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EDITORIAL



Friends,

India's Goods and Services Tax collections for December 2025 offer an important lens into how the tax system is adjusting after the landmark GST 2.0 rate rationalisation implemented earlier in the year. The data reflects not just headline growth, but a structural transition in the way GST revenues are being generated.

Gross GST collections for December 2025 stood at around ₹1.74–1.75 lakh crore, marking a 6.1 per cent increase over the corresponding month last year on an adjusted basis. While the year-on-year comparison initially appears muted, this is largely due to the fact that December 2024 included over ₹12,000 crore in compensation cess collections, which have since been withdrawn for most products except tobacco and related items. When this distortion is removed, December 2025 collections indicate that GST revenues have begun to stabilise despite significantly lower effective tax rates.

From an intra-month perspective, December collections were about 2.5 per cent higher than November 2025, signalling steady momentum even after the festive season. Net GST revenues, after accounting for refunds, stood at over ₹1.45 lakh crore, representing a modest 2.2 per cent year-on-year growth. However, this net figure was materially impacted by a sharp surge in refunds, which rose by about 31 per cent to nearly ₹29,000 crore during the month.

According to data, gross domestic revenue was over ₹1.22 lakh crore, a growth of just 1.2 per cent. During this period, refunds surged by over 62 per cent, which impacted net collection which saw de-growth. The impact of GST 2.0 rate reduction explains the net GST domestic collections de-growing in December. Further GST 2.0 has created or deepened an inverted duty structure in many sectors like packaging, farming, pharma, etc. All such taxpayers had applied for inverted duty refunds in November 2025 and received the same in December 2025, impacting the GST collections further.

The GDP crossing 8% and Net GST Domestic Revenues de-growth by 5.1% can be explained by the fact that the GDP growth has a major component of increased Government expenditure which, when discounted, gives a muted GST Collection. However, it is a fact that the impact of Government expenditure on consumption will be seen in the next 6 months to 1 year and the GST Collections in FY 26-27 should again revive with a bang!

The apparent divergence between strong GDP growth, which has crossed 8 per cent, and softer net GST domestic revenues can be explained by the composition of growth itself. A significant portion of recent GDP expansion has been driven by increased government expenditure, which does not immediately translate into GST collections. As this expenditure feeds into consumption and private sector activity over the next six to twelve months, GST revenues are expected to regain momentum, potentially leading to a strong revival in FY 2026–27.

Overall, December 2025 GST collections suggest that India's tax buoyancy is holding up in the face of lower rates, higher refunds and structural realignment. For businesses, this period calls for careful cash-flow planning, particularly in sectors affected by inverted duty structures. Also, the data reinforces the importance of viewing monthly GST numbers not in isolation, but as part of a broader transition towards a simpler, more growth-oriented indirect tax regime.

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

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TAX CALENDAR

Date	Form/Return/Challan	Reporting Period	Description
7th January	Deposit of TDS	Dec-25	Due date for deposit of Tax deducted [except under Section 194-IA, Section 194-IB, Section 194M, or Section 194S (by specified person)] or collected for the month of December, 2025. However, all the sum deducted/collected by an office of the government shall be paid to the credit of the Central Government on the same day where tax is paid without production of an Income-tax Challan.
7th January	Deposit of TDS	Oct-Dec 2025	Due date for deposit of TDS for the period October 2025 to December 2025 when Assessing Officer has permitted quarterly deposit of TDS under Sections 192, 194A, 194D or 194H
10th January	GSTR-7	Dec-25	Monthly return filed by individuals who deduct tax at source or TDS under the Goods and Services Tax (GST)
10th January	GSTR-8	Dec-25	Monthly return to be filed by e-commerce operators registered under the GST.

INCOME TAX

NOTIFICATION

APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 35(1)(II) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH -CANCER INSTITUTE' (W.I.A), CHENNAI

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes vide Notification No. 175/2025 dated 30.12.2025 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961) read with Rules 5C and 5E of the Income-tax Rules, 1962, the Central Government hereby approves 'Cancer Institute' (W.I.A), (PAN:AAATC2259F) Chennai for 'Scientific Research' under the category of 'University, college or other institution' for the purposes of clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 read with rules 5C and 5E of the Income-tax Rules, 1962.

2. This Notification shall be applicable for Assessment years 2027-28 to 2031-32.

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

NOTIFICATION

APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 35(1)(II) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, PUNE -

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes vide Notification No. 174/2025 dated 29.12.2025 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961) read with Rules 5C and 5E of the Income-tax Rules, 1962, the Central Government hereby approves Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, (PAN: AAAAI1546E), Pune for 'Scientific Research' under the category of 'University, college or other institution' for the purposes of clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of

section 35 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 read with rules 5C and 5E of the Income-tax Rules, 1962.

2. This Notification shall be applicable for Assessment years 2026-27 to 2030-31.

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

NOTIFICATION

APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 35(1)(II) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH - CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE VELLORE ASSOCIATION, VELLORE, TAMIL NADU -

OUR COMMENT: The Central Board of Direct Taxes vide Notification No. 173/2025 dated 29.12.2025 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961) read with Rules 5C and 5E of the Income-tax Rules, 1962, the Central Government hereby approves The Christian Medical College Vellore Association (PAN:AAATC1278N), Vellore, Tamil Nadu for 'Scientific Research' under the category of 'University, college or other institution' for the purposes of clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 read with rules 5C and 5E of the Income-tax Rules, 1962.

2. This Notification shall apply with effect from the date of publication in the Official Gazette and accordingly shall be applicable for Assessment Years 2026-27 to 2030-31.

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

GST

NOTIFICATION

SEEKS TO AMEND NOTIFICATION 09/2025- CENTRAL TAX (RATE), TO PRESCRIBE GST RATES ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

OUR COMMENTS: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has issued Notification No. 19/2025- Central Tax (Rate) dated 31.12.2025 Notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 9 and sub-section (5) of section 15 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (12 of 2017), the Central Government, on the recommendations of the Council, hereby makes the following amendments in the notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 9/2025- Central Tax (Rate), published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R. 641(E), dated the 17th September, 2025, namely:-

In the said notification, -

(a) in the Schedule II – 9%, after S. No. 4 and the entries relating thereto, the following serial number and entries shall be inserted, namely: -

“4A. 2403 19 21, 2403 19 29 Biris;”;

(b) in the Schedule III – 20%, after S. No. 13 and the entries relating thereto, the following serial number and entries shall be inserted, namely:

“14.	2106 90 20	Pan masala;
15.	2401	Unmanufactured tobacco; tobacco refuse [other than tobacco leaves];
16.	2402	Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes;
17.	2403 (other than 2403 19 21, 2403 19 29)	Other manufactured tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes; homogenised or reconstituted tobacco; tobacco extracts and essences [other than biris];
18.	2404 11 00	Products containing tobacco or reconstituted tobacco and intended for inhalation without combustion;

19.	2404 19 00	Products containing tobacco or nicotine substitutes and intended for inhalation without combustion.”;
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(c) the Schedule VII – 14%, and the entries relating thereto shall be omitted.

2. This notification shall come into force on the 1st day of February, 2026.

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (FIFTH AMENDMENT) RULES, 2025 -

OUR COMMENTS: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has issued Notification No. 20/2025-Central Tax dated 31.12.2025 Notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by section 164 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (12 of 2017), the Central Government, on the recommendations of the Council, hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017, namely: -

1. Short title and commencement.

(1) These rules may be called as the Central Goods and Services Tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2025.

(2) They shall come into force from 1st day of February, 2026.

2. In the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as the said rules), after rule 31C, the following rule shall be inserted, namely: —

“31D. Value of supply of goods on basis of retail sale price. -
(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the provisions of this Chapter, the value of supply of goods bearing the description specified in column (3), falling under the corresponding Chapter/ heading/ sub-heading/ tariff item specified in column (2), of the Table below, shall be deemed to be the retail sale price declared on such goods, less the amount of tax as applicable, namely:-

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TABLE

S. No.	Chapter / Heading / Sub- heading / Tariff item	Description of Goods
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	2106 90 20	Pan masala
2.	2401	Unmanufactured tobacco; tobacco refuse [other than tobacco leaves]
3.	2402	Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes
4.	2403	Other manufactured tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes; "homogenised" or "reconstituted" tobacco; tobacco extracts and essences (other than biris)
5.	2404 11 00	Products containing tobacco or reconstituted tobacco and intended for inhalation without combustion
6.	2404 19 00	Products containing tobacco or nicotine substitutes and intended for inhalation without combustion

(2) The amount of applicable tax referred to in sub-rule (1) shall be determined in the following manner, namely: —

Tax amount = (Retail sale price X tax rate in % of applicable taxes) / (100+ sum of applicable tax rate).

Explanation. — For the purposes of this rule, —

(a) "applicable tax" means IGST or CGST or SGST or UTGST as the case may be.

(b) "retail sale price" means the maximum price declared on goods at which such goods in packaged form may be sold to the ultimate consumer and includes all taxes, duties, surcharge or cess by whatever name called;

(c) where on the package of any specified goods more than one retail sale price is declared, the maximum of such retail sale price shall be deemed to be the retail sale price;

(d) where the retail sale price declared on packages of any specified goods is altered to increase the retail sale price at any stage before, during, or after the supply, such altered retail sale price shall be deemed to be the retail sale price;

(e) where different retail sale prices are declared on different packages for the sale of any specified goods above in packaged form in different areas, each such retail sale price shall be the retail sale price for the purposes of valuation of the specified goods intended to be sold in the area to which the retail sale price relates.".

3. In the said rules, in rule 86B, in the first proviso, after clause (e), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

"(f) the registered person other than a manufacturer shall be exempted from the provisions of this rule only in respect of goods specified under rule 31D, on which the tax has been paid by the supplier on the basis of retail sale price:".

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

NOTIFICATION

SEEKS TO AMEND NOTIFICATION NO. 49/2023-CENTRAL TAX, DATED THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

OUR COMMENTS: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has issued Notification No. 19/2025- CENTRAL TAX dated 31.12.2025 Notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (5) of section 15 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (12 of 2017), the Government, on the recommendations of the Council, hereby makes the following amendment in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) No. 49/2023-Central Tax, dated the 29th September, 2023 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) vide number G.S.R. 705(E), dated the 29th September, 2023, namely: —

In the said notification, after clause (iii), the following clause shall be inserted, namely: —

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"(iv) supply of the following goods bearing the description specified in column (3), falling under the corresponding Chapter/ heading/ sub-heading/ tariff item specified in column (2), of the Table below, on which retail sale price is declared : -

TABLE

S. No.	Chapter / Heading / Sub- heading / Tariff item	Description of Goods
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	2106 90 20	Pan masala
2.	2401	Unmanufactured tobacco; tobacco refuse [other than tobacco leaves]
3.	2402	Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes
4.	2403	Other manufactured tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes; "homogenised" or "reconstituted" tobacco; tobacco extracts and essences (other than biris)
5.	2404 11 00	Products containing tobacco or reconstituted tobacco and intended for inhalation without combustion
6.	2404 19 00	Products containing tobacco or nicotine substitutes and intended for inhalation without combustion

Explanation. - For the purposes of this clause, —

(a). "retail sale price" means the maximum price declared on goods at which such goods in packaged form may be sold to the ultimate consumer and includes all taxes, duties, surcharge or cess, by whatever name called;

(b). where on the package of any specified goods more than one retail sale price is declared, the maximum of such retail sale price shall be deemed to be the retail sale price;

(c). where the retail sale price declared on packages of any specified goods is altered to increase the retail sale price at any stage before, during, or after the supply, such altered retail sale price shall be deemed to be the retail sale price;

(d). where different retail sale prices are declared on different packages for the sale of any specified goods above in packaged form in different areas, each such retail sale price shall be the retail sale price for the purposes of valuation of the specified goods intended to be sold in the area to which the retail sale price relates.

(e). "tariff item", "heading", "sub-heading" and "Chapter" shall mean respectively a tariff item, heading, sub-heading, and Chapter as specified in the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975);

(f). the rules for the interpretation of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975), including the Section and Chapter Notes and the General Explanatory Notes of the First Schedule shall, so far as may be, apply to the interpretation of this clause."

2. This notification shall come into force on the 1st day of February 2026.

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

NOTIFICATION

SEEKS TO AMEND NOTIFICATION 01/2025- COMPENSATION CESS TAX (RATE), TO PRESCRIBE GST RATES ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

OUR COMMENTS: Department of Revenue, Ministry Of Finance, has issued Notification No. 03/2025-Compensation Cess (Rate) dated 31.12.2025 notified that In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 8 of the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 (15 of 2017), the Central Government, on the recommendations of the Council, hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India, in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 1/2017- Compensation Cess (Rate), dated the 28th June, 2017, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R. 720(E), dated the 28th June, 2017, namely :-

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In the said notification, in the SCHEDULE, —

- i. against S. No. 1, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- ii. against S. No. 1A, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- iii. against S. No. 5, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- iv. against S. No. 5A, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- v. against S. No. 6, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- vi. against S. No. 6A, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- vii. against S. No. 7, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- viii. against S. No. 7A, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- ix. against S. No. 8, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- x. against S. No. 9, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xi. against S. No. 10, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xii. against S. No. 11, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xiii. against S. No. 12, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xiv. against S. No. 13, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xv. against S. No. 14, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xvi. against S. No. 15, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xvii. against S. No. 16, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xviii. against S. No. 17, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xix. against S. No. 18, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xx. against S. No. 19, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xxi. against S. No. 19A, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xxii. against S. No. 20, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xxiii. against S. No. 20A, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xxiv. against S. No. 21, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xxv. against S. No. 21A, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xxvi. against S. No. 22, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xxvii. against S. No. 22A, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xxviii. against S. No. 23, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xxix. against S. No. 23A, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xxx. against S. No. 24, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xxxi. against S. No. 24A, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xxxii. against S. No. 24B, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;
- xxxiii. against S. No. 24C, for the entries in column (4), the entry "Nil" shall be substituted;

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xxxiv. against S. No. 25, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted

xxxv. against S. No. 26, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

xxxvi. against S. No. 26A, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

xxxvii. against S. No. 27, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

xxxviii. against S. No. 27A, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

xxxix. against S. No. 28, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

xl. against S. No. 28A, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

xli. against S. No. 29, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

xlii. against S. No. 29A, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

xliii. against S. No. 30, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

xliv. against S. No. 30A, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

xlv. against S. No. 31, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

xlii. against S. No. 31A, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

xlvii. against S. No. 32, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

xlviii. against S. No. 32A, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

xlix. against S. No. 33, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

l. against S. No. 33A, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

li. against S. No. 34, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

lii. against S. No. 34A, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

liii. against S. No. 35, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

liv. against S. No. 35A, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

lv. against S. No. 36, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

lvi. against S. No. 36A, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

lvii. against S. No. 36B, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

lviii. against S. No. 36C, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

lix. against S. No. 36D, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

lx. against S. No. 36E, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

lxi. against S. No. 37, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted;

lxii. against S. No. 38, for the entries in column (4), the entry “Nil” shall be substituted.

2. This notification shall come into force on the 1st day of February, 2026.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

FEMA

CASE LAW

RAJ SOLVEX PVT. LTD. AND OTHERS VERSUS SPECIAL DIRECTOR, ENFORCMENENT DIRECTORTE: DELHI HIGH COURT

OUR COMMENTS: In the instant case the appellant in Crl. Appeal No.1254/2010, M/s Raj Soltex Pvt. Limited, was released foreign currency amounting to US\$ 9,15,058.11, for import of edible oil by the said company into India. In terms of the requirement prescribed in the Foreign Exchange Control Manual, the appellant company was required to furnish export control copy of the Bill of Entry, within three (3) months from the date of remittance of the foreign exchange, to the bank which had issued the aforesaid foreign exchange. The case of the respondent is that the appellant company failed to submit the Exchange Control Copy of the Bill of Entry to the State Bank of Hyderabad, Chandi Chowk, which was the concerned authorized dealer which had issued the foreign exchange to the appellant company. the Special Director in Enforcement Directorate issued a Memorandum dated 21.5.2002 to the appellant-Company, M/s Raj Soltex Limited as well as its Directors namely P.K. Gupta, Raj Kumar Gupta, Manoj Kumar Gupta and B.S. Gupta required them to show cause as to why adjudicatory proceedings as contemplated under Section 51 of the aforesaid Act read with sub-sections (3) & (4) of Section 49 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) should not be held against them for the aforesaid contraventions.

Vide order dated 25.9.2003, the Special Director in Enforcement Directorate, imposed penalty of Rs.3.00 crore on the appellant Company, M/s. Raj Soltex Limited, under Section 50 of FERA, 1973 and personal penalty of Rs.75.00 lakh each on its Directors namely P.K. Gupta, Raj Kumar Gupta, Manoj Kumar Gupta and B.S. Gupta.

The appellants filed an appeal before the Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange under Section 19 of the FEMA, along with an application seeking condonation of delay in filing the said appeal. Vide order dated 5.2.2007 the Appellate Tribunal dismissed the appeal solely on the ground that the period of limitation for filing such an appeal was 45 days from the date of receipt of the order and the said period could be extended only up to a maximum period of 45 days under Section 52(2) of FERA and, therefore, since the appeals had been filed beyond 90 days from the date of receipt of the adjudication order they were liable to be dismissed. Thus, no view on merits of the appeal, was taken by the Appellate Tribunal.

Being aggrieved from the aforesaid order passed by the Appellate Tribunal, the appellants filed WP (C)No.3353/2008.

It has been held that the aforesaid Section prescribes a period of 60 days from the communication of the decision of the Appellate Tribunal for filing an appeal to this Court, but this Court can condone the delay in filing an appeal for a further period not exceeding 60 days if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal within the prescribed period - if an appeal preferred by the appellants before the Tribunal, it was required to be dealt with under Section 19 of the FEMA and, therefore, the Appellate Tribunal could entertain the appeals, even after the expiry of 45 days from the receipt of the order of the adjudicating authority if it was satisfied that there was sufficient cause for not filing the appeal within the aforesaid 45 days' period. There is no upper cap on the delay which could be condoned by the Appellate Tribunal, in the event of its being satisfied that there was sufficient cause for not filing the appeal within the prescribed period.

It can hardly be disputed that the Tribunal ought to have considered the application of the appellants for condonation of delay in filing the appeals on merits instead of dismissing them on the ground that the delay beyond 45 days from the prescribed period could not be condoned by it - impugned order dated 5.2.2007 passed by the Appellate Tribunal is hereby set aside and the matter is remanded back to the Tribunal for deciding the application for condonation of delay on merit and in case the delay in filing the appeals is condoned, the said Tribunal shall also decide the appeals on merit - Decided in favour of assessee.

[For further details please refer the Case Law.]

CUSTOMS

NOTIFICATION

SEEKS TO AMEND NOTIFICATION NO. 43/2025-CUSTOMS, DATED THE 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2025 - 53/2025 - CUSTOMS

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Notification No 53/2025-26 dated 30.12.2025 Notified that In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 43/2025-Customs, dated the 30th September, 2025, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R. 730 (E), dated the 30th September, 2025, namely :-

In the said notification, for the TABLE, the Table provided in the notification shall be substituted.

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

NOTIFICATION

SEEKS TO AMEND NOTIFICATION NO. 42/2025-CUSTOMS, DATED THE 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2025

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Notification No 52/2025 dated 30.12.2025 Notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 42/2025-Customs, dated the 30th September, 2025, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R. 729 (E), dated the 30th September, 2025, namely :-

In the said notification, for the TABLE, the Table provided in the notification shall be substituted.

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

NOTIFICATION

SEEKS TO AMEND NOTIFICATION NO. 41/2025-CUSTOMS, DATED THE 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2025 - AMENDS THE FIRST TRANCHE OF TARIFF CONCESSIONS UNDER INDIA-EFTA (SWITZERLAND)

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Notification No. 51/2025-26 dated 30.12.2025 Notified in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 41/2025-Customs, dated the 30th September, 2025, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R. 728 (E), dated the 30th September, 2025, namely :-

In the said notification,-

(a) for the TABLE I, the Table provided in the notification shall be substituted.

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

NOTIFICATION

SEEKS TO AMEND NOTIFICATION NO. 62/2022-CUSTOMS, DATED THE 26TH DECEMBER, 2022 - LEVY OF CUSTOM DUTY ON SPECIFIED GOODS WHEN IMPORTED INTO REPUBLIC OF INDIA FROM AUSTRALIA

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Notification No. 50/2025-26 dated 30.12.2025 Notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 62/2022-Customs, dated the 26th December, 2022, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R. 904 (E), dated the 26th December, 2022, namely :-

In the said notification,-

(a) for the TABLE I, the Table provided in the notification shall be substituted.

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

NOTIFICATION

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

CUSTOMS

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Notification No. 80/2025-Customs(N.T) dated 31.12.205 Notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, being satisfied that it is necessary and expedient to do so, hereby makes the following amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 36/2001-Customs (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (ii), vide number S. O. 748 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2001, namely:-

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

“TABLE-1

Sl. No.	Chapter/ heading/ sub-heading/ tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value (US \$ Per Metric Tonne)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	1511 10 00	Crude Palm Oil	1077
2	1511 90 10	RBD Palm Oil	1095
3	1511 90 90	Others – Palm Oil	1087
4	1511 10 00	Crude Palmolein	1100
5	1511 90 20	RBD Palmolein	1103
6	1511 90 90	Others – Palmolein	1102
7	1507 10 00	Crude Soya bean Oil	1162
8	7404 00 22	Brass Scrap (all grades)	6694

TABLE-2

Sl. No.	Chapter/ heading/ sub-heading/tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value (US \$)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	71 or 98	Gold, in any form, in respect of which the benefit of entries at serial number 194 of the Notification No. 45/2025-Customs dated 24.10.2025 is availed	1405 per 10 grams

2.	71 or 98	Silver, in any form, in respect of which the benefit of entries at serial number 195 of the Notification No. 45/2025-Customs dated 24.10.2025 is availed	2413 per kilogram
3.	71	<p>(i) Silver, in any form, other than medallions and silver coins having silver content not below 99.9% or semi-manufactured forms of silver falling under sub-heading 7106 92;</p> <p>(ii) Medallions and silver coins having silver content not below 99.9% or semi-manufactured forms of silver falling under sub-heading 7106 92, other than imports of such goods through post, courier or baggage.</p> <p>Explanation. - For the purposes of this entry, silver in any form shall not include foreign currency coins, jewellery made of silver or articles made of silver.</p>	2413 per kilogram
4.	71	<p>(i) Gold bars, other than tola bars, bearing manufacturer's or refiner's engraved serial number and weight expressed in metric units;</p> <p>(ii) Gold coins having gold content not below 99.5% and gold findings, other than imports of such goods</p>	1405 per 10 grams

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	through post, courier or baggage.	
	Explanation. - For the purposes of this entry, "gold findings" means a small component such as hook, clasp, clamp, pin, catch, screw back used to hold the whole or a part of a piece of Jewellery in place.	

TABLE-3

Sl. No.	Chapter/ heading/ sub-heading/ tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value (US \$ Per Metric Ton)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	080280	Areca nuts	7679 (i.e., no change)"

2. This notification shall come into force with effect from the 01st day of January, 2026.

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

NOTIFICATION

SEA CARGO MANIFEST AND TRANSSHIPMENT (FIFTH AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2025

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Notification No. 79/2025 Customs(N.T) dated 31.12.205 Notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by section 157, read with sections 30, 30A, 41, 41A, 53, 54, 56, sub-section (3) of section 98 and sub-section (2) of section 158 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs hereby makes the following amendments in the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations, 2018, namely:-

1. Short title and commencement –

(1) These regulations may be called the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2025.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. **In the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations, 2018,-**

(1) In the TABLE after FORM-XII:

i. against Sr. No. 6, in column (3), for the entry, the entry "31.03.2026" shall be substituted.

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

NOTIFICATION

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

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Notification No. 78/2025 Customs(N.T) dated 30.12.205 Notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, being satisfied that it is necessary and expedient to do so, hereby makes the following amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 36/2001-Customs (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (ii), vide number S.O. 748(E), dated the 3rd August, 2001, namely:-

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

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

NOTIFICATION

SEEKS TO IMPOSE PROVISIONAL ANTI DUMPING DUTY ON IMPORTS OF "LOW ASH METALLURGICAL COKE" ORIGINATING IN OR EXPORTED FROM AUSTRALIA, CHINA PR, COLOMBIA, INDONESIA, JAPAN AND RUSSIA. -

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Notification No. 41/2025 Customs(ADD) dated 31.12.205 Notified that Whereas, in the matter of 'Low Ash Metallurgical Coke' (hereinafter referred to as the subject goods), falling under tariff items 2704 00 10, 2704 00 20, 2704 00 30 and 2704 00 90 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975) (hereinafter referred to as the Customs Tariff Act), originating in or exported from Australia, China PR, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan and Russia (hereinafter referred to as the subject countries) and imported into India, the designated authority vide its preliminary findings F. No. 6/03/2025-DGTR, dated the 14th November, 2025, published

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in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, dated the 14th November, 2025, has provisionally concluded that-

- (i) the product under consideration that has been exported to India from the subject countries are at dumped prices;
- (ii) the domestic industry has suffered material injury;
- (iii) material injury has been caused by the dumped imports of the subject goods from the subject countries;

and has recommended imposition of provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of the subject goods, originating in, or exported from the subject countries and imported into India, in order to remove injury to the domestic industry.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act read with rule 13 and 20 of the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-dumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995, the Central Government, on the basis of the aforesaid preliminary findings of the designated authority, hereby imposes on the subject goods, the description of which is specified in column (3) of the following Table, falling under the Tariff items of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act as specified in the corresponding entry in column (2), originating in the countries as specified in the corresponding entry in column (4), exported from the countries as specified in the corresponding entry in column (5), produced by the producers as specified in the corresponding entry in column (6), and imported into India, a provisional anti-dumping duty equal to the amount indicated in the corresponding entry in column (7), in the currency as specified in the corresponding entry in column (9) and as per unit of measurement as specified in the corresponding entry in column (8) of the said Table, namely:-

Table

S. n o .	Ta riff Ite m	Descri ption*	Country of Origin	Coun try of Export	Prod ucer	Amo unt	U ni t	Curr ency
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1	27 04 00	Low Ash	Australia	Any coun try inclu ding	Any	73.5 5	M T	USD

10 , 27 04 00 20 , 27 04 00 30 an d 27 04 00 90	Metall urgical Coke*		Austr alia					
2	- do -	-do-	Any Countr y other than Australia, C olombia, China PR, Indone sia, Japan and Russia	Austr alia	Any	73.5 5	M T	USD
3	- do -	-do-	China PR	Any coun try inclu ding China PR	Any	130. 66	M T	USD
4	- do -	-do-	Any Countr y other than Australia, C olombia, China PR, Indone sia, Japan and Russia	China PR	Any	130. 66	M T	USD

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5	- do -	-do-	Colombia	Any country including Colombia	Any	119.51	M	USD				China PR, Indonesia, Japan and Russia					
6	- do -	-do-	Any Country other than Australia, Colombia, China PR, Indonesia, Japan and Russia	Colombia	Any	119.51	M	USD	1	- do -	-do-	Russia	Any country including Russia	Any	85.12	M	USD
7	- do -	-do-	Indonesia	Any country including Indonesia	Any	82.75	M	USD	1	- do -	-do-	Any Country other than Australia, Colombia, China PR, Indonesia, Japan and Russia	Russia	Any	85.12	M	USD
8	- do -	-do-	Any Country other than Australia, Colombia, China PR, Indonesia, Japan and Russia	Indonesia	Any	82.75	M	USD	<p>* Metallurgical Coke having ash content below 18% excluding ultra-low phosphorous metallurgical coke with phosphorous content up to 0.030% with size upto 30 mm with 5% size tolerance for use in ferroalloy manufacturing.</p> <p>Note: Customs classification of the subject goods is only indicative, and the determination of anti-dumping duty shall be made as per the description of the subject goods.</p> <p>2. The provisional anti-dumping duty imposed under this notification shall be effective for a period of six months, unless revoked, amended or superseded earlier, from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette and shall be payable in Indian currency.</p> <p>Explanation- For the purposes of this notification, rate of exchange applicable for the purposes of calculation of the anti-dumping duty shall be the rate which is specified in the notification of the Government of India, in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), issued from time to time, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), and the relevant date for the determination of the rate of exchange shall be the date of presentation of the bill of entry under section 46 of the said Customs Act.</p>								
9	- do -	-do-	Japan	Any country including Japan	Any	60.87	M	USD									
10	- do -	-do-	Any Country other than Australia, Colombia, Japan	Japan	Any	60.87	M	USD									

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[For further details please refer the Notification.]

NOTIFICATION

SEEKS TO AMEND NOTIFICATION NO. 32/2025-CUSTOMS (ADD), DATED THE 12TH NOVEMBER, 2025

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Notification No. 40/2025 Customs(ADD) dated 30.12.2025 Notified that Whereas in the matter of 'Hot rolled flat products of alloy or non-alloy steel' (hereinafter referred to as the subject goods) falling under tariff headings 7208, 7211, 7225 or 7226 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975) (hereinafter referred to as the Customs Tariff Act), originating in, or exported from Vietnam (hereinafter referred to as the subject country), and imported into India, the designated authority in its final findings, vide notification No. 06/15/2024-DGTR, dated the 13th August, 2025, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, dated the 13th August, 2025, had inter-alia come to the conclusion that—

- (i) the subject goods have been exported to India from the subject country at a price below the normal value, resulting in dumping;
- (ii) the domestic industry has suffered injury as a result of dumped imports;
- (iii) there is also threat of further aggravated injury to the domestic industry, if anti-dumping duty is not imposed on import of subject goods from the subject country,

and has recommended imposition of an anti-dumping duty on the imports of subject goods, originating in, or exported from the subject country and imported into India, in order to remove injury to the domestic industry.

And whereas, on the basis of the aforesaid final findings of the designated authority, the Central Government had imposed the anti-dumping duty on the subject goods, vide notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 32/2025-Customs (ADD), dated the 12th November, 2025 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, section 3, sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R. 836(E), dated the 12th November, 2025;

And whereas, the designated authority vide notification No. 06/15/2024-DGTR, dated the 13th August, 2025, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1 had recommended that the anti-dumping duty payable would be the anti-dumping duty (mentioned in column (7) of the Table

in para 122 of the aforementioned Final Findings) minus the safeguard duty payable, if any;

And whereas, a safeguard duty has now been imposed on the subject goods vide Notification No. 02/2025-Customs (SG) dated the 30th December, 2025 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, section 3, sub-section (i).

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (5) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act read with rules 18 and 20 of the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Antidumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995, the Central Government, hereby makes the following amendment in the notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) No. 32/2025-Customs (ADD), dated the 12th November, 2025, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, section 3, sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R. 836(E), dated the 12th November, 2025, namely:-

In the said notification, after Note 2 and before paragraph 2 the following note shall be inserted, namely:-

"Note 3: Safeguard duty has been imposed on the subject goods vide Notification No. 02/2025-Customs (SG) dated 30th December, 2025. Therefore, anti-dumping duty equal to the anti-dumping duty mentioned in column no. (7) of the Table above, minus the safeguard duty payable, if any, shall be imposed."

[For further details please refer the Notification.]

CIRCULAR

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEA CARGO MANIFEST AND TRANSHIPMENT REGULATIONS (SCMTR)

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Circular No. 30/2025 dated 31.12.2025 Clarified that Kind attention is invited towards the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transhipment Regulations (SCMTR), 2018 issued vide Notification No. 38/2018 dated 11th May, 2018 and latest extended vide Notification No. 79/2025-Customs (N.T.) dated 31st December, 2025.

2. The Board has examined the implementation of the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transhipment Regulations (SCMTR) 2018 and it has been noted that import export manifest messages were implemented successfully pan-India. The Stuffing messages were made live for all sites w.e.f. 25th September, 2025. Further, the DG Systems shall onboard SEZ

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units through API integration by amending SCMTR module by 31st March, 2026. The DG Systems shall also develop, test & operationalize the remaining inland transhipment messages under SCMTR in the extended time.

3. In furtherance of facilitation, the transitional provisions for the SCMTR have been extended till 31st March, 2026 vide Notification No. 79/2025-Customs (N.T.) dated 31st December, 2025. During this extended timeline, all stakeholders are required to file correct declarations in the prescribed format electronically.

4. The Chief Commissioners of Customs, in coordination with the Directorate General of Systems, are requested to conduct weekly outreach programs in their respective zones, to sensitise all the stakeholders appropriately. This exercise, intends to ensure a smooth implementation of SCMTR 2018.

5. This Circular may be given wide publicity by issuing suitable Trade Notice/Public Notice. Difficulties, if any, in the implementation of the above Circular may be brought to the notice of the Board.

[For further details please refer the Circular.]

INSTRUCTION

IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY USING BODY WORN CAMERA (BWC) HAVING VIDEO/AUDIO RECORDING FACILITY FOR THE UNIFORMED OFFICERS HAVING INTERFACE WITH PASSENGERS AT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

OUR COMMENTS: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Instruction No. 34/2025 dated 30.12.2025 Instructed that The Customs officers posted at international airports are entrusted with the responsibility of passenger's baggage clearance functions in terms of Sections 77 to 80 of the Customs Act, 1962 read with the Baggage rules and the other allied Acts. The dual channel system i.e. the Green and Red Channel, established in line with global best practices, enables passenger to self-select the appropriate channel depending on their baggage contents and declaration requirements. Globally, Customs have started to adopt the digital technologies for audio and video recording, to enhance transparency, accountability and professionalism concerning passenger facilitation and intervention.

2. Aligning with the international best practices and the Government's emphasis on technology driven reforms and Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), it has been decided to prescribe Body Worn Cameras (BWC) for baggage clearance officers deployed in the Red channel at international airports which is

the channel meant for passengers submitting Baggage declaration for dutiable or restricted goods brought into the country. Officers are also advised to wear BWC during any interaction with passengers within airport premises. This initiative aims to further strengthen transparency, accountability and public confidence in Customs administration at international airports.

3. In order to standardize and institutionalize the use of Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) across all international airports under the jurisdiction of the CBIC, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is hereby prescribed for uniform compliance by all field formations having jurisdiction over international Airports, as detailed in Annexure- A.

4. Each Zone shall issue necessary Standing Orders to inform officers and stakeholders for the use of BWCs at International airports.

5. Any operational issues or difficulties faced by field formations in implementation shall be reported immediately to the Director (Customs), CBIC, New Delhi.

6. These instructions shall come into force with immediate effect.

[For further details please refer the Instruction.]

DGFT

NOTIFICATION					
AMENDMENT IN IMPORT POLICY & POLICY CONDITION OF LOW ASH METALLURGICAL COKE UNDER CHAPTER 27 OF ITC (HS), 2022, SCHEDULE-I (IMPORT POLICY)					
<p>OUR COMMENTS: : The Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide Notification No. 53/2025-26 dated 31.12.2025 notified that in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 and Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, read with paragraphs 1.02 and 2.01 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, as amended from time to time, the Central Government hereby amends the Import Policy of Low Ash Metallurgical Coke under Chapter 27 of ITC (HS), 2022, Schedule-I (Import Policy), as under:</p> <p>1. Policy Condition No. 08 of Chapter 27 is introduced as under:</p> <p>a) Import of "Low Ash Metallurgical Coke (HS Codes 27040020, 27040030, 27040040, 27040090) having ash content below 18%, including coke fines / coke breeze and ultra-low phosphorous metallurgical coke with phosphorous content up to 0.030% with size upto 30 mm with 5% size tolerance for use in ferroalloy manufacturing" shall be "Restricted" from 01.01.2026 till 30.06.2026.</p> <p>b) Other imports under above ITC (HS) codes including metallurgical Coke with high ash content, that is, ash content above 18% is outside the scope of "Restriction" and shall be 'Free'.</p> <p>2. The Import Policy for the following ITC (HS) Code is amended as under:</p>					
270400 90	Other	phosphorus metallurgical coke with phosphorous content up to 0.030% with size upto 30 mm with 5% size tolerance for use in ferroalloy manufacturing" shall be "Restricted". Import shall be permitted subject to Policy Condition 8 of this Chapter. Other Imports under given ITC (HS) code shall be 'Free'.			

Effect of this Notification:

Import of Low Ash Metallurgical Coke (having ash content below 18%), including coke fines/coke breeze and ultra-low phosphorous metallurgical coke, falling under ITC (HS) Codes 27040020, 27040030, 27040040 and 27040090, is "Restricted" from 01.01.2026 till 30.06.2026 and shall be permitted only in accordance with Policy Condition No. 08 of Chapter 27, while imports of metallurgical coke with ash content above 18% and other imports under the said ITC (HS) codes shall continue to remain "Free".

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

[For further details please refer the Notification]

DGFT

NOTIFICATION

AMENDMENT FOR EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF MINIMUM EXPORT PRICE (MEP) ON EXPORT OF NATURAL HONEY -

OUR COMMENTS: : The Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide Notification No. 52/2025-26 dated 31.12.2025 notified that in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 read with Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 read with Para 1.02 and 2.01 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, as amended from time to time, and in amendment of the earlier Notification No. 27/2025-26 dated 22.08.2025, the Central Government hereby extends the validity of the existing Minimum Export Price condition of Natural Honey under ITC(HS) code 04090000 of Schedule-II (Export Policy), as under, with immediate effect:—

Tariff item HS Code	Item description	Export Policy	Existing Policy condition	Revised Policy condition
040900 00	Natural Honey	Free	Subject to a Minimum Export Price (MEP) of US Dollar 1400 FOB per Metric Ton, till 31st December 2025.	Subject to a Minimum Export Price (MEP) of US Dollar 1400 FOB per Metric Ton, till 31st March 2026.

2. Effect of this Notification:

Minimum Export Price (MEP) on Natural Honey (exported under ITC HS Code 04090000) shall remain at US Dollar 1400 FOB per Metric Ton till 31st March 2026, with immediate effect.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

NOTIFICATION

ALLOWING EXPORT OF 50,000 MT OF ORGANIC SUGAR PER FINANCIAL YEAR

OUR COMMENTS: : The Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide Notification No. 51/2025-26 dated 29.12.2025 notified that in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 read with Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 (No. 22 of 1992), as amended, read with Para 1.02 and 2.01 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, the Central Government, in partial modification of Notification No. 36/2023 dated 18.10.2023, hereby allows the export of Organic Sugar under HS Codes 17011490 and 17019990 with immediate effect subject to following revised policy condition:

Tariff item HS Code	Item description	Export Policy	Existing Policy condition	Revised Policy condition
1701 14 90,	Organic sugar	Restricted	Export of Organic Sugar under HS Codes 17011490 and 17019990 is 'Restricted' till further orders, as per Notification No. 36/2023 dated October 18, 2023	Export of Organic Sugar under HS Codes 1701 1490 and 1701 99 90 is allowed subject to an export ceiling of 50,000 MT per financial year, as per the procedure prescribed in terms of FTP, 2023 from time to time and as per the modalities prescribed by Agricultural & Processed Food Product Export Development Authority (APEDA).
1701 9 9 90				

Effect of this Notification:

DGFT

Export of organic sugar under HS Codes 17011490 and 17019990 is allowed, subject to an overall ceiling of 50,000 MT per financial year as per the procedure prescribed in terms of FTP, 2023 from time to time and as per the modalities prescribed by APEDA separately.

[For further details please refer the Notification]

PUBLIC NOTICE

AMENDMENTS IN CHAPTER 6 OF THE HANDBOOK OF PROCEDURES AND APPENDIX - 6N OF APPENDICES AND ANFS

OUR COMMENTS: : The Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide Public Notice No. 41/2025-26 dated 31.12.2025 notified that in exercise of powers conferred under Paragraph 1.03 and 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, as amended from time to time, the Director General of Foreign Trade hereby makes the following amendment in Chapter 6 of Handbook of Procedures 2023 and inclusion of Appendix - 6N of Appendices and ANFs:

Para No.	Existing Provision	Revised Provision
6.41	< new para >	<p>Formats of various letters/permissions to EOUs</p> <p>The formats of letters and permissions not specified elsewhere, which are granted by the respective Jurisdictional Development Commissioners (DCs) to Export Oriented Units (EOUs), are specified in Appendix - 6N of Appendices and ANFs.</p> <p>The Development Commissioners may modify the format or include any additional conditions in such letters/permissions as deemed fit, in accordance with the provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) and Handbook of Procedures (HBP).</p>

2. Appendix - 6N of Appendices & ANFs of Handbook of Procedure is notified with immediate effect.

Effect of this Public Notice: The above provisions have been introduced to standardize formats of various letters/permissions issued by Development Commissioner

for Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and to ensure the smooth and effective administration of the scheme.

[For further details please refer the Public Notice]

TRADE NOTICE

LAUNCH OF MARKET ACCESS SUPPORT (MAS) UNDER EXPORT PROMOTION MISSION - NIRYAT DISHA

OUR COMMENTS: : The Ministry of Commerce and Industry vide Trade Notice No. 19/2025-26 dated 31.12.2025 notified that in The Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention under the EXPORT PROMOTION MISSION (EPM) - NIRYAT DISHA is hereby launched with immediate effect, with a view to strengthening India's export market access through structured support for activities such as Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs), Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets (RBSMs), trade fairs, exhibitions, and related market access initiatives. The detailed Guidelines for implementation of MAS are enclosed as Annexure.

Call for Proposals

The Market Access Support (MAS) component is being operationalised on a pilot basis to facilitate early implementation and active stakeholder participation. Implementation shall be undertaken through the Trade Connect ePlatform (<https://www.trade.gov.in/>). Eligible Organising Agencies may submit proposals for activities in accordance with the enclosed guidelines. Organising Agencies shall be required to submit applications for participation in approved events, in the manner and format as prescribed from time to time.

Registration Process on the Trade Connect ePlatform

To ensure transparency and an audit trail, Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and other eligible Organising Agencies shall be required to undertake the following steps:

All organising agencies shall identify and authorise an administrator for all EPM related activities who shall register on <https://www.trade.gov.in/pages/register>. The administrator registration can be made by selecting function as "Export Promotion Mission (EPM)" and role as "Administrator".

If the identified EPM administrator is already registered on Trade Connect, they need not re-register. Email intimation may be sent to tradeconnect-daft@gov.in with copy to epm-

DGFT

dgft@gov.in indicating name and email address of already onboarded user for due mapping.

Once approved/mapped, the EPM administrator from the agencies can approve/map additional users from their organisation for the EPM function on Trade Connect.

Any event for which MAS support is being applied for must be mandatorily published on 'Trade Events Worldwide' service of Trade Connect ePlatform. Applying organisations may check the event details and add or update the events as required

Applications for MAS support may thereafter be filed by completing the online application form on Trade Connect.

The list of MAS-supported events shall be separately highlighted on 'Trade Events Worldwide' section of www.trade.gov.in based on approved MAS applications made by eligible agencies.

The process for soliciting participation for approved events from member exporters of organising agencies through an online workflow shall be implemented subsequently. Industry Associations (other than EPCs and Commodity Boards) intending to seek Market Access Support for participation in events abroad must mandatorily submit the list of their members mapped with IEC along with start/end date of membership via email to epm-dgft@gov.in with copy to tradeconnect-dgft@gov.in for this purpose. Until such time, EPCS and Organising Agencies may continue to follow the existing processes for selection of exporters for participation in conformity to the annexed guidelines.

Stakeholder consultation on draft guidelines

Further, while the Market Access Support is being operationalised, the enclosed Guidelines are being placed for stakeholder consultation, on a pilot basis in accordance with Paragraph 1.07A of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023. Accordingly, all concerned stakeholders are invited to submit their comments and suggestions on the draft Guidelines within 30 days from the date of issuance of this Trade Notice, through email at epm-dgft@gov.in.

The consultation process shall run concurrently with the pilot implementation of the Market Access Support interventions. Feedback received from stakeholders, along with outcomes and learnings from the pilot phase, shall be examined in a structured manner, and the Guidelines shall thereafter be suitably refined and formalised.

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

[For further details please refer the Trade Notice.]

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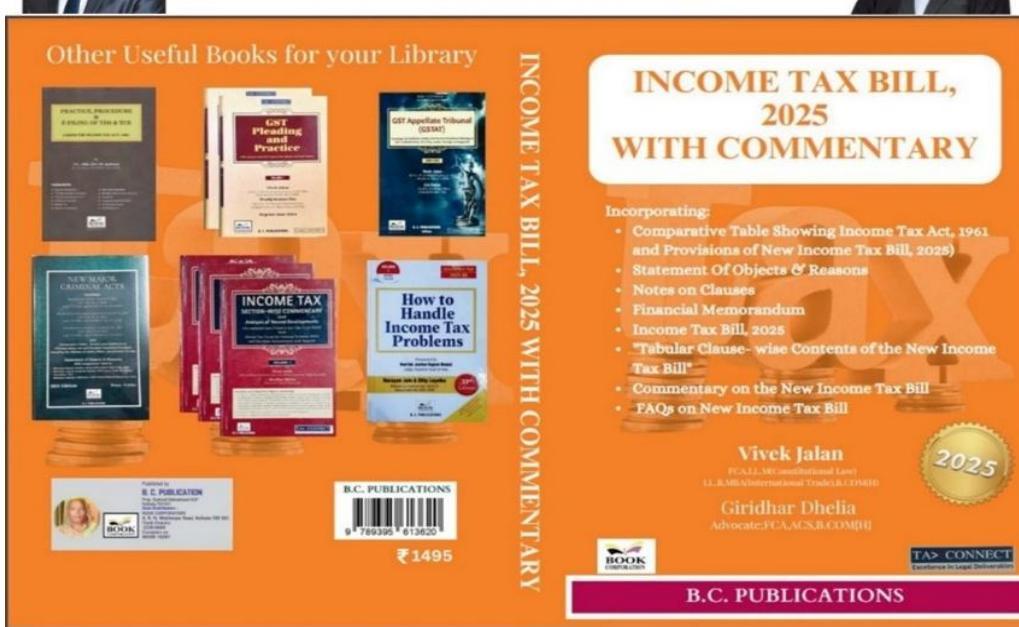
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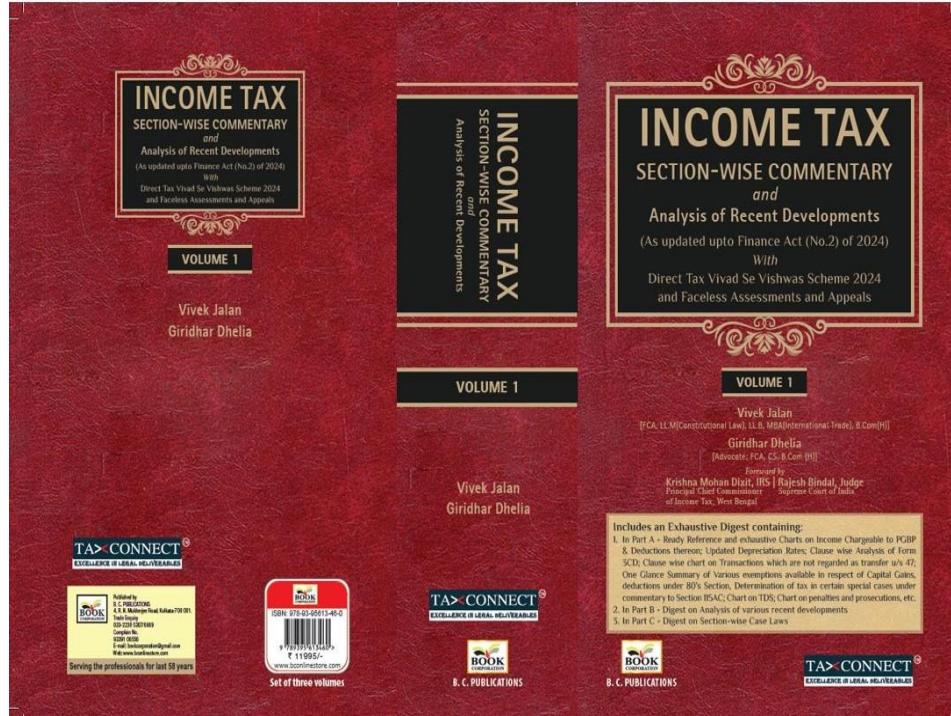
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3. Completely Updated Synopsis Of Case Laws under GST by Supreme Court, High Court, AAARS & AARS

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