



Indian Legal Updates

The purpose of this document is to highlight the key changes introduced in Indian legal era by way of Notifications and Circular in various tax and regulatory laws.

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Direct Tax Updates

[Acceptance of cash over-counter \[September 8, 2016\]](#)

Through the circular RBI has directed the banks to accept tax dues in cash, irrespective of amount, over the counter from all declarants including the declarants under Income Declaration Scheme, 2016 through challan ITNS – 286.

[Declaration under IDS scheme to be considered as “Co-operation in enquiry” u/s 273A](#)

The CBDT has issued the circular clarifying that the income declaration under the said scheme shall be considered as “Co-operation in enquiry” by assessee. Accordingly, the concerned revenue authorities are advised to take lenient view on receipt of a valid application under section 273A in respect of an issue for the said assessment year which is identical to the issue on which a valid declaration has been made under the scheme for other AYs subject to payment of entire amount payable under IDS.

[Agreements between India and Maldives for avoidance of double taxation for income derived from international air transport and exchange of information with respect to taxes](#)

The government has entered into agreements with Maldives for the above mentioned matters, which are provided as annexures to DTAA and shall be given effect to in Union of

India in accordance to article 6 & article 12 of the respective agreements.

[Agreement between India and Seychelles for exchange of Information with respect to taxes](#)

The government of India has entered into mutual agreement with the republic of Seychelles to provide assistance through exchange of information that is relevant to the administration and enforcement of domestic laws of both the countries related to respective taxes of both the countries.

Indirect Tax Updates

[Increase in the effective rate of basic custom duty on marble and travertine blocks, marble slabs and granite slabs](#)

CBEC has issued the notification to increase the basic custom duty over the above mentioned products to 20% with effect from 01.10.2016.

[Reduction in import duties of certain goods](#)

The notifications seeks to reduce import duty on:

1. Potatoes from 30% to 10% up to 31.10.2016;
2. Wheat from 25% to 10% up to 29.02.2017; and
3. Palm oil from 12.5% to 7.5% and from 20% to 15% for crude oil and refined oil respectively.

[Services provided by state govt. industrial development corporations by way of](#)

[granting long term lease of industrial plots to industrial units exempted](#)

CBEC has notified that the above services shall be exempted from so much of service tax which is leviable on the one time upfront amount payable for such lease.

[Thirteenth Amendment to Foreign Exchange Management \(Transfer or issue of security by a person resident outside India\) Regulation, 2000](#)

RBI has notified regulations to further amend the said regulations which are made to prohibit, restrict or regulate, transfer or issue of security by a person resident outside India.

Foreign Exchange Regulation Updates

Media

1. Publication: The Economic Times – September 30, 2016

[Quote in The Economic Times on Queries swamp taxmen as Income Declaration Scheme deadline looms](#)

The article talks about the surge in queries at Income tax department as Income Declaration Scheme deadline looms, expecting a frantic spurt in black money disclosures before time runs out, with a quote by Mr. Amit Maheshwari, Partner, Ashok Maheshwary & Associates LLP.

[read more](#)

2. Publication: DNA – September 30, 2016

[Quote in the DNA on Black Money Scheme](#)

The article talks about the Black money scheme that is likely to bring out Rs35,000Cr in disclosures adding over Rs15000Cr to Government's earning, with a quote by Mr. Amit Maheshwari, Partner, Ashok Maheshwary & Associates LLP.

[read more](#)

3. Publication: DNA – September 29, 2016

[Quote in DNA on Income Declaration Scheme that is likely to yield little cash for government](#)

The article talks about the ineffective tax drive in which 700,000 notices have been sent to the suspected tax evaders to coax them to declare hidden income and assets, promising no further pursual by the authorities if they pay the penalty, with a quote by Mr. Amit Maheshwari, Partner, Ashok Maheshwary & Associates LLP.

[read more](#)

4. Publication: Money Control – September 29, 2016

[Quote in Money Control on Income Declaration Scheme that is likely to yield little cash for government](#)

The article talks about the ineffective tax drive in which 700,000 notices have been sent to suspected tax evaders to coax them to declare hidden income and assets, promising no further pursual by the authorities if they pay the penalty, with a q uote by Mr. Amit Maheshwari, Partner, Ashok Maheshwary & Associates LLP. [read more](#)

About Us

[Ashok Maheshwary & Associates LLP](#) is an accounting firm in India with International presence. Our core practice areas include: Corporate Finance, Joint Ventures & Restructuring, International Tax, Dispute Resolution, Transaction Advisory, Mergers & Acquisitions, Entry Strategy for Foreign Investors and Transfer Pricing study & documentation.

Quick Look

1. Headquartered in Gurgaon, New Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore and Singapore and a well spun net of local and international associates. Over **35 years** of experience across varied industries.
2. Specialize in **advising clients** on complex transaction from a **legal, tax and regulatory perspective** integrated with industry expertise.
3. **Close association** with a number of renowned **Accounting** and **Auditing** firms (which are part of top 100 CPA Firms) in the US to develop, support and facilitate US-India bilateral business opportunities– both for Indian businesses entering the US market as well as US businesses establishing a business presence in India.
4. **Member** of reputed international alliances, [Leading Edge Alliance](#), the second largest global association of accounting firms in the world(#9 in worldwide ranking of networks, associations and alliances), [TPA Global](#) Group, an independent and specialist provider of expert transfer pricing, tax valuation and customs services to provide transfer pricing and valuation services to their clients globally.
5. **Secondment** agreement in place with [TMI Associates](#) (the fifth-largest law firm in Japan) to make inroads in the **Japanese market**.
6. **Nominated** by International Tax review for [Asia Tax Award 2016](#) in “**National Transfer Pricing Firm**” and “**Best Newcomer Asia**” categories.
7. **Clients** include **Fortune 1000, Fortune 500 companies, Listed Multinationals, Listed Companies, exciting startups and Large domestic corporate houses**.
8. **Ranked as a Tier 2 firm for Transfer Pricing services in India in World Transfer Pricing Guide 2017. Published by International Tax Review, World Transfer Pricing Guide is the comprehensive guide to the world’s leading Transfer Pricing firms in each jurisdiction. Each edition rates the transfer pricing expertise offered in more than 50 jurisdictions globally, giving tax executives the most comprehensive information about the market for tax advice. Tier 2 firms have a leading reputation in their jurisdiction. They have a varied portfolio of work and offer a range of transfer pricing services.**

Initiatives

The partners in the firm contribute stories/articles for the media (electronic/ press like Worldwide Tax by TaxAnalysts.com of the US, The Economic Times, Live Mint & The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Express, Press Trust of India, CCH, etc) on the International tax and Transfer Pricing matters (including latest developments) providing their views as to their impact on business environment in India.

Amit Maheshwari, managing partner at Ashok Maheshwary & Associates LLP has written a book titled "Expatriate Taxation - Decoding the Complexity" published by Wolters Kluwer (CCH) and currently in its second edition. The partners are now authoring all transfer pricing judgment summaries for CCH in their portal Direct tax online.

His second book, titled "India Transfer Pricing Manual" has been published by Lexis Nexis, one of the largest publishers in the legal arena in the world. The book aims to provide additional content and depth on Indian transfer pricing landscape that shapes many large MNCs. His latest book titled "NRI Regulations – Decoding the complexity" which focuses on Indian legislative requirements applicable to NRIs has been published again by Wolters Kluwer (CCH).

In case you need any further information/clarifications please contact us:

Ashok Maheshwary & Associates LLP

344, Tower B2, Spaze I-Tech Park,

Sector -49, Sohna Road,

Gurgaon-122018, India

Tel: + 91 124 4637530

Fax: + 91 124 4148180

Email: info@akmglobal.com

Website: www.akmglobal.com

Blog: akmglobal.wordpress.com

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