

Dear Readers,

We welcome you to the Fiftyfirst edition of DevMantra Times for the month of June 2025. This edition of our newsletter, where bring you the latest we India's developments shaping dynamic business and innovation landscape. The IndiaAI Mission has taken a major leap forward by selecting 10 promising homegrown AI startups for its acceleration flagship global programme, in collaboration with Paris-based Station F and HEC Paris. This initiative is set to propel Indian AI innovators onto world stage, reinforcing the India's growing influence in the global AI ecosystem. Meanwhile, Ola Electric's CEO Bhavish Aggarwal reflects on а challenging Q4, outlining а renewed focus on disciplined allocation and risk capital management as the company navigates regulatory pressures shifting competitive and а landscape. In corporate restructuring news, Razorpay has successfully completed its reverse flip merger from the US to India, benefiting from streamlined regulatory processes that bypass the need for NCLT approval, with necessary clearances secured from the RBI and Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Stay tuned as we continue to track these and other important stories driving growth and transformation across

sectors.

Here's to a year filled with new milestones, shared successes, and inspiring moments. June 2025 bring health, happiness, and prosperity to you and your loved ones. Thank you for being an essential part of our community. Together, let's make this year extraordinary!

Industry & Economic Updates

Dispatched 5.18 lakh vehicles through Indian Railways in FY 2024-25: Maruti Suzuki

Maruti Suzuki India has set a new milestone by achieving its highest-ever vehicle dispatch through Indian Railways during the financial year 2024-25, with a total of 5.18 lakh units transported. Since initiating rail-based logistics in FY 2014-15, the has dispatched company approximately 24 lakh vehicles via this mode, efficiently reaching over 600 cities across India as well as key export ports. This strategic shift towards rail transport has not only enhanced distribution efficiency but also contributed substantially to environmental sustainability by significantly reducing carbon emissions and lowering fuel consumption compared to road transportation. Demonstrating its commitment to green logistics, Maruti Suzuki aims to further

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increase the share of vehicle dispatches via rail to 35% by FY 2030-31, aligning with broader sustainability goals and operational excellence.

Exide aims to become a Rs 20000-crore company in the next 2-3 years

Exide Industries has articulated an ambitious growth target to achieve a turnover of ₹20,000 crore in the coming years, underscoring its strategic focus on expanding its footprint in the evolving energy and mobility landscape. Avik Roy, representing outlined the company, key elements of Exide's growth highlighting strategy, the establishment of а state-of-the-art lithium-ion cell manufacturing facility in Bengaluru. This initiative is strategically positioned to capitalize on the burgeoning electric vehicle (EV) market, addressing the rising demand for advanced energy storage solutions. Furthermore, Exide has formalized significant а partnership through an agreement with Hyundai Motor Company and Kia Corporation, aimed at fostering collaboration in battery technology and supply chain integration to support the EV ecosystem. These strategic collectivelv reinforce moves Exide's commitment to



innovation, sustainability, and market leadership in the fast-growing electric mobility sector.

Audit alarm rings for Oppo, Realme as Indian units struggle with missing records, negative net worth

Auditors have expressed significant concerns regarding financial health the and accounting practices of Oppo and Realme's India operations. Their reports highlight critical issues such as deficiencies in bookkeeping, incomplete financial records, and notably, a negative net worth position for Oppo India. These financial irregularities have surfaced amid intensified regulatory scrutiny and ongoing investigations into Chinese smartphone these brands, which are under probe for alleged financial misconduct. The auditors' observations underscore potential governance lapses and raise questions about the transparency and reliability of companies' financial the disclosures, further complicating their compliance landscape in the Indian market.

RBI may introduce bank-like rate norms for NBFCs to plug policy gaps

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is

considering the implementation of interest rate regulations for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) analogous to those applicable to banks, with objective of enhancing the transparency and strengthening the transmission of monetary policy. Recognizing the need to move away from the legacy prime lending rate (PLR) framework, the RBI intends to ensure that borrowers derive timely and equitable benefits from adjustments in benchmark interest rates. This initiative is aimed at fostering a more market-driven and responsive interest rate mechanism within the NBFC sector. Concurrently, the central bank plans to bolster its supervisory oversight and conduct a comprehensive review of fair interest rate practices thereby amona NBFCs, promoting responsible lending, consumer protection, and financial stability in the broader credit market.

Industry smells a jackpot as India's truck fleet hits 10-yr high

India's medium and heavy commercial vehicle (MHCV) fleet is on the cusp of a substantial renewal phase, as the average age of trucks has reached a record high of 10 years. This aging trend has been exacerbated by Issue No.51, Dated 2nd June, 2025

deferred vehicle purchases during the COVID-19 pandemic and a period of subdued sales in the commercial vehicle segment. The extended service life of these older vehicles underscores the growing need for fleet modernization, driven by evolving standards, regulatory technological advancements, and increasing demand for improved fuel efficiency and emissions anticipated compliance. This surge in replacement activity is expected to stimulate growth in the commercial vehicle market, while also contributing to enhanced operational efficiency environmental reduced and impact across the sector.

Local CA firms set for global tie-ups

The initiative is designed to empower domestic accounting firms to achieve greater scale and competitiveness, aligning with Central Government's the strategic vision of fostering the emergence of large, home-grown accounting enterprises. According to sources familiar with the matter, the proposed framework mandates that local firms currently affiliated with global accounting networks must formally register with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and adhere to prescribed compliance requirements. This



regulatory measure aims to strengthen the governance, transparency, and accountability of such firms, thereby enhancing their ability to operate at scale while maintaining high professional and ethical standards. By encouraging formal consolidation and registration, the framework seeks to create a robust ecosystem for indigenous accounting firms, contributing to the broader goal self-reliance of and competitiveness in the professional services sector.

Startup Updates

IndiaAI selects 10 startups for global acceleration programme

IndiaAl The Mission has shortlisted 10 promising homegrown AI startups to participate in its flagship global initiative, in strategic partnership with Paris-based Station F-the world's largest startup campus—and HEC Paris, а premier business school. This four-month accelerator designed programme to is facilitate the selected startups' global scale-up by providing access to international markets, cross-border fostering collaborations, and offering mentorship from industry leaders. Union Minister Ashwini

Vaishnaw hailed this endeavour as a landmark achievement in India's AI innovation diplomacy, emphasizing its potential to propel Indian AI enterprises onto the global stage, thereby strengthening India's position as a key player in the global artificial intelligence ecosystem.

Ola Electric to focus on capital discipline, risk management: CEO Bhavish Aggarwal after dismal Q4 earnings

Bhavish Ola Electric's CEO, characterized Aggarwal, the March guarter as a pivotal phase marked by substantial learning and strategic recalibration. He emphasized the company's adoption of a more disciplined and mature approach towards allocation and capital risk management following its IPO, reflecting a commitment to sustainable growth and operational efficiency. However, despite these positive strides, Ola Electric continues to confront notable challenges, including heightened regulatory scrutiny that demands stringent compliance and governance. Additionally, the company's market position has weakened, with its market share declining and the brand slipping to third place as of May, underscoring intensifying competition and the need for continued innovation

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and market responsiveness.

Razorpay completes reverse flip from US to India with MCA approval

submitted Razorpay an application the relevant to regulatory authorities seeking approval for a reverse flip merger in accordance with the recently amended regulatory framework, which streamlines the process by eliminating the requirement for companies to seek approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). Under the revised rules, Razorpay is required to obtain clearances from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), given the transaction's implications on financial and foreign investment regulations, followed by final approval from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). This revised procedural pathway reflects the regulatory authorities' intent to simplify corporate restructuring processes while ensuring adequate oversight and compliance with statutory norms.

Lender Oxyzo's revenue rises 34% to Rs 1,207 crore in FY25; net profit up 17%

Oxyzo Financial Services, the lending arm of OfBusiness, posted a 33.6% rise in operating revenue to ₹1,207 crore in FY25,



driven by higher interest income. Net profit grew 16.7% to ₹339.1 crore despite increased expenses, reflecting strong operational efficiency. With a continued focus on prudent growth and risk management, Oxyzo's performance strengthens OfBusiness' positioning as it gears up for its upcoming IPO.

Why this Volume of Newsletter is important for reader?

Through the series of this newsletter, we aim at covering all relevant Income Tax, Goods & Service Tax and Companies Act, Start-up Update, notification, circulars and case laws which may directly or indirectly impact our readers.

At DevMantra, it is our utmost priority to help our readers to be informed with respect to the changes in relevant laws for a smoother compliance.

DevMantra was founded based on unalterable premise of the excellence, acuity, integrity and an unwavering commitment to delivery. These principles continue to form the edifice of our approach as an organization, to our clients, professionals our and our community, and this has served us well in our journey so far. This approach has allowed DevMantra

to work with and advise the very best clients, both in India and internationally. We encourage our people to strive for excellence innovation within and а meritocratic working environment and support their entrepreneurial spirit. It is our consistent endeavor with our people, to ensure that they imbibe the culture of the firm and form part of the weft and weave of the fabric of DevMantra. Our core values remain the guiding principles for everything we do, and we would like to emphasize "Knowledge" as one of the fundamental beliefs which drive the success of our operations. As keep reiterating, we on Knowledge is our number one priority. We don't count time when it comes to gain any new knowledge or to reinstate the earlier one. Our clients trust our expertise and putting countless hours in keeping ourselves up to date on the subject we are advising on, deserve their trust.

Regards & Best Wishes, Editorial Team

GST

JUDICIAL UPDATES ITC refund cannot be denied due to absence of service details in registration certificate: HC Editorial Note : Where the Issue No.51, Dated 2nd June, 2025

petitioner, a registered entity under the GST regime, had supplied zero-rated services to customers located outside India on payment of IGST, the refund of unutilized input tax credit (ITC) could not be denied merely on the ground that the specific details of such services were not mentioned in the certificate of registration. Once the nature of services supplied qualifies as 'export of services' under section 2(6) of the IGST Act and satisfies the conditions for zero-rated supply under section 16, the entitlement to refund of unutilized ITC flows as a statutory right. The certificate of registration serves an administrative purpose and does not limit or restrict the actual of taxable supplies scope undertaken, especially when the export of services has been substantiated through contractual documents, payment receipts in convertible foreign exchange, and other documentary evidence. Denial of refund on such a hyper-technical ground is contrary to the principles of substantive justice and defeats the very objective of zero-rating export services under the GST law.





Order to be set aside where appeal was dismissed for lack of authorization despite documents being submitted to respondent's office: HC

Editorial Note : Where the assessee challenged the order-in-appeal on the ground the appeal had been that dismissed solely for failure to establish that the person signing the appeal was an authorised signatory, it was incumbent upon the appellate authority to consider the factual submissions made by the assessee. The assessee had, in fact, submitted the required documents-including the Power of Attorney-physically at the respondent's office, and this was duly recorded and acknowledged through an email communication enclosing the scanned copy of the authorisation. Despite this, the appeal was dismissed without taking into account the valid and submission timelv of the authorisation documents. Such an approach reflects non-application of mind and a failure to consider relevant material placed on record. As the dismissal was based on a technical ground which had already been addressed by the assessee, and no defect subsisted. the impugned order suffers from procedural infirmity and is liable to be set aside in the interest of justice and fair adjudication.

Authority is directed to allow assessee to take ITC in respect of delayed returns as per amended provisions: HC

Editorial Note : Where the assessee's claim for Input Tax Credit (ITC) was rejected on the ground of delay in filing the relevant returns, such rejection was not sustainable in light of the recent legislative amendment brought by clause 5 of section 16, inserted by the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2024, and the subsequent clarifications issued under Circular No. 237/31/2024-GST dated 15-10-2024. These provisions explicitly provide relief to taxpayers by allowing the claim of ITC even in cases of delayed filing of returns, subject to specified conditions, thereby relaxing earlier stringent timelines. Consequently, the impugned orders passed by the authorities, which disallowed the ITC solely on the basis of delayed return filing, are contrary to the amended legal framework and the CBDT's authoritative circular. In the interest of justice and to uphold the intent of the leaislative amendment, such orders are liable to be set aside, and the respondents should be directed to allow the assessee to avail ITC corresponding to the delayed returns as per the prescribed guidelines.

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GSTN mandates HSN code reporting in Table 12 and compulsory document details in Table 13 of GSTR-1/1A from May 2025: Advisory

Editorial Note: The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) has issued a comprehensive advisory regarding the reporting requirements under GSTR-1 and GSTR-1A, effective from May 2025. As per the new guidelines, taxpayers will be required to select Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) codes exclusively from a predefined system dropdown menu in Table 12, with the option for manual entry being disabled to enhance data accuracy and standardization. Additionally, validations will be value implemented to ensure consistency and correctness of the reported data. To further streamline reporting, Table 12 has been restructured into separate for **Business-to-Business** tabs (B2B) and Business-to-Consumer (B2C) transactions, each incorporating enhanced functionalities to facilitate ease of data entry and improved user experience. Moreover, reporting in Table 13, which pertains to documents issued, will be made mandatory, thereby reinforcing compliance and comprehensive reporting. Taxpayers are advised to familiarize themselves with



these changes to ensure seamless adherence to the updated filing requirements and avoid any potential discrepancies or non-compliance issues.

Authority is directed to compensate as assessee can not be penalized twice for depositing tax under wrong head by Development Authority: HC

Editorial Note : Where a taxpayer duly pays the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to the government authority, but the said authority erroneously deposits the amount under an incorrect head, the taxpayer cannot be subjected to penal consequences twice for the same transaction. The principle of natural iustice and equity mandates that the taxpayer, having fulfilled the statutory obligation of remitting the tax, should not be prejudiced by administrative errors beyond their control. Consequently, any tax demand or penalty arising solely due to the misclassification or misallocation of the payment by government authority the is attributable to the fault of the administration. such In circumstances, the responsible authority is obligated to rectify the compensate error and the taxpayer for any undue tax or penalty levied. This approach fairness ensures in tax administration and upholds the

taxpayer's rights against double jeopardy stemming from procedural lapses on the part of the revenue authorities.

Consolidated SCN issued for 5 AYs to be quashed; multiple years cannot be addressed in one notice: HC

Editorial Note: Where а consolidated Show Cause Notice (SCN) was issued proposing initiation of proceedings under section 74(10) of the GST Act for multiple assessment vears spanning 2017-2018 to 2021-2022, it is imperative to recognize that the entitlement initiate to proceedings and assess liability for each assessment year is and distinct. separate Furthermore, the statutory time limits prescribed under the law for each assessment year operate independently and cannot be aggregated or merged. Accordingly, issuance of a single consolidated SCN covering multiple assessment years does not comply with the procedural requirements mandated by the statute, which necessitates issuance of separate show cause notices for each individual assessment year. In this context, Judge the Single erred in dismissing the writ petition and directing the assessee merely to file a reply to the consolidated SCN before the adjudicating

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authority. Such an approach undermines the procedural safeguards enshrined in law and impairs the assessee's right to effective adjudication on а year-wise basis. Therefore, the consolidated SCN is liable to be set aside, and the authorities are required to issue distinct notices for each assessment year in accordance with statutory mandates.

Principal Commissioner is directed to assign two officials and provide necessary instructions for disposal of large number of cases on procedural and substantive issues: HC

Editorial Note: Where the assessee challenged the original order on the ground that its written submissions were not duly considered, and it was observed that a substantial number of cases involving both procedural and substantive issues were being filed before the High Court, it is pertinent to streamline the disposal process of such matters. Recognizing that many of these cases can be effectively resolved at the earliest stage, often on the first hearing, to subject appropriate instructions being conveyed to the department's counsels, there arises a need for enhanced coordination within the



department. Accordingly, the Principal Commissioner ought to be directed to designate two officials tasked with liaising and coordinating with the various commissionerates of CGST. These officials will facilitate prompt communication, ensure consistent instructions are provided departmental to representatives, and help expedite the adjudication reducing process, thereby litigation backlog and promoting efficient resolution of disputes. This administrative measure will contribute significantly to judicial economy and better taxpayer service.

Legal representative not liable for deceased's tax dues if fresh GST registration obtained in their name: HC

Editorial Note: In the absence of any substantive material or evidence placed on record by the respondent to substantiate the finding that the petitioner was continuing business under the name of his deceased father's proprietary concern, notwithstanding the petitioner having obtained а fresh registration in his own name, the impugned order lacks a valid basis and is unsustainable. The burden of proof to demonstrate continuity of business under the predecessor's registration

squarely rests on the revenue authorities, failure and to discharge this burden renders the order arbitrary and unjustified. Consequently, in light of the absence of any credible evidence supporting the respondent's conclusion, the impugned order is liable to be set aside, thereby upholding the petitioner's entitlement to be recognized as carrying on business under his independent registration.

GSTN defers implementation of invoice-wise reporting functionality in Form GSTR-7 until further notice: Advisory

Editorial Note : The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) has announced a deferment of the proposed invoice-wise reporting functionality in Form GSTR-7, initially scheduled to be implemented from April 1, 2025. This new functionality would have mandated tax deductors to report detailed invoice-level information while filing their TDS returns. However, as per the recent advisory, the rollout of this feature has been postponed until further Consequently, notice. tax deductors are advised to continue filing Form GSTR-7 using the existing reporting system, maintaining compliance as per current requirements until any further updates are issued by GSTN.

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Pre-exam and post-exam services like printing and scanning for educational institution are not taxable: AAR

Editorial Note : The supply of services relating to the printing of pre-examination materials-such as hall tickets, question papers, OMR sheets. and answer booklets-provided to educational institutions qualifies as an exempt supply under the applicable tax provisions. Similarly, the printing of post-examination materials including mark sheets, degree certificates, grade sheets, rank sheets, rank cards, and other certificates supplied to educational boards also is covered within the scope of exempted services. Furthermore, services involving the scanning and processing of examination results rendered to educational institutions are likewise exempt from tax. These exemptions recognize the essential role of such services in the educational ecosystem and align with the policy objective of promoting education by reducing the tax burden on associated activities. Therefore, these specific printing and processing services, when supplied educational to institutions boards and as described, are excluded from the



ambit of taxable supplies under the relevant GST framework.

Authority is directed to process refund within one month as claim remained pending for prolonged period without justification: HC

Editorial Note : Where the assessee's claim for refund of Input Tax Credit (ITC) under DGST, CGST, and IGST for the period of September to November 2017 remained unprocessed despite the filing of the refund application in January 2018 and subsequent follow-up as late as October 2024, the court observed a clear instance of undue delay and administrative inaction. Recognizing the legitimate entitlement of the assessee and the prolonged period of inordinate delay without any justifiable cause, the court directed the concerned authorities expedite the to processing of the refund claim. Accordingly, the authorities were complete mandated to all formalities and necessary sanction the refund within a strict timeline of one month from the date of the order. This directive underscores the judiciary's commitment to ensuring timely redressal of taxpayer grievances and upholding the principles of fairness and efficiency in tax administration.

Order and demand notice to be set aside as demand raised after NCLT approval of Resolution Plan would disrupt resolution process: HC

Editorial Note : Where a demand under section 74(9) was raised subsequent to the approval of the Resolution Plan by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), it is well-established that once the NCLT sanctions the Resolution Plan, all other creditors are precluded from asserting or initiating any claims that could interfere with or derail the approved resolution process. This principle is rooted in the objective of maintaining the finality and sanctity of the resolution process, thereby preventing any disruption or delay that could jeopardize the successful revival of the corporate debtor. Consequently, the demand raised under section 74(9) after the NCLT's approval of the Resolution Plan lacks legal validity and is unsustainable. In light of these settled legal tenets, the impugned order as well as the consequential demand notice issued pursuant thereto are liable be ensuring to set aside, adherence to the statutory framework governing insolvency resolution and protecting the of all stakeholders interests involved.

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Authority can't ask assessee to reverse ITC again despite same being reversed prior to SCN issuance: HC

Editorial Note : Where the petitioner inadvertently claimed Input Tax Credit (ITC) on exempted by-products or waste generated during the manufacturing but process, subsequently, upon receiving proper guidance, reversed the said ITC prior to the issuance of the Show Cause Notice (SCN), albeit beyond the prescribed time limit under Section 39(9), the authorities were not justified in demanding a second reversal of the same ITC. Such a demand would effectively amount double recovery, imposing an unwarranted financial burden on the petitioner. The correct course of action for the authorities would have been to initiate proceedings solely for the levy of interest or penalty attributable to the delayed reversal of ITC, rather than re-asserting the reversal obligation itself. Therefore, the impugned show-cause notice, insofar as it seeks to compel a reversal second of ITC, is untenable and ought to be limited to addressing only the consequences of delayed compliance.



Order to be set aside as assessee was not granted hearing despite attempts to approach authority: HC

Editorial Note : Where the impugned demand order was issued against the assessee for allegedly availing ineligible Input Tax Credit (ITC), it was noted that the assessee was not afforded a proper opportunity for hearing, despite making some efforts to engage with the respondent's office. Such omission constitutes a clear violation of the principles of natural justice, which mandate that a person affected by an adverse order must be given a fair chance to present their case before any final adjudication. In light of this procedural lapse, the impugned demand order stands vitiated and is liable to be set aside. However, this setting aside is subject to the condition that the authorities provide the assessee a reasonable opportunity to be heard and conduct a fresh adjudication in accordance with law, thereby ensuring fairness due process the and in assessment proceedings.

Authority is directed to restore registration as assessee submitted supporting documents in support of its proof of business: HC

department had, on multiple occasions, permitted the petitioner to amend its registered place of business and had also entertained submissions and documentary evidence provided by the petitioner in support of its business operations, the subsequent issuance of a Show Notice (SCN) Cause for cancellation of registration on the grounds of alleged fraud, willful misstatement, or suppression of facts appears to be contrary to the conduct of the department itself. The fact that departmental officials had interacted with the petitioner and accepted documentation undermines the allegation that the registration was secured through fraudulent means. In such circumstances, the principles of natural justice administrative and fairness require that the cancellation of registration be set aside. Accordingly, the department ought to be directed to restore the GST petitioner's registration forthwith and, if necessary, undertake a fresh adjudication by passing a reasoned and speaking order after affording the petitioner an opportunity to be heard. This approach ensures transparency, accountability, and adherence to due process under the GST law.

Order to be quashed as blocking of electronic credit ledger was based solely on enforcessue No.51, Dated 2nd June, 2025

ment authority reports without independent satisfaction: HC

Editorial Note : Where the impugned order blocking the assessee's electronic credit ledger was passed solely on the basis of a generalized assertion that the assessee was found non-existent and not conducting business from the registered premises, without providing any independent reasoning or material evidence, and relying merely on the reports of the enforcement authority, such an action is legally untenable. The absence of specific findings or application of mind by the jurisdictional officer renders the order a classic case of "borrowed satisfaction," which is impermissible in law. Administrative actions affecting substantive rights, such as blocking of credit ledgers, must be supported by cogent reasons and adherence to principles of natural justice. In the absence of such compliance, the impugned order is vitiated and liable to be set aside for want of proper iustification procedural and fairness.

Order to be set aside as SCN was neither served physically nor brought to notice of assessee: HC

Editorial Note Where the



Editorial Note : Where the order passed by the Assessing Officer under Section 74 of the CGST Act fastening the assessee with tax, interest, and penalty was ex parte, and the alleged show cause notice was neither served physically nor brought to the notice of the assessee through any legally recognized mode, the order stands vitiated for breach of principles of natural justice. In the absence of proper service of notice, the assessee was denied the opportunity to respond or be heard, which is a fundamental requirement before imposing any civil liability. Consequently, the impugned order is liable to be set aside, with liberty to the department to initiate fresh proceedings in accordance with law after ensuring due service and opportunity of hearing.

Dept. was directed to provide certified copies of lost files seized during search and also return others files: SC

Editorial Note : Where а miscellaneous application was filed by the petitioner-assessee seeking restoration of the original order passed by the High Court without any modification or clarification, it is significant that the main matter was disposed of by the Hon'ble Supreme Court without interfering with or disturbing the order of the High

Court. In the course of such disposal, the respondent authorities were directed to return the certified copies of documents which, as per their own assertion, were not relied upon for initiating or continuing further proceedings. However, the said without order was passed to the issuance of notice respondent-assessee, despite the matter involving substantive rights and three original case files. The absence of notice and opportunity of hearing to the respondent-assessee before passing such an order raises serious concerns regarding procedural fairness and adherence to the principles of natural justice, especially where the return or retention of original documents may have a bearing on the assessee's legal rights and defence pending in or prospective proceedings.

INCOME TAX

REGULATORY UPDATES

ITAT set-aside order passed by Addl. CIT as no separate order was passed authorising him to perform functions of AO

Editorial Note : Where reassessment proceedings were stayed by an interim court order and the assessee subsequently

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withdrew the writ petition, resulting in the vacation of the stay, the Assessing Officer was required complete to the reassessment within the remaining period of limitation, subject to a minimum of 60 days as per Explanation 1 to Section 153 of the Income-tax Act. Failure renders the to do SO reassessment time-barred and invalid. The exclusion of time during which the stay was in force does not grant an indefinite extension, and any delay beyond the permissible period, without legal further restraint or makes extension, the proceedings liable to be quashed.

No additions towards excess claim of sec. 54EC deduction if AO didn't dispute assessee's investment in bonds: HC

Editorial Note : Where the Assessing Officer reopened the assessment on the ground that had the assessee claimed deduction under section 54EC in excess of Rs. 50 lakhs, which was considered impermissible, but the Tribunal had already held that the restriction of Rs. 50 lakhs under section 54EC was not applicable in such a manner, the very basis for the reopening of assessment ceased to exist. As the reasons recorded for initiating reassessment were no longer valid in view of the binding



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judicial precedent, the additions made pursuant to such reassessment were unsustainable and were accordingly liable to be set aside.

Non-resident can't be denied credit of tax deducted on income not liable to tax in India under DTAA: HC

Editorial Note : Where credit for TDS was denied to the assessee. a non-resident, on income earned from an Indian entity on the ground that Form 26AS was not produced before the Assessing Officer and the income was not offered to tax, such denial was justified. The assessee not subsequently furnished Form 26AS reflecting the tax deducted at source, and it was evident that the income in guestion was not taxable in India under the provisions of the Income-tax Act read with the applicable Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) in terms of section 90. Since the TDS was duly deducted and reflected in Form 26AS, and the income was not chargeable to tax in India, the assessee was rightfully entitled to credit of the tax deducted, notwithstanding the delay in submission.

Interest free loan to partner to be treated as capital advance if no interest was paid on his capital: ITAT

Editorial Note : Where the assessee-firm had extended interest-free loans to its partner, and no interest was paid by the firm on the partner's capital account, the amount advanced was in the nature of a capital advance. Consequently, such an amount could not be treated as interest paid on a loan or advance. Treating the interest-free loan given to the partner as interest expenditure or notional attributing interest thereon was incorrect, as there was no actual interest obligation incurred by the firm on the partner's capital.

AO not justified in making additions simply on guess work and solely on basis of a dumb document: ITAT

Editorial Note : Where the Assessing Officer made additions under section 69 on account of the assessee's alleged investment based on a document titled Sauda-Ikrarnama seized during a search, such additions were unjustified. The document in question was undated, unsigned, and unwitnessed, and merely constituted loose sheet а containing details of proposed transactions that were never actually carried out. In the absence of any corroborative evidence or supporting material to prove the execution or

authenticity of the transactions, the document lacked evidentiary value. Accordingly, the additions made solely on the basis of such a document were to be deleted.

AO directed to accept belatedly filed Form 10-ID as CBDT acknowledged problem in filing form in time: HC

Editorial Note : Where the assessee-company opted for the concessional tax rate under section 115BAB but failed to file Form 10-ID within the prescribed time due to a technical difficulty, the delay in filing the form was to condoned. be Since the substantive conditions of section 115BAB were satisfied and the failure was only procedural in nature without any malafide intent, the filing of Form 10-ID at a later stage did not defeat the assessee's legitimate claim. Accordingly, the form was to be treated as legally valid, and the benefit under section 115BAB could not be denied merely on technical grounds.

Advances given in ordinary course of business allowable as bad debts if irrecoverable: ITAT

Editorial Note: Where the assessee had consistently followed the method of accounting whereby the



incremental rent, as per the lease separately agreement, was accounted for under the head 'rent/lease equalization reserve' in the computation of income, and such treatment had been accepted by the revenue in earlier years, the deduction could not be disallowed merely due to the nomenclature adopted. As the accounting method was in line with the principles of matching income and expenditure and there was no change in facts or circumstances, the claim was to be allowed as a legitimate business expenditure under the provisions of the Act.

CIT(E) can't examine trust's receipts during year while granting approval u/s 80G: ITAT

Editorial Note : Where the assessee-trust was established exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of section 2(15) of the Income-tax Act, the denial of approval under section 80G solely on the ground that the trust received school bus fees, tuition fees, and examination fees was unwarranted, particularly when the trust had already been registration under granted section 12A. Such incidental receipts do not detract from the charitable nature of the trust's activities, and therefore, the

approval under section 80G ought to be granted in accordance with the statutory provisions.

No disallowance of interest exp. u/s 57(iii) if nexus between borrowings & interest earning advance is shown: ITAT

Editorial Note: Where the assessee established a clear and direct between the nexus borrowed funds and the interest-earning advances bv providing supporting evidence such as bank statements and accounts, the ledger disallowance of the interest expenditure claimed under section 57(iii) was unjustified and unsustainable. The documentary evidence sufficiently substantiated the claim, warranting the allowance of the interest expense in accordance with the provisions of the Income-tax Act.

No need to file Form 10-IE again in next year if benefit of new regime was denied in prior year due to late filing: ITAT

Editorial Note : Failure to file Form No. 10-IE within the prescribed due date does not invalidate the assessee's option to be taxed under the new tax Issue No.51, Dated 2nd June, 2025

regime. The requirement to file Form No. 10-IE is procedural and directory in nature, intended to facilitate administrative compliance rather than to serve as a condition precedent for exercising the option. Consequently, non-filing or delayed filing of the form should not result in denial of the assessee's legitimate choice to opt for the new tax regime, provided that the option is otherwise validly exercised in accordance with the substantive provisions of the Income-tax Act. Courts and authorities have procedural recognized that prejudice lapses, absent or statutory mandate, should not defeat the substantive rights of taxpayers.

Only gains attributable to firm could be taxed as capital gains on sale of property attached by bank: ITAT

Editorial Note : Where the Assessing Officer treated the entire sale consideration from the of transfer а property as long-term capital gains in the hands of the assessee-firm, it was imperative to recognize that the property in question belonged to an individual partner and not to the firm itself. Since the asset was not owned by the firm, the Assessing Officer was obligated to segregate the amounts



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attributable to the assets owned by the firm. The correct approach required determining the actual consideration realized by the firm from the sale of its assets, and computing the taxable profits accordingly by deducting the written down value of such assets as recorded in the firm's books of account. Treating the entire sale amount as firm's income without proper attribution to ownership was factually and legally incorrect and warranted rectification in accordance with the principles of ownership and income computation under the Income-tax Act.

No denial of sec. 11 exemption if trust borrowed funds at higher rate to avoid financial losses: ITAT

Editorial Note : Where the assessee, an educational society, borrowed funds from specified persons at an interest rate higher than the prevailing market rate due to financial exigencies and unavoidable circumstances, it could not be construed that the had violated the society provisions of sections 13(1)(c) and 13(2) read with section 13(3) of the Income-tax Act with the intention of conferring any direct indirect benefit to such or specified persons. The loans were obtained solely for the

advancement and benefit of the the assessee and subsequently society's charitable objectives. In writing it off as a bad debt. the absence of any evidence Accordingly, in the absence of any indicating mala fide intent or real accrual or receipt of interest, diversion of income, the higher the notional interest could not be interest rate charged under such brought to tax in the relevant exceptional circumstances does assessment year. not amount to violation of the restrictive provisions, and therefore, the society's claim for exemption under the relevant provisions ought to be upheld.

No interest income accrues to assessee if there was no chance of recovery of interest from debtor: ITAT

Editorial Note : Where assessee, a partnership firm, had advanced a loan to a company and was receiving interest income considering thereon, the mere contractual right to receive interest does not automatically result in accrual of income for tax purposes. In the relevant assessment year, the said company's account had become a Non-Performing Asset (NPA) and it was undergoing severe financial distress, with no realistic prospect of recovery of interest. In such circumstances, recognition of interest income on an accrual basis would not reflect the true income of the assessee in accordance with the principles of unsustainable. An order passed in real income theory. There was no iustification recognizing in notional interest income which had not, in substance, accrued to

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HC remanded matter as AO passed order without considering that AR of assessee was hospitalized

Editorial Note : Where the assessee was unable to file a reply or appear for a personal hearing before the Assessing Officer due to the medical condition of their authorized the representative, and the Assessing Officer proceeded to pass the impugned order without the assessee's request for adjournment or affording sufficient opportunity to submit a response, such action constituted a clear violation of the principles of natural justice. The right to be heard is a fundamental aspect of fair adjudication and denying the assessee an adequate and reasonable opportunity to present their case, especially in light of genuine and documented circumstances beyond their control, renders the assessment order legally procedural breach of such fairness is liable to be set aside, as it defeats the very essence of due process under law.



CIT couldn't invoke sec. 263 merely because he had different opinion on matter: ITAT

Editorial Note: Where the Assessing Officer had duly examined the relevant facts and formed a considered opinion that no addition was warranted in respect of the gifts and cash deposits received by the assessee, the Principal Commissioner could not have validly invoked revisional iurisdiction under section 263 of the Income-tax Act on the mere ground that the Assessing Officer failed to carry out adequate enquiries or verification. Once the assessment records demonstrate that the Assessing Officer had applied his mind to the issues in question and had arrived at a plausible conclusion based on the material available, the order cannot termed as erroneous or be prejudicial to the interests of the revenue, Section 263 does not empower the revisional authority to substitute its own opinion merely because a different view is possible. Therefore, in the absence of any demonstrable lack of enquiry or non-application of mind, the invocation of section 263 was unjustified and unsustainable in law.

CBDT extends due date of filing ITRs for AY 2025-26 from July 31, 2025 to Sep. 15, 2025

Editorial Note : The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), vide its recent directive, has extended the due date for filing the return of income for the Assessment Year 2025-26. Originally set for July 31, 2025, the due date has now been extended to September 15, 2025. This extension applies to taxpayers who are not required to have their accounts audited under the 1961. The Income-tax Act, decision has been taken considering the representations received and with a view to providing relief and sufficient time for compliance. Taxpayers are advised to make full use of the extended timeline and ensure timely filing of returns to avoid interest and penalties under sections 234A and 234F.

Reassessment proceedings to be quashed if AO didn't dispose of assessee's objection by passing a speaking order

Editorial Note: Where the reassessment proceedings were initiated against the assessee based on information sourced from the Insight portal, alleging substantial financial transactions, it was incumbent upon the Assessing Officer to duly consider and dispose of the assessee's objections raised during the proceedings. The assessee had categorically denied having Issue No.51, Dated 2nd June, 2025

entered into such any transactions, and in accordance with the principles laid down by the Supreme Court in GKN Driveshafts (India) Ltd. v. ITO, it mandatory for the was Assessing Officer to pass a speaking order addressing the objections before proceeding further with the reassessment. Failure to do so constitutes a serious procedural lapse and a violation of the principles of natural justice. In the absence of a reasoned order dealing with the assessee's objections, the reassessment proceedings are rendered invalid in law and are liable to be guashed.

ITAT remanded matter as no rectification order was passed by AO even after 6 months of filling of application

Editorial Note: Where certain relevant information was not available with the Assessing Officer at the time of completing the final assessment, and the assessee subsequently filed a rectification application under section 154 of the Income-tax Act along with the requisite supporting documents, it was incumbent upon the Assessing Officer to duly consider and dispose of the application within reasonable timeframe. а However, where no rectification



order was passed even after the lapse of more than six months, it constituted inaction on the part of the department, potentially resulting in prejudice to the assessee. In the interest of justice and fair adjudication, the matter is required to be remitted back to the file of the Assessing Officer for verification of the information submitted and for appropriate consideration of the assessee's claim in accordance with law. Such a course ensures adherence to the principles of natural justice and facilitates proper determination of tax liability based on complete and accurate facts.

AO to refund entire amount in excess of 20% of demand as stay application was pending before him: HC

Editorial Note: Where the assessee filed an appeal before the Commissioner (Appeals) along with detailed submissions and supporting documents and simultaneously submitted an application before the Assessing Officer seeking a stay on the recovery of the outstanding demand pending disposal of the appeal, the assessee had demonstrated due compliance with the procedural requirements. Further, at the time of filing the appeal, the assessee had deposited 20% of the total demand in accordance with the guidelines

laid down by the CBDT for grant of stay. In such circumstances, recovery of any amount in excess of the 20% threshold is contrary to the administrative instructions and settled judicial principles. Accordingly, the revenue authorities are to be directed to refund the entire amount recovered beyond the permissible 20%, as the same is not legally sustainable during the pendency of the appellate proceedings.

Filing of audit report in Form 10B before due date for filing ITR is only directory; exemption u/s 11 to be allowed: ITAT

Editorial Note: Where the assessee failed to file the audit report in Form No. 10B within the prescribed due date for filing the return of income under section 139(1) but subsequently filed the same after a delay, such delayed filing does not, by itself, disentitle the assessee from claiming exemption under section 11 of the Income-tax Act. Judicial precedents have consistently held that the requirement of furnishing Form 10B within the due date is procedural and directory in nature, and not a mandatory precondition for availing the exemption. Where the substantive conditions for claiming exemption under section 11 are otherwise fulfilled—such as the application of income for

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charitable purposes and proper maintenance of accounts—the benefit of exemption cannot be denied merely due to technical or procedural lapses. Accordingly, in the absence of any mala fide or deliberate non-compliance, the delayed filing of Form 10B does not warrant denial of exemption, and the assessee is entitled to the benefit under section 11.

ITAT remanded matter as there was an inadvertent error in filing of Form 10AB for approval under section 80G(5)(iv)(B)

Editorial Note: The Commissioner (Exemptions) rejected the assessee-trust's application for approval under section 80G(5)(iv)(B) on the ground that the trust was already availing exemption under sections 11 and 12, thereby violating the eligibility conditions said sub-clause. under the However, the assessee clarified the application that was mistakenly filed under clause (iv)(B) due to an inadvertent error in Form 10AB, whereas it was otherwise eligible under the correct sub-clause applicable to trusts claiming exemption under sections 11 and 12. Since the error was purely procedural and not substantive, and there was no mala fide intent, the rejection



of the application without providing an opportunity to rectify the mistake is not legally justified. It is a settled principle that procedural lapses should not defeat substantive rights, and the application should have been considered under the correct provision in the interest of justice.

ITAT condoned delay in filing appeal as order passed by CIT(E) was served on email ID which wasn't checked regularly

Editorial Note: Where the assessee-trust filed an appeal against the order passed by the Commissioner (Exemptions) under sections 12AB and 80G of the Income Tax Act with a delay of 33 days, it was submitted that the delay was neither deliberate nor intentional but occurred due to genuine reasons. Although the order was technically served on the registered email ID of the assessee as per the Income Tax portal, the trustees and management of the trust were unaware of such communication, as the concerned staff responsible for monitoring the portal had failed to check and report the same in a timely manner. Given the absence of mala fide intent and considering that the trust took immediate steps to file the appeal upon learning about the order, the delay was attributable to a bona fide

oversight. Therefore, in the interest of justice and keeping in view the principles of natural justice, the delay in filing the appeal was liable to be condoned.



CORPORATE LAW UPDATES

Investigation based only on allegations from earlier withdrawn complaint was not legally sustainable: HC

Editorial Where Note: shareholders of the petitioner-company lodged а complaint with SEBI alleging financial irregularities, including the making of impairment loss provisions respect in of investments made its in subsidiaries and associate entities, the Executive Director of SEBI, acting upon the said complaint, ordered an investigation into the affairs of the company. However, the said complaint was subsequently withdrawn by the complainants themselves. In such

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circumstances, the initiation and continuation of an investigation against the petitioner-company solely on the basis of allegations contained in a complaint that no longer holds legal or factual footing, and without any independent application of mind corroborative material or justifying such action, is not legally sustainable. The reiteration of unsubstantiated withdrawn allegations, and grounds without fresh or objective justification, renders decision to investigate the violative arbitrary and of principles of fairness and reasonableness. Regulatory actions, particularly those with potentially serious reputational and operational consequences for a listed entity, must be founded on cogent material and not on withdrawn or baseless assertions. Therefore, the impugned order directing investigation deserves to be set aside for want of legal justification and procedural propriety.

SEBI mandates cooling-off period for non-independent directors before joining another MIIs, with prior SEBI approval

Editorial Note: SEBI has amended Regulation 24 of the Securities Contracts



(Regulation) (Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations) Regulations, 2018, to strengthen governance norms concerning the appointment of directors. As per the amendment, а non-independent director of a recognised stock exchange or corporation clearing can be appointed to another recognised stock exchange, clearing corporation, or depository only after completing a cooling-off period, the duration of which is to be specified by the governing such Additionally, board. an appointment requires prior approval from SEBI. This measure aims to enhance regulatory oversight, prevent conflicts of interest, and promote greater transparency and independence market infrastructure within institutions.

Transfer of winding-up petition to NCLT Chandigarh upheld as NCLT can decide transfer, no reason to interfere: HC

Editorial Note: Where a winding up petition was transferred to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Chandigarh at the request of the respondent company, it is well within the discretionary powers of the Company Court to permit such transfer, particularly in light of the transitional provisions under the Companies Act, 2013 and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. The NCLT, being the designated forum for adjudication of such matters, jurisdiction to entertain has winding up proceedings, and the stage of the matter is a relevant factor for determining whether such transfer would prejudice the interests of any party. In the present case, there is no material to suggest that the proceedings had reached an irretrievable or conclusive stage before the Company Court, or that the transfer would result in any manifest injustice the to petitioner. Accordingly, the decision of the Company Judge to allow the transfer does not suffer from any legal infirmity or jurisdictional error warranting interference. The exercise of discretion by the Company Judge appears to be iudicious, reasonable, and in consonance with the statutory framework.

MCA notifies Ind AS 21 amendments to guide on currency exchangeability and spot rate estimation

Editorial Note: The Ministry of (MCA), Corporate Affairs in consultation with NFRA, has amended the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, revising Ind AS 21 to address situations where а currency is not exchangeable. The amendments provide guidance

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on assessing exchangeability, estimating spot exchange rates in the absence of observable market rates, and mandating specific disclosures to enhance transparency. Ind AS 101 has also been updated to reflect the impact of these changes on first-time adopters. Based on decisions taken in NFRA's 20th meeting held on 24 February 2025, these amendments will be effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 April 2025.

Gift of shares by promoter to daughter may trigger contra trade norms unless exempted by compliance officer; SEBI clarifies

Editorial Note: SEBI clarified that an off-market inter-se gift of shares by a promoter to his daughter, both part of the promoter group, is considered trading under the SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations. Clause 10 of Schedule B under Regulation 9 prohibits contra trades-opposite transactions in the same security within six months-unless approved by the company's Compliance Officer. Therefore, such a gift may attract contra trade restrictions unless exempted by the Compliance Officer in accordance with the company's



Code of Conduct, emphasizing the need for prior approval and proper documentation in such transactions.

ICSI releases updated format of the Annual Secretarial Compliance Report

Editorial Note: The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) has released an updated format for the Annual Secretarial Compliance Report, aimed at enhancing clarity and efficiency in reporting. The revised format redundancies eliminates bv removing verbose descriptions that are already implicit within the statutory references, thereby streamlining the document without compromising on substantive content. While the general structure of the report-including introductory paragraphs, comprehensive а compliance checklist, and detailed observations-has been retained, the updated format presents these components in a more concise and manner. standardized This refinement not only facilitates ease of preparation and review but also promotes consistency across ultimately reports, supporting better compliance monitoring and regulatory oversight.

MCA extends CSR-2 filing due date for FY 2023-24 from March 31, 2025 to June 30, 2025

Editorial Note: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has issued an amendment to the fourth proviso of Rule 12(1B) of the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014, which pertains to the filing of financial statements. This amendment specifically extends the deadline for submission of Form CSR-2, relating to Corporate Responsibility Social (CSR) activities, for the financial year 2023-24. Originally, the due date for filing Form CSR-2 was set as March 2025: however. 31. pursuant to this notification, the deadline has been extended to June 30, 2025. This extension provides companies with additional time to comply with statutory reporting requirements under the CSR framework, thereby facilitating more accurate and comprehensive disclosure of CSR-related information.



MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

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NCLAT reduces compounding penalty for failing to attach Board's Report with balance sheet as it was excessive

Editorial Note: In a recent matter, the NCLT compounded the offence of a company failing to attach the Board's Report with the Balance Sheet filed with the Registrar of Companies, by levying a compounding fee at 20% of the maximum penalty in the case of the company and 30% in the case of the directors. While acknowledging the statutory non-compliance under Section 134 of the Companies Act, 2013, the Tribunal took a reasoned view, noting that the default was technical in nature and not deliberate. It also considered past orders of the same Bench and other NCLT Benches in similar matters where reduced penalties were imposed. Observing that the penalty initially levied was excessive and disproportionate, NCLT emphasized the that compounding should strike a balance between ensuring compliance and avoiding unduly harsh penalties, especially when there is no mala fide intent and corrective steps have been taken by the company.



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Tax Compliance Calendar for June 2025

Compliance Due Date	Concerned (Reporting) Period	Compliance Detail	Applicable To
30th June	May 2025	Section 173 of Companies Act, 2013	Section 173 provides for holding at least four board meetings in a year in such manner that not more than 120 days shall intervene between two board meetings. Regulation 17(2) of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 provides for holding at least one board meeting in a quarter with the stipulation that maximum time between two board meetings should not exceed four months.
		Dematerialization of Securities by Private Companies	Extended due date for private companies (excluding small companies and government companies) to comply with the mandatory dematerialisation of their securities.
7th June	May 2025	TDS Deposit for the month of May 2025	Deposit of tax deducted at source
11th June	May 2025	GSTR-1 (Outward supply return)	Every regular taxable person who is required to furnish details of outward supply every month, is required to furnish monthly statement of outward supply for the month of May, 2025.
13th June	May 2025	ISD Return	An Input Service Distributor is required to furnish monthly return of input tax distributed for the month of May, 2025
		GSTR-1 (Outward supply return)	Every regular taxable person who is required to furnish details of outward supply every quarter is allowed to furnish details of B2B outward supply made during the month of May, 2025, using Invoice Furnishing Facility (IFF)
15th June	May 2025	Deposit of Advance Tax for Q1	Deposit of first instalment of advance income-tax by all assessees other than those covered by section 44AD(1) or section 44ADA(1) for financial 2025-26
20th June	May 2025	GSTR-3B (Summary return)	A regular taxpayer having aggregate turnover more than Rs. 5 crore in the preceding financial year is required to make payment of tax and furnish monthly return for the month of May, 2025.



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Tax Compliance Calendar for June 2025

Compliance Due Date	Concerned (Reporting) Period	Compliance Detail	Applicable To
22nd June	May 2025	Monthly Return	A regular taxpayer having an aggregate turnover of upto Rs. 5 crore in the previous financial year, whose principal place of business is in category A States, is required to make payment of tax and furnish monthly return for the month of June, 2025
24th June	May 2025	Monthly Return	A regular taxpayer having an aggregate turnover of upto Rs. 5 crore in the previous financial year, whose principal place of business is in category B States, is required to make payment of tax and furnish monthly return for the month of June, 2025
30th June	May 2025	Rule 16 of Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules, 2014	File Return of Deposit in Form DPT-3, where company is non-banking, non-financial company accepting deposits, Return of Deposit is to be filed with RoC.
		Quarterly return by banking company/ public company/ co-operative society regarding non-deduction of tax at source	Quarterly return to be furnished by banking company or co-operative society or public company referred to in proviso to section 194A(3)(i) disclosing details of interest payments on time deposits to any resident (other than interest on securities) not exceeding Rs.5,000 [Rs.40,000 (Rs.50,000 in case of senior citizen) where payer is banking company or a co-operative society carrying on business banking] where such payment has been made without deduction of tax during the quarter ended on 31-3-2025.

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