

(Set up by an Act of Parliament)



# **Pune Branch of WIRC of ICAI**



**NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025** 





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Newsletter April 2025

editor@puneicai.org



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#### **Pune Branch of WIRC of ICAI**

#### **Our Torch Bearer**





CA. Chandrashekhar V. Chitale CCM, ICAI



CA. Rajesh Agrawal RCM, WIRC of ICAI



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#### **Pune Branch Chairman's Communique**



CA. Sachin Miniyar Chairman Pune Branch of WIRC of ICAI Dear Professional Colleagues,

#### **Greetings!**

As we step into the new financial year, I extend my best wishes to all of you. The closing of the financial year brings along challenges and responsibilities, but it also provides us an opportunity to reflect on our achievements and set new goals for the journey ahead.

The past year has been filled with remarkable activities at the Pune Branch, with numerous professional development programs, student-oriented initiatives, and networking events. I am grateful for the enthusiasm and participation of our members and students, which has made these initiatives highly successful.

In March, we had some significant events, including the Women's Day Celebration, the Union Budget Analysis Session, 2 days conference on Bank Branch Audits and several other technical seminars on evolving areas such as GST, Income Tax, Accounting Standards etc. We have held 4 certificate courses on Artificial Intelligence. We are overwhelmed to notice that all our batches are 100% full. These sessions not only enhanced our knowledge but also strengthened our professional bonds.

With the new financial year, we have planned an exciting calendar of events that focus on the latest industry trends, regulatory updates, and technological advancements impacting the CA profession. Some of our key initiatives in the upcoming months include seminar on MWPA, 11 days certificate course on UAE Corporate Tax, other regulatory updates etc. We have also announced 4 certificate courses for AI for Chartered Accountants in April 2025.

We are also exploring new ways to leverage technology and enhance member engagement, ensuring that our fraternity remains at the forefront of knowledge and innovation.

As we embark on this new chapter, I encourage each of you to stay proactive, embrace continuous learning, and contribute to the growth of our profession. Your ideas, feedback, and active participation are invaluable in shaping the future of the Pune Branch.

Wishing you all a prosperous and fulfilling financial year ahead!

Warm Regards, CA Sachin Miniyar Chairman, Pune Branch of WIRC of ICAI



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#### Newsletter Committee Chairperson's Communique



CA. Sarika Dindokar

Chairperson, Newsletter Committee Pune Branch of WIRC of ICAI

#### **Dear Esteemed Members**

It is my distinct honor to address you as the newly Chairperson of the Newsletter Committee of Pune Branch the WIRC of ICAI for the year 2025-26. As we commence this new term, we stand at the cusp of transformative opportunities for our profession, driven by rapid technological advancements and evolving regulatory landscapes.

**Embracing the Future: AI and Professional Excellence** This month's theme resonates strongly with the Institute's vision of integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the core of accounting, auditing, taxation, and governance practices.

#### In alignment with this, we have planned a series of focused programs and events:

- A Certificate Course on AI for Chartered Accountants is scheduled in upcoming months, designed to deepen understanding of AI applications relevant to our profession.
- We will actively participate and promote the AI Innovation Summit 2025 to be held in the month of July at Buntara Bhavana, Pune, which promises to be a landmark event showcasing cutting-edge AI research and practical use cases in finance and governance.

#### Strengthening Professional Development and Engagement

Our new committee is committed to enhancing the learning ecosystem by introducing diverse programs such as seminars on trusts, forensic refresher courses, and certificate courses on financial markets, GST, and corporate tax compliance.

#### Call for Collaboration and Innovation

I request all members and students to actively engage with the branch activities, embrace emerging technologies, and contribute to thought leadership in our profession. Together, we can navigate the challenges and leverage the opportunities that AI and other innovations present, ensuring our profession remains relevant, resilient, and respected.

Let us embark on this journey with enthusiasm, commitment, and a shared vision of excellence. I look forward to your continued support and collaboration.

Warm Regards, CA Sarika Dindokar Chairperson of Newsletter Committee, Pune Branch of WIRC of ICAI





# COVER STORY AND EXPERT VIEWS







### Analysis of Changes introduced in New Income Tax Bill 2025 for INCOME FROM CAPITAL GAINS WRT PROVISIONS OF OLD INCOME TAX ACT, 1961

Name : CA. Dinesh Sheth Memb. No. : 109682 Email : cadinesh1@gmail.com

The new Income Tax Bill 2025 introduces several changes to the capital gains tax framework, which will replace the existing Income Tax Act of 1961. This analysis outlines the key changes between the old and new provisions regarding capital gains.

#### Overview of Capital Gains Tax Changes :-

#### 1. Retention of Structure

The new Income Tax Bill retains the overall structure of capital gains taxation but simplifies the language and organization of the provisions. The relevant clauses are now categorized under Sections 67-91, compared to Sections 45-55A in the old Act.

#### 2. Short-term and Long-term Capital Gains :

**Short-term Capital Gains (STCG):** Under Clause 196, STCG from equity shares, equity-oriented funds, and business trust units remains taxable at 20% if sold within one year of purchase. The structure for unlisted securities remains similar, with a holding period of two years for STCG classification

Long-term Capital Gains (LTCG): Clause 198 specifies that LTCG from equity shares and similar assets is taxed at 12.5% for gains exceeding ₹1.25 lakh per annum, an increase from the previous ₹1 lakh exemption limit. The old rate was 10% on gains exceeding ₹1 lakh, thus increasing the tax burden for higher gains before 23th July,2024.

#### 3. Changes in Definitions and Provisions

The new bill clarifies definitions and removes redundant provisions. For example, it formally includes crypto currencies as taxable capital assets, eliminating previous ambiguities regarding their treatment.

Section 47 of the old Act has been redefined to remove clauses related to specific transactions such as land transfers from sick companies and stock exchange demutualization.





#### 4. Indexation Benefits

The new bill does not provide indexation benefits for long-term capital assets, which was a significant feature in earlier legislation. Instead, it introduces a formula to compute excess income tax for certain transactions, particularly those involving assets acquired before July 23, 2024.

#### **5. Implications for Taxpayers**

Taxpayers will need to adjust their Financial & Tax planning strategies due to the increased LTCG exemption limit but also face higher tax rates on gains above this threshold. The removal of indexation benefits may affect long-term investment strategies, particularly for real estate and other substantial assets.

#### Summary of Key Changes

Aspect	Old Income Tax Act (1961)	New Income Tax Bill (2025)	
STCG Rate	20% for listed securities within 1 year	Same structure maintained	
LTCG Rate	10% over ₹1 lakh exemption before 23.7.24	12.5% over ₹1.25 lakh exemption	
Indexation Benefit	Available for long-term assets	Not available	
Cryptocurrency Treatment	Ambiguous	Clearly defined as taxable	
Provisions on Transfers Included specific exemptions		Removed redundant clauses	

The new Income Tax Bill aims to simplify compliance and enhance clarity while retaining essential features of capital gains taxation. Taxpayers should prepare for these changes effective from April 1, 2026, to optimize their tax liabilities accordingly.









## INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF SOFTWARE EXPORT (SOFTEX) CERTIFICATION FOR SERVICE EXPORTERS IN INDIA

Name : CA. Shubham Bhagirath Charkha Memb. No. : 608309 Email : shubhambcharkha@gmail.com

India has firmly established itself as one of the largest software and service exporters globally, delivering innovative solutions to companies across the globe. With the increased interest of GCCs (Global Capability Centers) in setting up their units within the country, the scale of exports is set to rise exponentially, further solidifying India's role as a global hub for software development.

#### Why SOFTEX Certification :

Companies engaged in IT/ITES exports through data communication links are mandated by the RBI to submit the SOFTEX form for certification. The SOFTEX (Software Export Declaration) form plays a pivotal role in ensuring regulatory compliance, facilitating smooth financial transactions, and securing GST refunds for software exporters.

# Introduction

to Software Export Declaration (SOFTEX) Form





#### The Certification Process and Stakeholders :

STPI (Software Technology Parks of India) is the designated authority for SOFTEX certification. Companies may either register under the STP scheme, which offers additional benefits beyond SOFTEX certification, or register as non-STP units solely for certification purposes. The key stakeholders involved in this process include the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the STPI, the exporter, and the authorized dealer (the bank managing foreign exchange transactions). Filing the SOFTEX form ensures compliance with all these stakeholders.

#### Significance of SOFTEX Certification :

The importance of SOFTEX certification extends to several critical aspects:

- Mandatory for tracking foreign exchange by RBI;
- Essential for closing pending export lists against Foreign Inward Remittances within the EDPMS system of the Authorized Dealer Bank;
- Generation of E-BRCs on the DGFT Portal, necessary for claiming ITC refunds under GST for exports made either with payment of tax or under LUT;
- Compliance with FEMA provisions;
- Strengthens businesses' export credentials in tenders, enhancing competitiveness.

#### Impact of SOFTEX Certification :

The SOFTEX certification process is designed to validate and monitor software exports meticulously. By ensuring transparency and comprehensive documentation of all transactions, this mechanism safeguards exporters from potential legal challenges and enhances their credibility on the international stage.









## MAHARASHTRA TOURISM POLICY 2024: A GAME-CHANGER FOR MSMES IN THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR

Name : CA. Aishwarya Jaju Memb. No. : 611246 Email : jajuaishwarya555@gmail.com

#### Maharashtra Tourism Policy 2024: A Game-Changer for MSMEs in the Hospitality Sector

The Maharashtra Tourism Policy 2024 (being effective from 18th July 2024 for 10 years) has set the stage for a new era of growth in the state's tourism and hospitality sector. With an ambitious target of attracting ₹1 lakh crore in investments and generating approximately 1.8 million jobs, this policy aims to position Maharashtra as a leading global tourist destination. While large-scale players will undoubtedly benefit, the policy extends a special focus on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), offering a suite of incentives tailored to support and uplift smaller hospitality ventures.

#### Why MSMEs Matter in Tourism?

MSMEs form the backbone of India's economy, contributing significantly to employment and GDP. In tourism, they play an equally crucial role by offering authentic, localized, and affordable experiences to travelers. From boutique hotels and homestays to eco-resorts and adventure tourism enterprises, MSMEs create a diverse and inclusive tourism landscape- all being covered as eligible units under the Policy. However, high initial capital costs, regulatory complexities, and stiff competition from large hospitality chains often hinder their growth. Maharashtra's new policy addresses these challenges by introducing financial, infrastructural, and operational support mechanisms that make it easier for MSMEs to thrive in the hospitality sector.



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#### Key Incentives for MSMEs in the Hospitality Industry

#### 1. Capital Investment Subsidy

To encourage investment in tourism infrastructure, the policy offers an attractive capital investment subsidy of up to 20% of the total project cost, capped at ₹20 crore. This is particularly beneficial for MSMEs looking to set up budget hotels, lodges, guesthouses, boutique stays, and eco-tourism facilities. The subsidy helps alleviate the financial strain on small entrepreneurs and enhances their ability to invest in high-quality services and infrastructure.

#### 2. SGST Reimbursement

One of the most significant incentives under the policy is the State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) reimbursement, aimed at reducing operational costs. Eligible tourism MSMEs can receive 50% to 100% SGST refunds for a predetermined period, depending on their investment category and location. This measure directly enhances profitability and pricing competitiveness, enabling small-scale hotels and resorts to offer competitive rates without compromising service quality.

#### 3. Interest Subsidy on Loans

Financing remains a major roadblock for MSMEs in the hospitality sector. To address this, the government is offering an interest subsidy of up to 5% on term loans, with caps based on the scale of investment. This initiative significantly lowers borrowing costs, making it easier for entrepreneurs to fund their projects and scale operations. Affordable credit access can be a game-changer, especially for those investing in high-potential but underdeveloped tourism destinations.

#### 4. Electricity Duty Exemption:

Electricity expenses constitute a substantial portion of a hotel's operational costs. The Policy provides full exemption from electricity duty for qualifying tourism enterprises for a specified number of years.

#### 5. Special Focus: MSMEs Driving Rural and Eco-Tourism

Recognizing the untapped potential of rural tourism, the policy emphasizes incentives for MSMEs investing in heritage stays, agro-tourism resorts, and eco-lodges. Entrepreneurs setting up tourism ventures in these segments can benefit from additional subsidies and marketing support to promote their offerings globally.

#### 6. Ease of Doing Business

Regulatory challenges and bureaucratic delays have historically deterred MSMEs from entering the tourism sector. To counter this, Maharashtra has introduced a single-window clearance system, streamlining the process of obtaining licenses, approvals, and permits. The policy also relaxes certain land-use and zoning regulations for tourism-related projects, making it easier for smaller players to navigate the legal landscape.



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The government is also investing in capacity-building programs to train MSME owners in hospitality management, digital marketing, and financial planning. By equipping small-scale entrepreneurs with business skills and technological tools, the policy ensures their long-term sustainability in an increasingly competitive market.

#### A Transformational Leap for Maharashtra's Tourism MSMEs

The Maharashtra Tourism Policy 2024 marks a paradigm shift in how the state supports and nurtures tourism-driven MSMEs. By offering a combination of financial incentives, tax reliefs, regulatory support, and infrastructural benefits, the policy sets a pro-business, pro-growth agenda for the hospitality sector.

With Maharashtra aiming to be among the top global tourism destinations, MSMEs have an unprecedented opportunity to expand, innovate, and thrive. Whether it's a budding entrepreneur looking to open a boutique hotel in Mumbai, a family-run homestay in the Sahyadris, or an eco-resort in Konkan, the time has never been better to leverage these transformative incentives and contribute to the state's thriving tourism economy.









## GOVERNMENT UNVEILS PAN 2.0 : A DIGITAL MAKEOVER FOR PAN CARDS WITH QR CODE INTEGRATION

Name : CA. Pranav Mantri Memb. No. : 175622 Email : pranavmantri@gmail.com

The Indian government has launched an ambitious modernization initiative called PAN 2.0, aimed at revamping the current Permanent Account Number (PAN) system. As part of this overhaul, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that the new version of PAN, which will feature QR codes, will be made available to all taxpayers at no additional cost.

#### This naturally leads to a critical question: Will older PAN cards without QR codes continue to be valid?

#### What is PAN 2.0 All About?

PAN 2.0 is a digital transformation project designed to upgrade and streamline the PAN ecosystem. It seeks to bring PAN and TAN-related functions under a single, unified system, making the overall experience more efficient and integrated. The initiative also focuses on optimizing services related to PAN verification and linking, while promoting the use of PAN as a common identifier for various government platforms.

#### Key Advantages of PAN 2.0:

1) Improved Accessibility: Quicker, smoother services with better user experience.

2) Reliable Records: A central database to ensure data accuracy and consistency.

3) Sustainable Approach: Reduced reliance on physical documentation and lower administrative costs.

4) Stronger Security: Robust infrastructure to protect user information and ensure operational efficiency.

#### Will Old PAN Cards Without QR Codes Be Deactivated?

In a clarification issued via FAQs by the Income Tax Department on November 26, 2024, it was clearly stated that PAN cards lacking QR codes will not be deemed invalid. Tax professionals have confirmed that these cards will continue to be legally recognized.



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However, individuals holding PAN cards in the older format are encouraged to opt for the upgraded version once it becomes available. Doing so will ensure compatibility with future government systems and reduce the chances of facing technical or procedural issues down the line.

As per the current legal framework, a PAN card can only become inoperative if it is not linked to an Aadhaar number.

#### A Closer Look at the PAN 2.0 Initiative

The Income Tax Department's press release dated November 25, 2024, describes PAN 2.0 as an all-encompassing e-Governance effort. The goal is to transform the process of taxpayer registration and make it more seamless for individuals and businesses alike.

For business entities, the project aims to combine multiple identifiers like PAN, TAN, and TIN into one consolidated identity. This move will simplify regulatory compliance under the Income Tax Act, 1961, and reduce paperwork significantly.

#### When Will the New PAN Cards Be Available?

Although the government has yet to declare a formal launch date for the upgraded QR codeenabled PAN cards, taxpayers are advised to monitor official channels for announcements.

#### **Bottom Line**

Your current PAN card without a QR code remains fully valid, and there's no urgent need to replace it. However, once the free upgrade option is officially launched, switching to the new version is highly recommended for a future-ready experience and smoother integration with evolving digital systems.

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# What is Pan Card 2002

#### आयकर विभाग INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT स्थायी लेखा संख्या का

भारत सरकार GOVT. OF INDIA

Permanent Account Numbe ABCDE1234A

पिता का नाम / Father's Name FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME SURNAME

e of Birth Signat MMM/YYYY EFATHER /S





# GLIMPSES OF THE PAST SEMINARS / EVENTS



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#### Seminar on International Women's Day Celebration



Date: 7th March, 2025





Dr. Anamika Chawhan





CA. Chandrashekhar V. Chitale, CCM, ICAI



CA. Abhisek Dhamne, RCM, WIRC



Dr. Abhay Chhajed, Chairman, CCLEANC



CA. Rekha Dhamankar, RCM, WIRC



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Seminar on International Women's Day Celebration







CA. Surekha Joshi



CA. Dr. Priya Agashe



**CA.** Meenal Maheshwari



CA. Amruta Panse



CA. Anagha Jagade





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#### Outreach Programme on GST Amnesty Scheme under Section 128A



Date : 11th March, 2025





Shri. Harsh Parashar, I.R.S., Assistant Commissioner, Central GST Pune-II Commissionerate, Ministry of Finance, Government of India











The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (Set up by an Act of Parliament)

Two Days Seminar on Bank Branch Audit 2025



Date : 15th & 16th March, 2025



CA. Uday Kulkarni



**CA.** Parikshit Bhadade





CA. Sachin Miniyar, Chairman, Pune ICAI



CA. Chandrashekhar V. Chitale, CCM, ICAI





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Two Days Seminar on Bank Branch Audit 2025



Date : 15th & 16th March, 2025



**CA. Sanat Chitale** 



CA. Rajesh Agrawal, RCM, WIRC



CA. Neha Phadke, Treasurer, Pune ICAI



CA. Prakash Kulkarni



CA. Nilesh Yeolekar, Secretary, Pune ICAI



CA. Rewati Murkute, MOC





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Two Days Seminar on Bank Branch Audit 2025



Date: 15th & 16th March, 2025









**CA.** Maheshwar Marathe



**CA. Prashant Tidke** 



CA. Ruta Chitale





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Two Days Seminar on Bank Branch Audit 2025



Date : 15th & 16th March, 2025



CA. Sameer Ladda



CA. Gokul Rathi



CA. Abhay Mate



CA. Satish Mundada





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Seminar on Audit Trail and Back-Up



Date: 20th March, 2025





**CA Jitendra Barve** 







CA. Priyanka Kulkarni, MOC





(Set up by an Act of Parliament)

**Investor Awareness Programme** 



Date: 29th March, 2025





CA Sujay Deshpande





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The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (Set up by an Act of Parliament)

Seminar on New Format of Financial Statements for Non Corporates and LLP



Date : 29th March, 2025









CA. (Dr.) Sanjeev Kumar Singhal Chairman, Accounting Standards Board



CA. Chandrashekhar V Chitale



CA. Nikhil Kenjale



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#### **New CA Logo Guidelines**







#### Incorporation of Tricolor:

The incorporation of the tricolor into the logo is a powerful symbol of the Institute's connection to India. The three colors of the Indian flag represent unity, diversity, and sovereignty, and they reflect the brand's commitment to serving the people of India and contributing to the nation's development. The tricolor has been used in such a fashion that it hints at motion, a flight, and a journey toward progress, showcasing the Institute's forward-thinking approach.





The new logo of CA India reflects the brand's connection to India while retaining its existing identity. The incorporation of the tricolor, the significance of the blue color, and adaptability on all platforms are all essential elements of the new logo. The design is intended to be aesthetically pleasing and culturally significant, making it a strong representation of the Institute's values and commitment to serving the people of India.

#### Guidelines (2023) for using the new CA India logo for CA members

The logo consists of the letters 'CA' in blue colour with a tri colour tick mark (upside down) with white background. The blue colour not only stands out on any background but also denotes creativity, innovativeness, knowledge, integrity, trust, truth, stability, and depth. The upside-down tick mark, typically used by Chartered Accountants, has been included to symbolise the wisdom and value of the professional.

wisdom and value of the professional. 'India' is also added in the logo, as it epitomizes the Institute's connection to India First approach and commitment to the serve the Indian economy in public interest.





#### Significance of blue color:

The primary color of the new logo is blue, which has been culled from the ICAI logo. Blue is a color that is associated with divinity, immortality, bravery, and determination. It reflects vastness, being the colour of the sky and ocean, and has been an integral part of the Indian cultural, political, and social landscape over the years. Blue is also culturally significant, as it has been a part of the Indian tradition for more than 5,000 years.









#### THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA

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#### Dear Member,

#### Your contribution for Pune Branch E-newsletters is welcome in following ways:

Contribute your own articles in areas of Professional Interest; the article may cover any topics relevant to auditing, finance, laws, strategy, taxation, technology and so on.

#### While submitting articles.

Please keep following aspects in mind: The length of articles should be about 2500 words Articles should be original in nature

#### Please send articles with:

A Photograph, your full name, membership number etc. Editable soft copy of file Declaration of originality of articles

#### Please send in your articles to : editor@puneicai.org; cpe@puneicai.org

latest by 25th of every month.



# **Pune Branch of WIRC of ICAI**

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<b>CA. Rashmi Tongaonkar</b> Co-opted Member		<b>CA. Aishwarya Prabhu</b> Co-opted Member		<b>Mr. Nilesh Kuldharan</b> Secretary			

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