



THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA

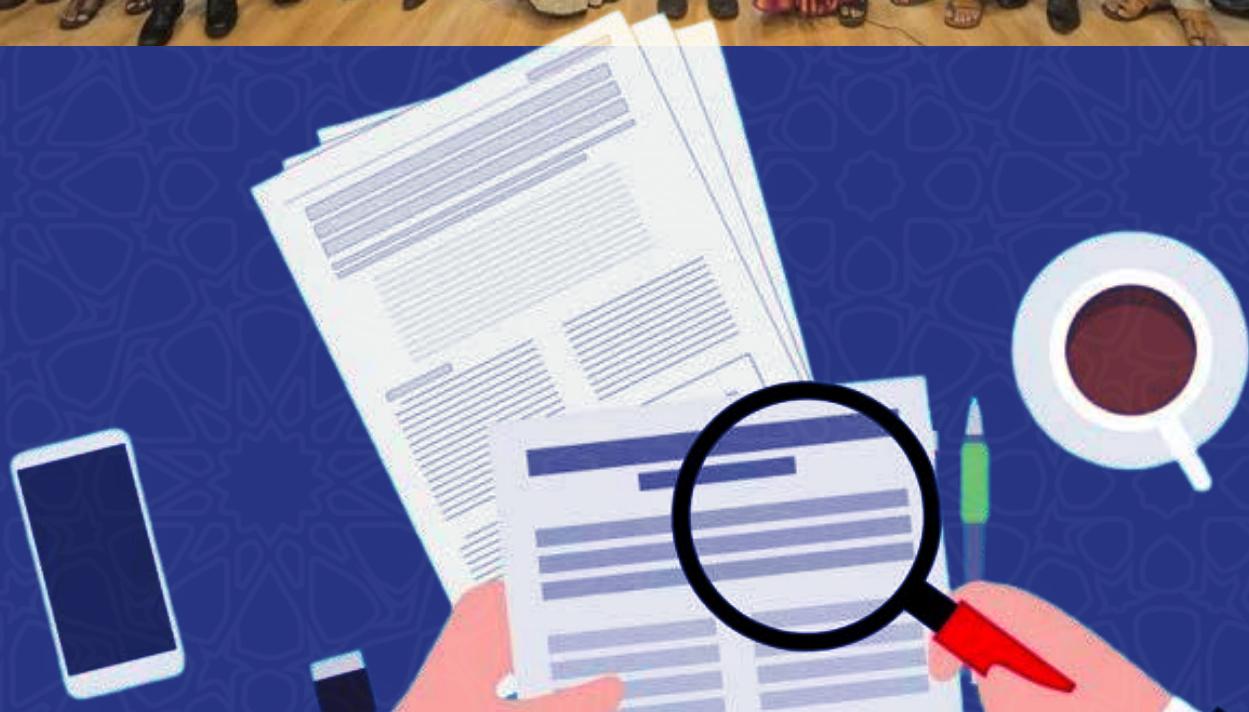
(Set up by an Act of Parliament)

KOTTAYAM BRANCH (SIRC)

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OCTOBER 2025

NEWSLETTER



CHAIRPERSON'S *Message*



CA. Ramya. N Chairperson

Warm greetings to all! As we turn the page to November, I am delighted to reflect upon an October that was marked by both professional rigour and collaborative spirit. The past month truly embodied the ethos of ICAI — Integrity, Competence, and Commitment. It reaffirmed that our profession, though demanding, continues to stand tall on the twin pillars of ethics and adaptability.

Strengthening Professional Bonds through Collaboration

One of the most meaningful engagements of October was the Outreach and Awareness Programme on the Dispute

Resolution Committee (DRC) Mechanism, organised by the Income Tax Department on 9th October 2025 at the District Resource Centre, Kottayam. Our branch was privileged to participate and contribute to this initiative aimed at promoting tax transparency and reducing litigation.

The interaction provided clarity on Section 245MA, which facilitates amicable and timely resolution of taxpayer grievances through the DRC. The Principal Commissioner of Income Tax and other senior officers elaborated on the intent behind this reform — to create a less adversarial, more solution-oriented tax ecosystem.

Such outreach programmes

not only demystify the law but also build trust and dialogue between taxpayers, professionals, and the Department. It is heartening to see that the tax administration is now moving steadily towards trust-based compliance — an approach where professionals like us play a critical role in bridging the intent of the law and its practical application.

Ethics Re-envisioned — A Thoughtful Celebration of Global Ethics Day

Following the DRC event, our branch hosted the CPE Seminar on "Global Ethics Day & Tax Audit" on 10th October 2025 at ICAI Bhawan, Kollad. This event, organised jointly with the Ethical Standards Board of ICAI, was themed "Ethics Re-envisioned." The seminar was graced by our Chief Guest, CA. Deepa Varghese, Secretary, SIRC of ICAI, whose address reminded us that ethical conduct is not an abstract virtue but the living pulse of our profession. Her reflections on integrating ethics into our day-to-day practice resonated deeply with every member present. We were privileged to have CA. Iype John elaborate on the latest changes in tax audit reporting, including evolving disclosure requirements, Clause 44 reporting intricacies, and practical implications of amendments to Section 43B and Form 3CD. His insights brought clarity to what many perceive as a complex compliance landscape.

CA. Balaji Krishnan added a futuristic perspective by exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence in audit. He emphasized that while technology may transform how we perform audits, it can never replace professional judgment or ethical reasoning — the two cornerstones of our calling.

The seminar reaffirmed that ethics and excellence must go hand in hand. As we

adapt to an increasingly digital and data-driven profession, the values that ICAI stands for — Integrity, Objectivity, Professional Competence, Confidentiality, and Due Care — are more relevant than ever.

Professional Updates and Deadlines — October at a Glance

October has also been an eventful month on the professional front. Members have been navigating multiple compliance and reporting obligations amid shifting timelines and dynamic regulatory developments.

The due dates for filing of tax audit reports under Section 44AB, audit for transfer pricing cases, filing of Income Tax Returns for Audit Cases, filing of returns giving effect to changes brought out in GST, Companies Act Compliances would have put immense pressure on the professionals and their offices, especially taking note of the fact that relief which was sought came after intense legal struggle.

The due date calendar reminds us that the profession's strength lies in its discipline and dependability. Behind every filed audit report lies a story of diligence, late hours, and quiet satisfaction of a job done with integrity.

The Human Side of Deadlines- Handling Pressure with Perspective

It would be unrealistic to speak of October without acknowledging the pressure that accompanies it. For most practicing members, October is synonymous with balancing multiple clients, last-minute reconciliations,

system crashes, and the inevitable cup of late-night coffee that keeps us going.

But amidst the rush, there lies a deeper professional truth — that pressure is not the enemy; it is the proving ground of professionalism.

Each time we meet a deadline, handle a client's anxiety, or decode a new notification, we reaffirm our resilience. The key lies in perspective — viewing challenges not as burdens, but as opportunities to refine our processes, strengthen our teams, and build confidence.

As members, it is equally important to look after mental well-being and maintain work-life harmony, especially during peak seasons. Delegation, structured planning, and periodic breaks are not luxuries — they are essential habits for sustaining excellence over the long term.

To our young members and students: remember that perfection is a journey, not a starting point. Learn to prioritise, seek guidance, and celebrate small wins along the way.

Technology and Transformation — Adapting to a Dynamic Ecosystem

The pace of change in our profession today is faster than ever before. Whether it is Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain-based audits, e-invoicing, or data analytics, every facet of accounting and assurance is being reshaped by technology.

ICAI has been proactive in equipping members for this transformation. The Information Systems Audit (DISA) Course commencing at our branch from 14th November

2025 is a significant step in this direction. The course will enable members to understand system controls, IT risk management, and cyber audit techniques — skills indispensable in an era where every audit has a digital footprint.

Beyond formal training, it is crucial for all professionals — whether in practice or industry — to cultivate technological curiosity. The auditor of tomorrow will need to interpret not only ledgers and vouchers but also datasets, digital trails, and algorithmic decisions.

In this evolving scenario, our core values remain our greatest asset. While machines can process data faster, judgment, ethics, and professional skepticism will always remain uniquely human. It is here that Chartered Accountants will continue to be the conscience keepers of financial integrity.

Students — The Foundation of the Future

The Commerce Carnival 2025, scheduled for November 1st at ICAI Bhawan, is an exciting platform where higher secondary students can experience the flavour of commerce and professional life. Events like "Accounting Aptitude," "Accounting Altitude," and "Best Manager" are not mere competitions — they are seeds of curiosity that may one day bloom into full-fledged professional aspirations.

Through such initiatives, we aim to demystify the CA course, guiding students to see it not as a daunting mountain, but as a rewarding journey. A journey that builds not just accountants, but thinkers, analysts, and leaders.

DISHA, the higher studies expo is being organized by the Career Guidance and Adolescent Counselling Cell of the Higher Secondary Wing under Directorate of General Education, Government of Kerala. This event will take place on 2025 November 20-24 at Kottayam, Kerala. ICAI is proud to join hands for the fruition of DISHA. The efficacy, excellence, quality and commitment that epitomize ICAI has been recognised by the Education Department of the state government. The expertise and knowledge of our faculties in the stall would add a great value to the Higher Studies Expo, especially to the young aspirants of the state. The Kottayam branch will be present at the stall sharing information and knowledge about our course for the next generation.

Leadership in a Dynamic Professional Landscape

The global economy today is marked by volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity — often referred to as the “VUCA world.” For professionals, this means that technical knowledge alone is no longer enough. What truly differentiates us is our ability to stay adaptable, ethical, and emotionally intelligent amidst uncertainty.

Whether it is navigating changing tax regulations, adapting to sustainability reporting, or advising businesses on ESG and digital transformation — Chartered Accountants are at the frontlines of change.

In such times, leadership is about balance — balancing precision with perspective, compliance with creativity, and ambition with accountability. It is also about mentorship — helping younger professionals build both skill and character.

Charting the Road Ahead — November and Beyond

As we move forward, November promises to be equally vibrant for our branch. The key initiatives lined up include:

- Launch of DISA Course (ISA 3.0) on 14th November 2025
- Career Counselling and Student Development Workshops for commerce students.
- CPE Seminars focusing on Direct Tax Amendments, GST Litigation, and Audit Automation.

At the same time, the professional calendar continues to demand alertness:

- 1. Preparation for Tax Audit Rectifications and GSTR-9/9C finalizations.
- 2. Monitoring of Company Law MCA updates and new digital filing systems under V3 portal
- 3. Keeping an eye on CBDT and CBIC notifications that impact year-end planning.

November, therefore, is not merely a month of transition — it is a month of transformation, where we consolidate learnings from the previous season and prepare for the next cycle of responsibilities.

A Note of Gratitude

Every event, every initiative, and every success at our branch is a collective achievement. My heartfelt thanks go to the entire Managing Committee, CPE Convenors, dedicated staff, and volunteers who make every programme meaningful. A special word of appreciation to the speakers, panelists, and members who contribute their time and expertise selflessly. Your active participation is the pulse that keeps the branch vibrant. To our students — your energy

keeps us inspired. To our senior members — your wisdom keeps us grounded. Together, we form a professional community that is both progressive and principled.

In Conclusion

1. As we step into the next month of 2025, let us carry forward three key reflections from the month gone by:
 - Technology will keep changing; our willingness to learn must outpace it.
2. Lead with Integrity — Ethics is not an event we celebrate once a year; it is a daily practice that defines our credibility.
3. Work with Balance — Success is meaningful only when achieved with composure and compassion.

The Chartered Accountant's role today is not limited to verifying numbers; it extends to validating trust. In boardrooms, businesses, and beyond, we are the custodians of financial truth.

Let us therefore continue to uphold the legacy of our profession — with knowledge as our strength, ethics as our guide, and service as our mission.

With best wishes for a productive November filled with learning, purpose, and pride in our shared identity as Chartered Accountants.

Warm regards,

CA Ramya N

Chairperson,
ICAI Kottayam Branch of SIRC



GST UPDATES

CA. Akhil Varghese

Provisional sanction of refund claims on the basis of identification and evaluation of risk by the system

To streamline the processing of refund claims, the Board has issued Instruction No. 06/2025-GST dated 03.10.2025. As per the instructions, refund applications shall be processed in accordance with the existing guidelines up to the stage of issuance of FORM GST RFD-02. The categorization of refund applications as "low risk", based on the risk score generated by the system, shall be taken into account for sanctioning 90% of the refund amount on a provisional basis. Once FORM GST RFD-02 is issued, no further scrutiny is required for low-risk refund applications.

However, provisional refunds shall not be sanctioned in cases where any previous refund claim of the applicant is pending before an appellate authority, or where a show cause notice has been issued or an order has already been passed in respect of earlier refund claims. Further, in line with the recommendations of the 56th GST Council Meeting, the above procedure for provisional sanction of 90% of the refund amount shall also apply to refund applications filed on account of Inverted Duty Structure on or after 01.10.2025.

Instruction No. 06/2025-GST dated 03.10.2025

Merely uploading an order on the GST portal cannot be considered as Communication under Section 107 of the CGST Act

In this case, the impugned orders were not served on the Petitioner and were only uploaded on the GSTN portal. As the Petitioner was unaware of the orders, the statutory timeline for filing an appeal under Section 107 was missed. The Hon'ble Madras High Court observed that while uploading the order on the portal is mandatory under Rule 142, such uploading alone does not constitute valid service. The Court held that the limitation period under Section 107 would commence only from the date of communication of the order to the assessee, and not merely from the date of uploading.



on the portal. Accordingly, the Court directed the Department to duly communicate the impugned orders to the Petitioner, following which the Petitioner would be entitled to file an appeal under Section 107.

Sharp Tanks and Structural Private Limited v. The Deputy Commissioner (GST) Appeals, W.P.(MD) Nos.24684 dated 17.09.2025

iii. Issue of summary SCN in DRC-01 without issue of proper SCN is not valid

The Hon'ble High Court of Gauhati has held that summary of Show Cause Notice in Form GST DRC-01 is not a substitute for the proper and prior Show Cause Notice required to be issued under Section 73(1) of the CGST Act. The High Court has observed that the Show Cause Notice to be issued in terms with Section 73 (1) of the Central Act or State Act cannot be confused with the Statement of the determination of tax to be issued in terms with Section 73 (3) of the Central Act or the State Act.

Prolay Dey Sarkar v. the State of Assam, WP(C)/946/2025

iv. Increase in quantity or distribution of free samples does not constitute passing on of benefits to consumers

The Hon'ble Delhi High Court upheld the validity of anti-profiteering provisions under Section 171 of the CGST Act and Rule 126 of the CGST Rules, reiterating that increasing product quantity or offering free schemes does not fulfil the obligation to pass on the benefit of GST rate reduction to consumers. In this case, the Petitioner, a distributor of Hindustan Unilever Limited dealing in Vaseline, had maintained the same MRP after the GST rate was reduced from 28% to 18%, contending that the benefit was passed through increased quantity and free offers. The Court dismissed the petition, holding that such promotional measures cannot substitute the mandatory requirement of price reduction and the non-reduction of price cannot be sought to be justified on the ground that the quantity has been increased.

Sharma Trading Company v. UOI, W.P.(C) 13194/2018

v. Issuance of ASMT-10 is a prerequisite before issuing a Show Cause Notice for return-related discrepancies

In this case, a Show Cause Notice (SCN) was issued to the petitioner alleging discrepancies between the details furnished in the Annual Return (FORM GSTR-9) and the Reconciliation Statement (FORM GSTR-9C). The petitioner challenged the SCN on the ground that the precondition necessary for invoking the jurisdiction of the proper officer under Section 61 of the CGST Act was not satisfied.

The Hon'ble High Court of Gauhati set aside the SCN, holding that failure to issue a notice in FORM GST ASMT-10 and provide the petitioner an opportunity to explain the discrepancies, as mandated under law, vitiated the jurisdiction of the proper officer to issue a show cause notice under Section 73.



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1

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and privacy.

3

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**For any queries,
please write to**

caconnect@icai.in/esb@icai.in

This month programmes at a glance

CPE Seminar on Global Ethics





Compliance Calendar for the Month of November 2025

Particulars of Compliance	Forms/ returns	Due Date	Every UIN Holders shall furnish the details of inward supply received upon the payment of tax and under proper tax invoice as monthly GST Return	GSTR – 11	28.11.2025
Compliance Calendar Under GST			Compliance Calendar Under ESI & PF	Forms/ returns	Due Date
Due date for filing GSTR-7 to be filed by the person who is required to deduct TDS under GST for the month of October 2025	GSTR 7	10.11.2025	Payment and filing of ESIC Return for the month of October 2025	ESI challan	15.11.2025
The due date for furnishing statement by e-commerce operators for the Month of October 2025	GSTR 8	0.11.2025	Payment and filing of PF Return for the month of October 2025	ECR	15.11.2025
GST Filing of returns by registered person with aggregate turnover exceeding INR 5 Crores during previous year.	GSTR-1	11.11.2025	Compliance Calendar Under SEBI	Regulation No	Due Date
Registered person, with aggregate turnover of less than INR 5 Crores during the previous year and who has opted for monthly filing of return.			Statement of deviation(s) or variation (s)	Reg 32(1)	14.11.2025
GST Filing of Registered person, with aggregate turnover of less than INR 5 Crores during the previous year have an option to file quarterly returns under the QRMP scheme (July – September)	GSTR-1 (QRMP)	13.11.2025	Financial Results along with limited review report /Auditor's Report	Reg 33(3) (a)	14.11.2025
Return of Input Service Distributor (ISD)	GSTR-6	13.11.2025	Disclosures of Related Party transactions	Reg 23(9)	14.11.2025
Every Non-resident taxable person to file Monthly GST Return Earlier of	GSTR-5	13.11.2025	Compliance Calendar Under FEMA	Forms/ returns	Due Date
a. 20 days after the end of the Calendar month (OR)			The borrowers are required to report actual ECB transaction on monthly basis through AD category I bank (7 Working days)	Form ECB 2	11.11.2025
b. within 7 days after the last day of validity period of registration			Compliance Calendar Under Income Tax	Forms/ returns	Due Date
Person registered under the composition scheme shall file quarterly return (July – September)	CMP- 08	18.11.2025	Securities Transaction Tax – Due date for deposit of tax collected for the month of October, 2025		07.11.2025
OIDARs providing service to other than registered person shall file a monthly GST Return	GSTR-5A	20.11.2025	Commodities Transaction Tax – Due date for deposit of tax collected for the month of October, 2025		07.11.2025
GST return for the month of October 2025.	GSTR-3B	20.11.2025	Declaration under sub-section (1A) of section 206C of the Income-tax Act, 1961 to be made by a buyer for obtaining goods without collection of tax for declarations received in the month of November, 2025	Form 27C	07.11.2025
For the taxpayer with Aggregate turnover upto INR 5 crores during previous year and taxpayers who has opted for monthly filing of GSTR-3B.			Collection and recovery of equalisation levy on specified services in the month of October, 2025		07.11.2025
Summary of outward supplies, ITC claimed, and net tax payable by taxpayers with Aggregate turnover upto INR 5 crores during previous year and who has opted for Quarterly filing of GSTR-3B	GSTR-3B	22.11.2025	Due date for deposit of Tax deducted/collected for the month of October, 2025. However, all sum deducted/collected by an office of the government shall be paid to the credit of the Central Government on the same day where tax is paid without production of an Income tax Challan		07.11.2025
Belonging to states: Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep			Due date for issue of TDS Certificate for tax deducted under section 194-IA in the month of September, 2025	Form 16B	14.11.2025
Summary of outward supplies, ITC claimed, and net tax payable by taxpayers having an annual Turnover Up to INR 5 Cr in Previous FY But Opted Quarterly Filing	GSTR-3B	24.11.2025	Due date for issue of TDS Certificate for tax deducted under section 194-IB in the month of September, 2025	Form 16C	14.11.2025
Belonging to states: Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Chandigarh, Delhi			Due date for issue of TDS Certificate for tax deducted under section 194M in the month of September, 2025	Form 16D	14.11.2025
			Due date for issue of TDS Certificate for tax deducted under section 194S in the month of September 2025	Form 16E	14.11.2025
			Quarterly TDS certificate (in respect of tax deducted for payments other than salary) for the quarter ending September 30, 2025	Form 16A	15.11.2025

Due date for furnishing of Form 24G by an office of the Government where TDS/TCS for the month of October, 2025	Form 24G	15.11.2025	Annual Statement of Exempt Income under sub-rule (2) of rule 21AJA and taxable income under sub-rule (2) of rule 21AJAA (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10-IK	30.11.2025
Monthly statement to be furnished by a stock exchange in respect of transactions in which client codes been modified after registering in the system for the month of October, 2025.	Form 3BB	15.11.2025	Details of amount attributed to capital asset remaining with the specified entity (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 5C	30.11.2025
Monthly statement to be furnished by a recognised association in respect of transactions in which client codes have been modified after registering in the system for the month of October, 2025	Form 3BC	15.11.2025	Declaration to be filed by the assessee claiming deduction under section 80GG (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10BA	30.11.2025
Due date for furnishing of challan-cum-statement in respect of tax deducted under section 194-IA in the month of October, 2025	Form 26QB	30.11.2025	Form for furnishing particulars of income under section 192(2A) for claiming relief u/s 89 (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10E	30.11.2025
Due date for furnishing of challan-cum-statement in respect of tax deducted under section 194-IB in the month of October, 2025	Form 26QC	30.11.2025	Authorization for claiming deduction in respect of any payment made to any financial institution located in a Notified jurisdictional area. (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10FC	30.11.2025
Due date for furnishing of challan cum statement in respect of tax deducted under section 194M in the month of October, 2025	Form 26QD	30.11.2025	Application for Opting for Safe Harbour in respect of Specified Domestic Transactions (if the assessee is required to submit return of income on November 30, 2025)	Form 3CEFB	30.11.2025
Due date for furnishing of challan cum statement in respect of tax deducted under section 194S in the month of October, 2025	Form 26QE	30.11.2025	Statement of eligible investment received	Form 10BBD	30.11.2025
Return of income for the Assessment Year 2025-26 in the case of an assessee that is required to submit a report under section 92E pertaining to international or specified domestic transaction(s)	All income tax returns except ITR-1, ITR-2 and ITR-4	30.11.2025	Application for exercise of option under clause (i) of sub-section (6) of section 115BAC or withdrawal of option under the proviso to sub-section (6) of section 115BAC of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10-IEA	30.11.2025
Report in Form No. 3CEAA by a constituent entity of an international group for the accounting year 2024-25	Form 3CEAA	30.11.2025	Application for exercise of option under sub-section (5) of section 115BAE of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10-IFA	30.11.2025
Statement of income distribution by Venture Capital Company or Venture Capital Fund in respect of income distributed during previous Year 2024-25 (Form No. 64)	Form 64	30.11.2025	Certificate of accountant in respect of compliance to the provisions of clause (23FE) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 by the notified Pension Fund	Form 10BBC	30.11.2025
Due date to exercise option of safe harbour rules for international transaction by furnishing Form 3CEFA	Form 3CEFA	30.11.2025	Report from an accountant to be furnished for purpose of section 9A regarding fulfilment of certain conditions by an eligible investment fund	Form 3CEJA	30.11.2025
Report from an accountant to be furnished under sub-section (2AB) of section 35 of the Act relating to in-house scientific research and development facility (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 3CLA	30.11.2025	Application for exercise of option under sub-section (5) of section 115BAA of the Income – tax Act, 1961 (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10-IC	30.11.2025
Statement by scientific research association, university, college or other association or Indian scientific research company as required by rules 5D, 5E and 5F (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Statutory Forms Filing Due Date	30.11.2025	Certificate under sub-section (3) of section 80QQB for authors of certain books in receipt of royalty income, etc. (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10CCD	30.11.2025
Annual Compliance Report on Advance Pricing Agreement (if due date of submission of return of income is October 31, 2025)	Form 3CEF	30.11.2025	Certificate under sub-section (2) of section 80RRB for Patentees in receipt of royalty income, etc. (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10CCE	30.11.2025
Payment of Self Assessment Tax (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Self Assessment Tax Payment Due Date	30.11.2025	Report under section 80LA(3) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10CCF	30.11.2025
Audit report under (sub-rule (12) of rule 17CA) of the Income-tax Rules, 1962, in the case of an electoral trust (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10BC	30.11.2025	Taxation of income from retirement benefit account maintained in a notified country (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10-EE	30.11.2025
Application for exercise of option under sub-section (4) of section 115BA of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10-IB	30.11.2025	Certificate of foreign inward remittance (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10H	30.11.2025
Application for exercise of option under sub-section (7) of section 115BAB of the Income-tax Act, 1961	Form 10-ID	30.11.2025			

Certificate of the medical authority for certifying person with disability, severe disability, autism, cerebral palsy and multiple disability for purposes of section 80DD and section 80U (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10IA	30.11.2025	Income attributable to assets located in India under section 9 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 3CT	30.11.2025
Application for exercise of option under sub-section (5) of section 115BAD of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10-IF	30.11.2025	Particulars to be furnished under clause (b) of sub-section (1B) of section 10A read with clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 10AA of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 56FF	30.11.2025
Statement of Exempt income under clause (4D) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10IG	30.11.2025	Submission of a statement (in Form No. 49C) by non resident having a liaison office in India for the Financial Year 2024 25	Form 49C	30.11.2025
Statement of income of a Specified fund eligible for concessional taxation under section 115AD of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10IH	30.11.2025	Certificate of accountant in respect of compliance to the provisions of clause (23FE) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 by the notified Pension Fund	Form 10BBC	30.11.2025
Statement of exempt income under clause (23FF) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 10-II	30.11.2025	Compliance Calendar Under The Companies Act, 2013	Forms/ returns	Due Date
Form for opting for taxation of income by way of royalty in respect of Patent (if due date of submission of return of income is November 30, 2025)	Form 3CFA	30.11.2025	Reconciliation of Share Capital Report	PAS-6	30.11.2025
			Every Auditor referred to in rule 3 shall file a return with the authority	NFRA-2	30.11.2025

Celebrating Excellence – Congratulations to Our Achievers

We take immense pride in congratulating our newly qualified Chartered Accountants Asim Muhammed S, Lijomon Lalichan, and Delson Darly John for successfully clearing the CA Final Examination.

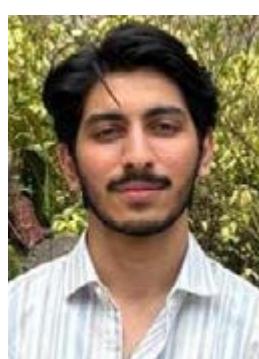
A special note of applause to Asim Muhammed S for securing an All India Rank 49, bringing great honour and pride to the Kottayam Branch. Your hard work, perseverance, and dedication are a true inspiration to all our students and members.

We also extend our heartfelt congratulations to Nitin K George for securing an All India Rank 28 in the CA Intermediate Examination. Your remarkable achievement stands as a testament to your consistent effort and determination.

Your accomplishments remind us that the pursuit of excellence, guided by discipline and dedication, continues to define the ICAI spirit.



Congratulations



Asim Muhammed S
All India Rank 49-CA Final

Nitin K George
All India Rank 28-CA Intermediate



Understanding Section 245MA of the Income tax Act, 1961 – and how it helps avoid tax disputes

CA. Prasanth Srinivas

As a Chartered Accountant, you'll appreciate the value of effective dispute-resolution frameworks in reducing litigation and guiding clients towards certainty. Section 245MA serves precisely that purpose — offering a streamlined, taxpayer-friendly pathway for eligible cases. Below is a summary of its key features, eligibility criteria, benefits and practical tips for use.

What is Section 245MA?

Section 245MA empowers the Central Government to constitute one or more Dispute Resolution Committees (DRCs) for certain classes of taxpayers or disputes.

These DRCs are meant to provide an alternate route to traditional appeal or litigation for specific orders under the Income-tax Act.

Broadly:

- The taxpayer (or class of persons) must be a "specified person" who may opt for dispute resolution under Chapter XIX-AA of the Act.
- The dispute must arise from a "specified order" as defined under the section
- The DRC has the power, subject to conditions, to reduce or waive penalties and grant immunity from prosecution under the Act.

Eligibility & Conditions — Who /

What qualifies?

To apply Section 245MA meaningfully, you must check two sets of requirements: (a) the nature of the order (the "specified order") and (b) the taxpayer's status (the "specified person" condition).

(i) Specified Order

Examples include:

- Draft order of assessment under section 144C(1) of the Act.
- Intimations under section 143(1), section 200A(1) or section 206CB(1).
- Rectification orders under section 154 that favour enhancing assessment or reducing loss.

Further conditions are that for such order:

- The aggregate sum of variations proposed or made does not exceed ₹10 lakh.
- The return has been filed and the total income as per return does not exceed ₹50 lakh for the relevant assessment year.
- The order should not be based on a search under section 132, a survey under section 133A, or information received under treaty-based agreements under section 90/90A.

(ii) Specified Person

The taxpayer must also fulfil "specified conditions" (e.g., not being under detention orders under COFEPOSA,

not being convicted for offence relating to income-tax or other listed statutes) as per the Explanation in section 245MA.

What are the benefits / how does it help avoid disputes?

Section 245MA (and the associated e-Dispute Resolution Scheme) offers several advantages that are highly useful in preventing protracted tax litigation and fostering certainty:

- Less adversarial and faster process: The taxpayer can approach the DRC, which is a more streamlined route than going through multiple appellate tiers.

• Penalty reduction / waiver & prosecution immunity: On fulfilment of conditions, the DRC can reduce or waive penalties and grant immunity from prosecution under the Act. This reduces the risk of drawn-out penalty or prosecution battles

- E-filing / faceless process: Under the e-Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2022 (e-DRS) notified under section 245MA, applications can be made electronically, reducing interface and enhancing transparency.

• Certainty of outcome: Once the DRC's directions are given, the Assessing Officer must pass appropriate orders within one month of receipt, ensuring timely closure. Hence for a CA advising clients, this mechanism allows early resolution of smaller disputes, improved cash-flow

predictability, and avoids the cost/time burden of conventional appeals.

Practical Steps & Advisory Tips

As a Chartered Accountant advising clients, you can guide accordingly:

1. Check eligibility at the outset
 - o Verify whether the proposed variation is ≤ ₹10 lakh and income ≤ ₹50 lakh in relevant year.
 - o Ensure no search/survey or treaty-based information issue involved.
 - o Confirm the taxpayer meets the "specified person" conditions (no relevant prosecutions, etc.)
2. Identify whether the dispute arises from a "specified order"
 - o If yes, then consider opting for the DRC mechanism rather than pursuing appeals as default.
 - o File the application in Form No. 34BC within the stipulated timeline (generally within one month of the specified order) under rule 44DAB.
3. Advise client on benefits vs trade-offs
 - o Benefit: Speed, less cost, penalty-relief.
 - o Trade-off: Once DRC order accepted, conventional appeal rights may be limited (no appeal to CIT(A) or DRP for those opting DRC in certain cases)
 - o Ensure full tax is paid (if due) and cooperation with the process; otherwise, immunity/waiver may be lost.
4. Document and monitor the process
 - o Maintain proper records of application, e-filing, copy of DRC order.
 - o Monitor the subsequent assessing officer's order to ensure compliance with DRC directions (within one month).
 - o Consider the possibility of concluding the matter fully rather than keeping open for future disputes.

Key Benefits — Why the Section Helps Avoid Tax Disputes

- Early and simplified resolution: Avoids prolonged litigation through faceless, time-bound DRC proceedings.
- Penalty and prosecution relief: DRCs may waive or reduce penalties and grant immunity.
- Transparency and reduced

interaction: Conducted electronically through the e-Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2022.

- Certainty and peace of mind: Once the DRC gives its direction, the case is closed quickly, giving finality and closure.

These features make the mechanism ideal for small taxpayers or first-time cases where avoiding drawn-out proceedings is the priority.

Shortcomings and Limitations of Section 245MA

While Section 245MA provides convenience and speed, it is not without constraints. Once a taxpayer chooses this route, other remedies are effectively foreclosed. The key shortcomings are:

1. Loss of appellate rights
 - o Once an assessee opts for resolution under Section 245MA, they cannot simultaneously or subsequently file an appeal before the Commissioner (Appeals), nor can they approach the Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP) or Income-tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) for the same matter.
 - o The DRC's decision is final and binding, leaving no further statutory recourse except constitutional remedies (writs under Articles 226/227).
2. Limited monetary threshold
 - o Only cases involving a variation not exceeding ₹10 lakh are eligible. Larger disputes — even if straightforward — cannot avail this route, restricting its practical utility.
3. Restricted to "clean" cases
 - o Any case linked to a search, survey, or information received under treaties is excluded.
 - o Taxpayers with any prior prosecution or serious offence under tax or economic laws are also disqualified, even if their current issue is minor.
4. No appeal even for apparent error
 - o The DRC's order is final; it cannot be challenged merely for a difference of opinion or error in interpretation. Only a writ petition may be filed, which is costly and limited in scope.

5. Possible dilution of due process safeguards

- o Since the DRC has discretion to waive or reduce penalties, but not to adjudicate complex legal questions, there's a risk of "summary settlements" without full evaluation of legal positions.
- o The taxpayer essentially trades the right to detailed appellate scrutiny for speed and certainty.

6. Limited awareness and procedural ambiguity

- o The e-DRC framework is still relatively new. There can be uncertainty in timelines, mode of representation, or whether subsequent rectification (u/s 154) can reopen a resolved matter.

Practical Advisory — When to Opt and When to Reconsider

Opt for Section 245MA if:

- The disputed variation is minor and factual.
- You wish to save time, avoid penalty or prosecution, and achieve closure.
- The cost of litigation outweighs the potential tax benefit.

Reconsider opting if:

- The issue involves a matter of principle or recurring question of law.
- You expect a strong case on merits before the appellate authority.
- You prefer to preserve appeal rights for future years on the same issue.

Concluding Thoughts

In today's environment of increasing compliance demands, section 245MA offers a welcome alternative to full-scale litigation for smaller disputes. For taxpayers with limited exposure, it means a leaner, more predictable resolution path. For you — as a CA — it means you can guide clients towards early closure, improved cash-flow visibility, and lower risk of penalty/prosecution. By proactively identifying eligible cases and steering clients timely into this mechanism, you are delivering both value and peace of mind.