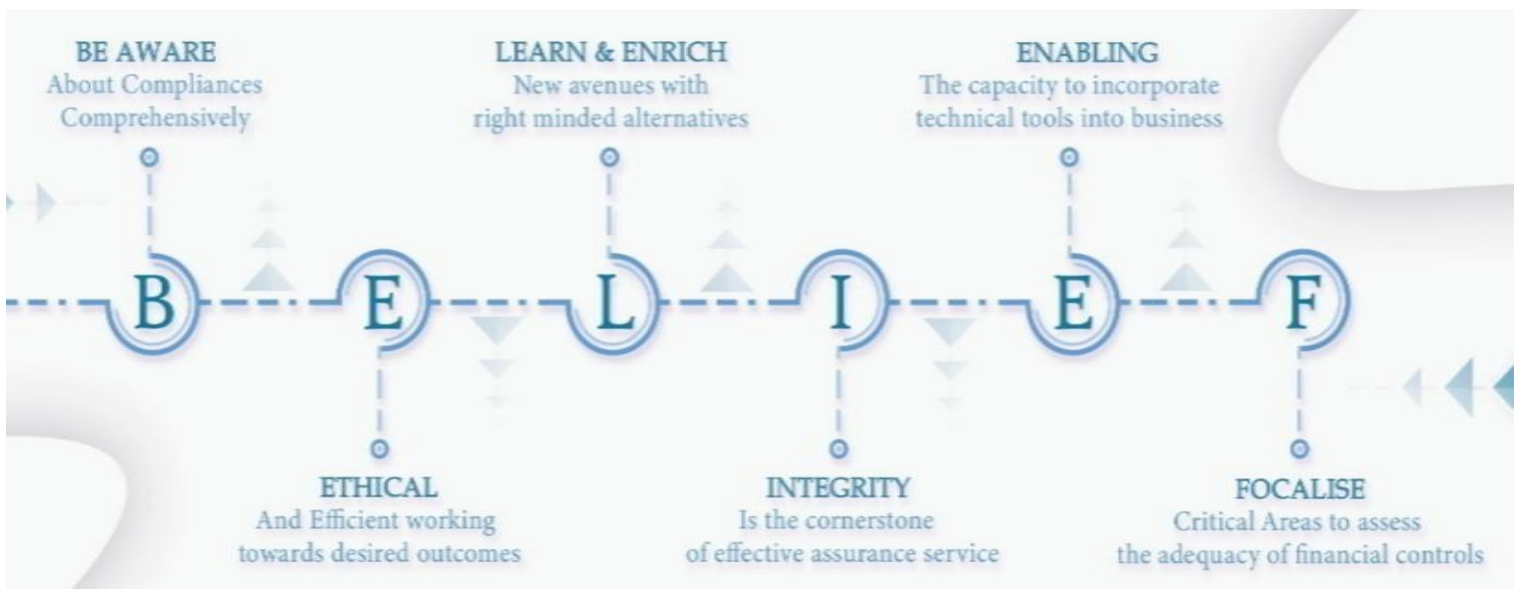




We are leading Chartered Accountant Firm withstanding **Since 2013 and have** Strong network at **Jaipur, Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai. International Branch in Bahrain with MGI worldwide Affiliation.** We also have PAN India presence through network of associates

**Pioneer in Audit & Assurances, Internal Financial Control (IFC), Valuation Services, Taxation, Financial Advisory, Forensic Audits, BRSR (Business Responsibility & Sustainability Reporting), GST and IND-AS implementation across Industries**

**Our Core Values-**Our firm DLS works for **BELIEF** where we are dedicated for



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