



TAX-FREE INCOMES

Agricultural Income [Section 10(1)]

As per section 10(1), agricultural income earned by the taxpayer in India is exempt from tax. Agricultural income is defined under section 2(1A) of the Income-tax Act. As per section 2(1A), agricultural income generally means:

- (a) Any rent or revenue derived from land which is situated in India and is used for agricultural purposes.
- (b) Any income derived from such land by agriculture operations including processing of agricultural produce so as to render it fit for the market or sale of such produce.
- (c) Any income attributable to a farm house subject to satisfaction of certain conditions specified in this regard in section 2(1A).

Any income derived from saplings or seedlings grown in a nursery shall be deemed to be agricultural income.

Amount received by a member of the HUF from the income of the HUF, or in case of impartible estate out of income of family estate [Section 10(2)]

As per section 10(2), amount received out of family income, or in case of impartible estate, amount received out of income of family estate by any member of such HUF is exempt from tax.

Share of profit received by a partner from the firm [Section 10(2A)]

As per section 10(2A), share of profit received by a partner from a firm is exempt from tax in the hands of the partner. Further, share of profit received by a partner of LLP from the LLP will be exempt from tax in the hands of such partner. This exemption is limited only to share of profit and does not apply to interest on capital and remuneration received by the partner from the firm/LLP.

Certain interest to non-residents [Section 10(4)]

As per section 10(4)(i), in the case of a non-resident any income by way of interest on certain notified securities or bonds (including income by way of premium on the redemption of such bonds) is exempt from tax.

As per section 10(4)(ii), in the case of an individual, any income by way of interest on money standing to his credit in a Non-Resident (External) Account in any bank in India in accordance with the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, and the rules made thereunder is exempt from tax.

Exemption under section 10(4)(ii) is available only if such individual is a person resident outside India as defined in clause (q) of section 2 of the said Act or is a person who has been permitted by the Reserve Bank of India to maintain the aforesaid Account.

Interest on notified savings certificates [Section 10(4B)]

As per section 10(4B), in the case of an individual, being a citizen of India or a person of Indian origin, who is a non-resident, any income by way of interest on notified savings certificates (subscribed in convertible foreign exchange) issued before the 1st day of June, 2002 by the Central Government is exempt from tax.

Leave travel concession [Section 10(5)]

An employee can claim exemption under section 10(5) in respect of Leave Travel Concession. Exemption under section 10(5) is available to all employees (i.e. Indian as well as foreign citizens).



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Exemption is available in respect of value of any travel concession or assistance received or due to the employee from his employer (including former employer) for himself and his family members in connection with his proceeding on leave to any place in India. Other provisions to be kept in mind in this regard are as follows:

Where journey is performed by air: Amount of exemption will be lower of amount of economy class air fare of the National Carrier by the shortest route or actual amount spent.

Where journey is performed by rail: Amount of exemption will be lower of amount of air-conditioned first class rail fare by the shortest route or actual amount spent. The same rule will apply where journey is performed by any other mode and the place of origin of journey and destination are connected by rail.

Where the place of origin and destination are not connected by rail and journey is performed by any mode of transport other than by air:

The exemption will be as follows:

- (a) *If recognised public transport exists:* Exemption will be lower of first class or deluxe class fare by the shortest route or actual amount spent.
- (b) *If no recognised public transport exists:* Exemption will be lower of amount of air-conditioned first class rail fare by the shortest route (considering as if journey is performed by rail) or actual amount spent.

Block: Exemption is available for 2 journeys in a block of 4 years. The block applicable for current period is calendar year 2014-17. The previous block was of calendar year 2010-2013.

Carry over: If an employee has not availed of travel concession or assistance in respect of one or two permitted journeys in a particular block of 4 years, then he is entitled to carry over one journey to the next block. In this situation, exemption will be available for 3 journeys in the next block. However, to avail of this benefit, exemption in respect of journey should be utilised in the first calendar year of the next block. In other words, in case of carry over, exemption is available in respect of 3 journeys in a block, provided exemption in respect of at least 1 journey is claimed in the first year of the next block.

Exemption is in respect of actual expenditure on fare, hence, if no journey is performed, then no exemption is available.

Family: Family will include spouse and children of the individual, whether dependent or not and parents, brothers, sisters of the individual or any of them who are wholly or mainly dependent on him.

Exemption is restricted to only 2 surviving children born after October 1, 1998 (multiple births after first single child will be considered as one child only), however, such restriction is not applicable to children born before October 1, 1998.

Remuneration received by specified diplomats and their staff [Section 10(6)(ii)]

As per section 10(6)(ii), in case of an individual who is not a citizen of India, remuneration received by him as an official (by whatever name called) of an embassy, high Commission, legation, Commission, consulate or trade representative of a foreign State, or member of the staff of any of that official is exempt from tax, if corresponding Indian official in that foreign country enjoys a similar exemption.

Salary of a foreign employee and non-resident member of crew [Section 10(6)(vi), (viii)]



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As per section 10(6)(vi), the remuneration received by a foreign national as an employee of a foreign enterprise for services rendered by him during his stay in India is exempt from tax, provided the following conditions are fulfilled—

- (a) the foreign enterprise is not engaged in any trade or business in India ;
- (b) his stay in India does not exceed in the aggregate a period of 90 days in such year ; and
- (c) such remuneration is not liable to be deducted from the income of the employer.

As per section 10(6)(viii), any salaries received by or due to a non-resident foreign national for services rendered in connection with his employment on a foreign ship where his total stay in India does not exceed in the aggregate a period of 90 days in the year is exempt from tax.

Remuneration of a foreign trainee [Section 10(6)(xi)]

As per section 10(6)(xi), the remuneration received by a foreign trainee as an employee of foreign Government during his stay in India in connection with his training in any establishment or office of, or in any undertaking owned by,—

- i. the Government ; or
- ii. any company owned by the Central Government, or any State Government
- iii. any company which is a subsidiary of a company referred to in item (ii) ; or
- iv. any corporation established by or under a Central, State or Provincial Act ; or
- v. any co-operative society wholly financed by the Central Government, or any State Government

Tax paid on behalf of foreign company deriving income by way of royalty or fees for technical services [Section 10(6A)]

Tax paid by Central Government, State Government or an Indian concern on behalf of a foreign company deriving income by way of royalty or fees for technical services in pursuance of an agreement made after March 31, 1976 but before June 1, 2002 will be exempt from tax in the hands of such foreign company provided such agreement is in accordance with the industrial policy of the Indian Government or it is approved by the Central Government.

Tax paid on behalf of foreign company or non-resident in respect of other income [Section 10(6B)]

Tax paid by Central Government, State Government or an Indian concern on behalf of a foreign company or non-resident in respect of any income (not being salary, royalty or fees for technical services) will be exempt from tax in the hands of such foreign company or non-resident if such income is received in pursuance of an agreement entered into before June 1, 2002 by the Central Government with the Government of a foreign State or international organisation or any other related agreement approved by the Central Government.

Tax paid on behalf of foreign Government or foreign enterprise deriving income by way of lease of aircraft or aircraft engine [Section 10(6BB)]

Tax paid by an Indian company, engaged in the business of operation of aircraft, on behalf of foreign Government or foreign enterprise deriving income by way of lease of aircraft or aircraft engine will be exempt from tax in the hands of such foreign Government or foreign enterprise if such lease rental is received under an agreement which is approved by Central Government and entered during the period between 31-3-1997 to 1-4-1999, or after 31-3-2007.

Technical fees received by a notified foreign company [Section 10(6C)]



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Section 10(6C) grants exemption from tax in respect of income arising to notified foreign company by way of royalty or fees for technical services received in pursuance of an agreement entered into with that Government for providing services in or outside India in projects connected with security of India.

Allowance/perquisites to Government employee outside India [Section 10(7)]

As per section 10(7), any allowances or perquisites paid or allowed as such outside India by the Government to a citizen of India for rendering service outside India is exempt from tax.

Income of foreign Government employee under co-operative technical assistance programme [Section 10(8)]

As per section 10(8), remuneration received directly or indirectly by an individual, from the foreign Government in connection with a co-operative technical assistance programme and projects in accordance with an agreement entered into by the Central Government and such foreign Government, is exempt from tax. Further, exemption is available in respect of any other income of such an individual which accrues or arises outside India and is not deemed to accrue or arise in India, provided such individual is required to pay income-tax/ social security tax to the foreign Government.

Remuneration or fees received by a non-resident consultant/its foreign employees [Section 10(8A), (8B)]

Under section 10(8A), (a) remuneration or fees received by a consultant* directly or indirectly out of the funds made available to an international organisation, under a technical assistance agreement between such organisation and the Government of a foreign State and (b) any other income which accrues or arises to him outside India and is not deemed to accrue or arise in India, in respect of which such consultant is required to pay income-tax/social security tax to the foreign Government of the country of his origin, is exempt from tax.

*Consultant means any individual who is either not a citizen of India, or being a citizen of India, is not ordinarily resident in India or any other person who is a non-resident and is engaged by the international organization for rendering technical services in India in accordance with an agreement entered into by the Central Government and the said international organization and the agreement relating to engagement of consultant is approved by the prescribed authority.

Section 10(8B) grants similar exemption to the employee of the above discussed consultant, if such employee is either not a citizen of India or being a citizen of India, is not ordinarily resident in India and the contract of his service is approved by prescribed authority before the commencement of his service.

Income of a family member of an employee serving under co-operative technical assistance programme [Section 10(9)]

As per section 10(9), the income of any member of the family of any such individual as is referred to in section 10(8)/(8A)/(8B) accompanying him to India, which accrues or arises outside India and is not deemed to accrue or arise in India, in respect of which such member is required to pay any income or social security tax to the Government of that foreign State or country of origin of such member, as the case may be, is exempt from tax.

Death-cum-retirement gratuity received by Government servants [Section 10(10)(i)]

Section 10(10)(i) grants exemption to gratuity received by Government employee (i.e., Central Government or State Government or local authority).



Gratuity received by a non-Government employee covered by Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 [Section 10(10)(ii)]

As per section 10(10)(ii), exemption in respect of gratuity in case of employees covered by the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 will be lower of following :

- 15 days' salary $\times$ years of service.
- Maximum amount specified, i.e., Rs. 10,00,000.
- Gratuity actually received.

Note:

- 1) Instead of 15 days' salary, only 7 days salary will be taken into consideration in case of employees of seasonal establishment.
- 2) 15 days' salary = Salary last drawn $\times$ 15/26
- 3) Salary for this purpose will include basic salary and dearness allowance only. Items other than basic salary and dearness allowance are not to be considered.
- 4) In case of piece rated employee, 15 days' salary will be computed on the basis of average of total wages (excluding overtime wages) received for a period of three months immediately preceding the termination of his service.
- 5) Part of the year, in excess of 6 months, shall be taken as one full year.

Gratuity received by a non-Government employee not covered by Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 [Section 10(10)(iii)]

As per section 10(10)(iii), exemption in respect of gratuity in case of employees not covered by the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 will be lower of following :

- Half month's salary for each completed year of service, i.e.,
[Average monthly salary $\times$ $\frac{1}{2}$] $\times$ Completed years of service. .
- Rs. 10,00,000.
- Gratuity actually received.

Note:

- 1) Average monthly salary is to be computed on the basis of average of salary for 10 months immediately preceding the month of retirement.
- 2) Salary for this purpose will include basic salary, dearness allowance, if the terms of service so provide and commission based on fixed percentage of turnover achieved by the employee.
- 3) While computing years of service, any fraction of a year is to be ignored.

Pension [Section 10(10A)]:

As per section 10(10A), any commuted pension, i.e., accumulated pension in lieu of monthly pension received by a Government employee is fully exempt from tax. Exemption is available only in respect of commuted pension and not in respect of un-commuted, i.e., monthly pension. Exemption in respect of commuted pension in case of a non-Government employee will be as follows:

- If the employee receives gratuity, one third of full value of commuted pension will be exempt from tax under section 10(10A).
- If the employee does not receive gratuity, one half of full value of commuted pension will be exempt from tax under section 10(10A).



Leave salary [Section 10(10AA)]

As per section 10(10AA), leave encashment by a Government employee at the time of retirement (whether on superannuation or otherwise) is exempt from tax. In the hands of non-Government employee exemption will be least of the following:

1. Period of earned leave standing to the credit in the employee's account at the time of retirement (*) $\times$ Average monthly salary (\$).
2. Average monthly salary (\$) $\times$ 10 (i.e., 10 months' average salary).
3. Maximum amount as specified by the Government, i.e., Rs. 3,00,000.
4. Leave encashment actually received at the time of retirement.

(*) Leave credit to the account of the employee at the time of retirement should be restricted to 30 days per year of service if leave entitlement as per service rules exceeds 30 days per year of actual service.

(\$) Salary for the above purpose means average salary drawn in the past ten months immediately preceding the retirement (i.e., preceding the day of retirement) and will include basic salary, dearness allowance (if considered for computing all the retirement benefits) and commission based on fixed percentage of turnover achieved by the employee.

Apart from the above items, salary for this purpose does not include any other allowances or perquisites.

Retrenchment compensation [Section 10(10B)]

As per section 10(10B), compensation received at the time of retrenchment is exempt from tax to the extent of lower of the following:

- (a) An amount calculated in accordance with the provisions of section 25F(b) of the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947; or
- (b) Maximum amount specified by the Central Government (Rs. 5,00,000);
- (c) Actual amount received.

Under the Industrial Dispute Act, a workman is entitled to retrenchment compensation, equal to 15 days' average pay for each completed year of continuous service or any part in excess of six months.

Compensation in excess of aforesaid limits is taxable as salary. However, the aforesaid limit is not applicable in cases where compensation is paid under any scheme approved by the Central Government.

Compensation for Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster [Section 10(10BB)]

Compensation [in accordance with Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985] received by victims of Bhopal gas leak disaster is exempt from tax. However, compensation received for any expenditure which is allowed as deduction from taxable income is not exempt.

Compensation on account of any disaster [Section 10(10BC)]

Any amount received from the Central Government or State Government or a Local Authority by an individual or his legal heirs as compensation on account of any disaster is exempt from tax. However, no deduction is available in respect of the amount received or receivable to the extent such individual or his legal heirs has been allowed a deduction under the Act on account of loss or damage caused due to such disaster. Disaster here means any disaster due to any natural or man-made causes or by accident/negligence which results in substantial loss of human life or



damage to property or environment and the magnitude of such disaster is beyond coping capacity of community of the affected area.

Payment at the time of voluntary retirement [Section 10(10C)]

As per section 10(10C), any compensation received at the time of voluntary retirement or termination of service is exempt from tax, if the following conditions are satisfied:

- Compensation is received at the time of voluntary retirement or termination (or in the case of an employee of public sector Company, at the time of voluntary separation).
- Compensation is received by an employee of following undertakings-
 - a) public sector company ; or
 - b) any other company ; or
 - c) an authority established under a Central, State or Provincial Act ; or
 - d) a local authority ; or
 - e) a co-operative society ; or
 - f) a University established or incorporated by or under a Central, State or Provincial Act and an institution declared to be a University under section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956) ; or
 - g) an Indian Institute of Technology within the meaning of clause (g) of section 3 of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 (59 of 1961) ; or
 - h) any State Government; or
 - i) the Central Government; or
 - j) Notified institutes having importance throughout India or in any State or States,
 - k) Notified institute of management
- Compensation is received in accordance with the scheme of voluntary retirement/separation, which is framed in accordance with guidelines prescribed under Rule 2BA of Income-tax Rules, 1962*.
- Maximum amount of exemption is Rs. 5,00,000.
- Where exemption is allowed to an employee under section 10(10C) for any assessment year, no exemption under this section shall be allowed to him for any other assessment year.
- With effect from assessment year 2010-11, section 10(10C) has been amended to provide that where any relief has been allowed to an assessee under section 89 for any assessment year in respect of any amount received or receivable on his voluntary retirement or termination of service or voluntary separation, no exemption under section 10(10C) shall be allowed to him in relation to such or any other assessment year.

****Guidelines prescribed under Rule 2BA of Income-tax Rules. 1962***

Voluntary retirement scheme should be framed in accordance with the following guidelines:

- i. it should apply to an employee who has completed 10 years of service or completed 40 years of age. This requirement would not be in case of amount received by an employee of a public sector company under the scheme of voluntary separation framed by such public sector company.
- ii. it should apply to all employees (by whatever name called) including workers and executives of a company or of an authority or of a co-operative society, as the case may be, excepting directors of a company or of a co-operative society;]



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- iii. the scheme of voluntary retirement or voluntary separation should be drawn to result in overall reduction in the existing strength of the employees;
- iv. the vacancy caused by the voluntary retirement or voluntary separation is not to be filled up;
- v. the retiring employee of a company shall not be employed in another company or concern belonging to the same management
- vi. the amount receivable on account of voluntary retirement or voluntary separation of the employee does not exceed the amount equivalent to
 - 3 months salary* for each completed year of service or
 - salary at the time of retirement multiplied by the balance months of service left before the date of his retirement

*Salary for this purpose will include basic salary, dearness allowance, if the terms of service so provide and commission based on fixed percentage of turnover achieved by the employee.

Tax on perquisites paid by the employer [Section 10(10CC)]

Perquisites to employees mean any facility provided by the employer to the employees. There are two types of perquisites, viz., monetary and non-monetary. Value of perquisite is charged to tax in the hands of the employees, however, the employer may at his will pay tax (on behalf of employees) on such perquisites. In such a case, the amount of tax paid on such perquisites by the employer on behalf of the employees will be treated as income of the employees and is charged to tax in his (i.e., in employee's) hands. However, by virtue of section 10(10CC) tax paid by employer (on behalf of employee) on non-monetary perquisites will be exempt from tax in the hands of employees.

Such tax paid by the employer shall not be allowed as a deductible expenditure in the hands of employer under section 40. Section 10(10CC) provides exemption only in respect of tax on non-monetary perquisites. In other words, this section does not provide exemption in respect of perquisites or tax paid on monetary perquisites.

Amount paid on life insurance policy [Section 10(10D)]

As per section 10(10D), any amount received under a life insurance policy, including bonus is exempt from tax. Following points should be noted in this regard:

- Exemption is available only in respect of amount received from life insurance policy.
- Exemption under section 10(10D) is unconditionally available in respect of sum received for a policy which is issued on or before March 31, 2003. However, in respect of policies issued on or after April 1st, 2003, the exemption is available only if the amount of premium paid on such policy in any financial year does not exceed 20% (10% in respect of policy taken on or after 1st April, 2012) of the actual capital sum assured. With effect from 1-4-2013, in respect of policy taken in the name of a person suffering from diseases specified under section 80DDB or in the name of a person suffering from disability specified under section 80U, the limit will be increased to 15% of capital sum assured.
- Value of premium agreed to be returned or of any benefit by way of bonus (or otherwise), over and above the sum actually assured, which is received under the policy by any person, shall not be taken into account while calculating the actual capital sum assured.
- Amount received on death of the person will continue to be exempt without any condition.

Note: No exemption would be available in case of any sum received under section 80DD(3) or under Keyman insurance policy.



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Exemption in respect of amount received from public provident fund/statutory provident fund/recognised provident fund/ un-recognised provident fund [Section 10(11)/(12)]

The tax treatment of various items in case of different provident funds is as follows:

Statutory Provident Fund

Employer's Contribution	Employer's contribution to such fund is not treated as income of the employee.
Interest	Interest credited to such fund is exempt in the hands of the employee.
Amount received at the time of termination	Lump sum amount received from such fund, at the time of termination of service is exempt in the hands of employees.

Recognised Provident Fund

Employer's Contribution	Employer's contribution to such fund, up to 12% of salary is not treated as income of the employee (see Note 1).
Interest	Interest credited to such fund up to 9.5% per annum is exempt in the hands of the employee, interest in excess of 9.5% is charged to tax in the hands of the employee.
Amount received at the time of termination	If certain conditions are satisfied, then lump sum amount received from such fund, at the time of termination of service, is exempt in the hands of employees. (see Note 2)

Un-recognised Provident Fund

Employer's Contribution	Employer's contribution to such fund is not treated as income of the employee.
Interest	Interest credited to such fund is exempt in the hands of the employees.
Amount received at the time of termination	(See note 3)

Public Provident Fund

Employer's Contribution	Employers do not contribute to such fund.
Interest	Interest credited to such fund is exempt.
Amount received at the time of termination	Lump sum amount received from such fund at the time of termination of service is exempt from tax.

Notes:

1. Salary for this purpose will include basic salary, dearness allowance, if the terms of service so provide and commission based on fixed percentage of turnover achieved by the employee.



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2. Accumulated balance paid from a recognised provident fund will be exempt from tax in following cases:

- (a) If the employee has rendered a continuous service of 5 years or more. If the accumulated balance includes amount transferred from other recognised provident fund maintained by previous employer, then the period for which the employee rendered service to such previous employer shall also be included in computing the aforesaid period of 5 years.
- (b) If the service of employee is terminated before the period of 5 years, due to his ill health or discontinuation of business of the employer or other reason beyond his control.
- (c) If on retirement, the employee takes employment with any other employer and the balance due and payable to him is transferred to his individual account in any recognised fund maintained by such other employer, then the amount so transferred will not be charged to tax.

Except above situations, payment from a recognised provident fund will be charged to tax considering such fund as un-recognised from the beginning (See note 3 given below for tax treatment of un-recognised provident fund).

3. Treatment of payment (at the time of termination) from un-recognised provident fund:

Payment on termination will include 4 things, viz., employee's contribution and interest thereto and employer's contribution and interest thereto, the tax treatment of such payment is as follows:

- Employee's contribution is not chargeable to tax; interest on employee contribution is taxed under the head "Income from other sources".
- Employer's contribution and interest thereon are taxed as salary income, however, an employee can claim relief under section 89 in respect of such payment.

Payment from approved superannuation fund in specified circumstances and subject to certain limits [Section 10(13)]

Approved superannuation fund means superannuation fund which is approved by the Commissioner of Income-tax. Tax treatment of such fund is as follows:

- Employer's contribution is exempt from tax, however, from assessment year 2010-11 employer's contribution in excess of Rs. 1,00,000 per annum is charged to tax as perquisite. Employee's contribution qualifies for deduction under section 80C and interest on accumulated balance is not liable to tax.
- Payments made from the fund are exempt from tax under section 10(13) in following cases:
 - ✓ Payment on death of beneficiary; or
 - ✓ Payment to employee in lieu of, or in commutation of an annuity on his retirement at or after the specified age or on his becoming incapable prior to such retirement; or

House rent allowance [Section 10(13A)]

As per section 10(13A), read with rule 2A, the exemption in respect of HRA will be lower of the following amounts:

- (1) 50% of salary, when residential house is situated at Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi or Chennai and 40% of salary where residential house is situated at any other place.
- (2) HRA actually received by the employee in respect of the period during which rental accommodation is occupied by the employee during the previous year.



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(3) Rent paid in excess of 10% of salary.

Salary will include basic salary, dearness allowance forming part of salary while computing all retirement benefits and commission based on fixed percentage of turnover achieved by the employee. Apart from this, salary for this purpose does not include any other allowances/perquisites.

Salary for this purpose shall be computed on due basis in respect of period during which the accommodation is occupied by the employee in the previous year. Hence, any payments not pertaining to the previous year or not pertaining to the period of occupation of the accommodation shall be excluded.

Prescribed allowances or benefits [Section 10(14)]

As per section 10(14), read with rule 2BB following allowances granted to an employee are exempt from tax subject to certain limit:

Allowances	Exemption Limit
Children Education Allowance	Up to Rs. 100 per month per child up to a maximum of 2 children is exempt
Hostel Expenditure Allowance	Up to Rs. 300 per month per child up to a maximum of 2 children is exempt
Transport Allowance granted to an employee to meet expenditure on commuting between place of residence and place of duty	Up to Rs. 800 per month (Rs. 1,600 per month for blind and handicapped employees) is exempt
Allowance granted to an employee working in any transport business to meet his personal expenditure during his duty performed in the course of running of such transport from one place to another place provided employee is not in receipt of daily allowance.	Amount of exemption shall be lower of following: a) 70% of such allowance; or b) Rs. 10,000 per month.
Conveyance Allowance granted to meet the expenditure on conveyance in performance of duties of an office	Exempt to the extent of expenditure incurred for official purposes
Travelling Allowance to meet the cost of travel on tour or on transfer	Exempt to the extent of expenditure incurred for official purposes
Daily Allowance to meet the ordinary daily charges incurred by an employee on account of absence from his normal place of duty	Exempt to the extent of expenditure incurred for official purposes
Helper/Assistant Allowance	Exempt to the extent of expenditure incurred for official purposes
Research Allowance granted for encouraging the academic research and other professional pursuits	Exempt to the extent of expenditure incurred for official purposes
Uniform Allowance	Exempt to the extent of expenditure



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	incurred for official purposes
Special compensatory Allowance (Hilly Areas) (Subject to certain conditions and locations)	Amount exempt from tax varies from Rs. 300 to Rs. 7,000 per month.
Border area, Remote Locality or Disturbed Area or Difficult Area Allowance (Subject to certain conditions and locations)	Amount exempt from tax varies from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1,300 per month.
Tribal area allowance in (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Karnataka (e) Tripura (f) Assam (g) West Bengal (h) Bihar (i) Orissa	Up to Rs. 200 per month
Compensatory Field Area Allowance. If this exemption is taken, employee cannot claim any exemption in respect of border area allowance (Subject to certain conditions and locations)	Up to Rs. 2,600 per month
Compensatory Modified Area Allowance. If this exemption is taken, employee cannot claim any exemption in respect of border area allowance (Subject to certain conditions and locations)	Up to Rs. 1,000 per month
Counter Insurgency Allowance granted to members of Armed Forces operating in areas away from their permanent locations. If this exemption is taken, employee cannot claim any exemption in respect of border area allowance (Subject to certain conditions and locations)	Up to Rs. 3,900 per month
Underground Allowance to employees working in uncongenial, unnatural climate in underground mines	Up to Rs. 800 per month
High Altitude Allowance granted to armed forces operating in high altitude areas (Subject to certain conditions and locations)	a) Up to Rs. 1,060 per month (for altitude of 9,000 to 15,000 feet) b) Up to Rs. 1,600 per month (for altitude above 15,000 feet)
Highly active field area allowance granted to members of armed forces (Subject to certain conditions and locations)	Up to Rs. 4,200 per month
Island Duty Allowance granted to members of armed forces in Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep group of Island (Subject to certain conditions and locations)	Up to Rs. 3,250 per month

Interest on securities [Section 10(15)]





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Interest incomes which are exempt under section 10(15) could be explained with the help of the following table-

Section	Income	Exemption to
10(15)(i)	Interest, premium on redemption, or other payment on notified securities, bonds, certificates, and deposits, etc. (subject to notified conditions and limits)	All assesseees
10(15)(iib)	Interest on notified Capital Investment Bonds notified prior to 1-6-2002	Individual/HUF
10(15)(iic)	Interest on notified Relief Bonds	Individual/HUF
10(15)(iid)	Interest on notified bonds (notified prior to 1-6-2002) purchased in foreign exchange (subject to certain conditions)	Individual - NRI/nominee or survivor of NRI/individual to whom bonds have been gifted by NRI
10(15)(iii)	Interest on securities	Issue Department of Central Bank of Ceylon
10(15)(iiia)	Interest on deposits made with scheduled bank with approval of RBI	Bank incorporated abroad
10(15)(iiib)	Interest payable to Nordic Investment Bank	Nordic Investment Bank
10(15)(iiic)	10(15)(iiic) Interest payable to the European Investment Bank on loan granted by it in pursuance of framework-agreement dated 25-11-1993 for financial corporation between Central Government and that bank	European Investment Bank
10(15)(iv)(a)	Interest received from Government or from local authority on moneys lent to it before 1-6-2001 or debts owed by it before 1-6-2001, from sources outside India	All assesseees who have lent money, etc., from sources outside India
10(15)(iv)(b)	Interest received from industrial undertaking in India on moneys lent to it under a loan agreement entered into before 1-6-2001	Approved foreign financial institution
10(15)(iv)(c)	Interest at approved rate received from Indian industrial undertaking on moneys lent or debt incurred before 1-6-2001 in a foreign country in respect of purchase outside India of raw materials, components or capital plant and machinery, subject to certain limits and conditions	All assesseees who have lent such money, or in favour of whom such debt has been incurred
10(15)(iv)(d)	Interest received at approved rate from specified financial institutions in India on moneys lent from sources outside India before 1-6-2001	All assesseees who have lent such moneys
10(15)(iv)(e)	Interest received at approved rate from other Indian financial institutions or banks on moneys lent for specified purposes from sources outside India before 1-	All assesseees who have lent such moneys



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	6-2001 under approved loan agreement	
10(15)(iv)(f)	Interest received at approved rate from Indian industrial undertaking on moneys lent in foreign currency from sources outside India under loan agreement approved before 1-6-2001	All assesseees who have lent such moneys
10(15)(iv)(fa)	Interest payable by scheduled bank, on deposits in foreign currency when acceptance of such deposits by bank is approved by RBI	Non-resident or individual/HUF who is not ordinarily resident in India
10(15)(iv)(g)	Interest received at approved rate, from Indian public companies eligible for deduction under section 36(1)(viii) and formed with main object of providing long-term housing finance, on moneys lent in foreign currency from sources outside India under loan agreement approved before 1-6-2003	All assesseees who have lent such moneys
10(15)(iv)(h)	Interest received from any public sector company in respect of notified bonds or debentures and subject to certain conditions	All assesseees
10(15)(iv)(i)	Interest received from Government on deposits in notified scheme out of moneys due on account of retirement	Individual – Employee of Central Government/State Government/Public sector company
10(15)(v)	Interest on securities held in Reserve Bank's SGL A/c No. SL/DH-048 and Deposits made after 31-3-1994 for benefit of victims of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster held in such account with RBI or with notified public sector bank	Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, Bhopal
10(15)(vi)	Interest on Gold Deposit Bonds issued under the Gold Deposit Scheme, 1999 notified by Central Government	All assesseees
10(15)(vii)	10(15)(vii) Interest on notified bonds issued by a local authority/State Pooled Finance Entity	All assesseees
10(15)(viii)	Interest on deposit made on or after 1-4-2005 in an Offshore Banking Unit referred to in section 2(u) of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005	Non-resident or person who is not ordinarily resident

Lease rent of an aircraft [Section 10(15A)]

Lease rent of an aircraft or an aircraft engine paid to a foreign Government or to a foreign enterprise by an Indian company, engaged in the business of operation of aircraft is not taxable in the hands of such foreign Government or non-resident concern, if such payment is in pursuance of an agreement (approved by the Central Government) made before April 1, 1997 or after March 31, 1999 but before April 1, 2007. If such agreement is entered into during April 1, 1997 and March 31, 1999 or after March 31, 2007, then exemption under section 10(15A) is not





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available. However, in such a case, if tax on such payments is borne by the payer, then tax so borne by the payer is exempt in the hands of payee under section 10(6BB), provided agreement is approved by the Central Government.

Educational scholarship [Section 10(16)]

Any amount received as educational scholarship (i.e., scholarship to meet the cost of education is exempt from tax in the hands of recipient).

Daily allowance to a Member of Parliament [Section 10(17)]

Following allowances are exempt from tax in the hands of a Member of Parliament and a Member of State Legislature—

- Daily allowance received by a Member of Parliament or by a Member of State Legislature or by member of any committee thereof.
- Any other allowance received by a Member of Parliament under the Members of Parliament (Constituency Allowance) Rules, 1986.
- Any Constituency allowance received by a Member of State Legislature.

Awards [Section 10(17A)]

Any payment received in pursuance of following (whether paid in cash or in kind) is exempt from tax:

- Any award instituted in the public interest by the Central Government or State Government or by any other body approved by the Central Government in this behalf.
- Any reward by the Central Government or any State Government for such purpose as may be approved by the Central Government in this behalf in the public interest.

Pension to gallantry award winner [Section 10(18)]

Pension received by an individual who was employee of the Central Government or State Government and who has been awarded Param Vir Chakra or Maha Vir Chakra or Vir Chakra or any other notified gallantry award is exempt from tax.

Family pension received by any member of such individual is also exempt.

Family pension received by the family members of armed forces [Section 10(19)]

From the assessment year 2005-06, family pension received by the widow or children or nominated heirs, of a member of armed forces (including paramilitary forces) of the Union, is exempt from tax in the hands of such family members, if the death of such member of armed forces has occurred in the course of operational duty in prescribed circumstances and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed (see rule 2BBA for prescribed circumstances and conditions).

Annual value of one palace [Section 10(19A)]

Annual value of any one palace in the occupation of a former ruler is exempt from tax under section 10(19A).

Income of local authority [Section 10(20)]

The following income of a local authority is exempt from tax:

- a) Income which is chargeable under the head “Income from house property”, “Capital gains” or “Income from other sources” or
- b) Income from a trade or business carried on by it which accrues or arises from the supply of a commodity or service (not being water or electricity) within its own jurisdictional area or
- c) Income from business of supply of water or electricity within or outside its own jurisdictional area.



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Income of research association [Section 10(21)]

Any income of a research association, approved under section 35(1)(ii)/(iii) is exempt from tax, if following conditions as specified in section 10(21) are satisfied:

- 1) Income should be applied or accumulated wholly and exclusively for the objects for it established.
- 2) Funds should not be invested or deposited for any period during the previous year otherwise than in any one or more of the forms/modes specified in section 11(5). However, this condition is not applicable in respect of the following:-
 - (i) any assets held by the research association where such assets form part of the corpus of the fund of the association as on the 1st day of June, 1973;
 - (ii) Debentures of a company acquired by the research association before the 1st day of March, 1983;
 - (iii) any accretion to the shares, forming part of the corpus of the fund mentioned in sub-clause (i), by way of bonus shares allotted to the research association;
 - (iv) voluntary contributions received and maintained in the form of jewellery, furniture or any other article as the Board may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify,

Note:

1. Exemption shall not be denied in relation to voluntary contribution [other than voluntary contribution in cash or voluntary contribution of the nature referred to in (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) supra] subject to the condition that such voluntary contribution is not held by the research association otherwise than in any one or more of the forms or modes specified in sub-section (5) of section 11, after the expiry of one year from the end of the previous year in which such asset is acquired.
2. Exemption is not available in relation to any income of the research association, being profits and gains of business, unless the business is incidental to the attainment of its objectives and separate books of account are maintained by it in respect of such business

Income of a news agency [Section 10(22B)]

Any income of a notified news agency, set-up in India solely for collection and distribution of news is exempt from tax provided that the news agency applies its income or accumulates it for application solely for collection and distribution of news and does not distribute its income in any manner to its members.

Income of a professional association [Section 10(23A)]

Any income (other than income from house property and income from rendering any specific service or income by way of interest or dividend on investment) of an professional institution/association is exempt from tax, if the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1) Professional institution is established in India for the purpose of control, supervision, regulation or encouragement of the profession of law, medicine, accountancy, engineering or architecture or such other notified profession.
- 2) The institution applies its income, or accumulates it for application, solely to the objects for which it is established.
- 3) The institution is approved by the Central Government by general or special order.

Income received on behalf of Regimental Fund [Section 10(23AA)]



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Any income received by any person on behalf of any Regimental Fund or Non-Public Fund established by the armed forces of the Union for the welfare of the past and present members of such forces or their dependents, is exempt from tax.

Income of a fund established for welfare of employees [Section 10(23AAA)]

Any income received by any person on behalf of a fund established, for such purpose as may be notified by the Board in Official Gazette, for the welfare of employees or their dependents and of which fund such employees are members, is exempt from tax, if such fund applies or accumulates its income for exclusive application towards its objects, invests its funds in the modes specified in section 11(5) and such fund is approved by the Principal Commissioner or Commissioner in accordance with rule made in this behalf (see rule 16C and Form No. 9).

Income of pension fund [Section 10(23AAB)]

Any income of a fund set-up by the Life Insurance Corporation of India on or after August 1, 1996 or any other insurer to which contribution is made by any person for receiving pension from such fund, and which is approved by the Controller of Insurance or the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, is exempt from tax.

Income from Khadi or village industry [Section 10(23B)]

Income of an institution constituted as a public charitable trust or society which is established for the development of khadi and village industries (not for profit purpose) is exempt from tax, if following conditions are satisfied:

- 1) Income is attributable to the business of production, sale, or marketing, of khadi or products of village industries.
- 2) Institution applies its income, or accumulates it for application, solely for the development of khadi or village industries or both
- 3) Institution is approved by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

Income of Khadi and Village Industries Boards [Section 10(23BB)]

Any income of Khadi and Village Industries Boards is exempt from tax under section 10(23BB).

Incomes of statutory bodies for the administration of public charitable trust [Section 10(23BBA)]

Any incomes of bodies or authority established or constituted or appointed under any Central, State or Provincial Act for the administration of public, religious or charitable trust or endowments (including any place of religious worship) or societies for religious or charitable purpose, is exempt from tax. However, this exemption shall not apply to income of any such trust, endowment, or society.

Income of European Economic Community [Section 10(23BBB)]

Any income of European Economic Community derived in India by way of interest, dividends or capital gains, from investments made out of its funds under a notified scheme is exempt from tax.

Income of SAARC fund [Section 10(23BBC)]

Any income of SAARC fund for Regional Projects is exempt from tax under section 10(23BBC).

Income of Secretariat of Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions [Section 10(23BBD)]

Any income of Secretariat of Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions is exempt from tax for the assessment years 2001-02 to 2010-11.

Income of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority [Section 10(23BBE)]



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Any income of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority established under section 3(1) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 is exempt from tax.

Income of North-Eastern Development Financial Corporation Limited [Section 10(23BBF)]

No exemption is available under section 10(23BBF) from assessment year 2010-11.

Income of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission [Section 10(23BBG)]

Income of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission is exempt from tax from the assessment year 2008-09.

Income of the Prasar Bharati [Section 10(23BBH)]

Any income of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) established under section 3(1) of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 is exempt from tax.

Income of certain national funds [Section 10(23C)(i)/(ii)/(iii)]

Any income received by any person on behalf of the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, the Prime Minister's Fund (Promotion of Folk Art) or the Prime Minister's Aid to Students Fund is exempt from tax under clause (i), (ii) and (iii) of section 10(23C) respectively.

Income of National Foundation for Communal Harmony [Section 10(23C)(iiia)]

Any income of National Foundation for Communal Harmony is exempt from tax under section 10(23C)(iiia).

Income of Educational Institutions [Section 10(23C)(iiiaa)/(iiiaa)/(vi)]

Section 10(23C)(iiiaa)

Income of any university or other educational institution existing solely for educational purposes and not for purposes of profit, and which is wholly or substantially financed by the Government would be exempt under section 10(23C)(iiiaa).

Section 10(23C)(iiiaa)

Income of any university or other educational institution existing solely for educational purposes and not for purposes of profit would be exempt under section 10(23C)(iiiaa) if the aggregate annual receipts of such university or educational institution do not exceed Rs. 1 Core.

Section 10(23C)(vi)

Income of any university or other educational institution existing solely for educational purposes and not for purposes of profit, other than those mentioned in sub-clause (iiiaa) or sub-clause (iiiaa) and which may be approved by the prescribed authority. CBDT authorize the Commissioners of Income-tax (Exemptions) for this purpose via Notification No. 76/2014 dated 1-12-2014.

Income of Hospital [Section 10(23C)(iiiaa)/(iiiaa)/(via)]

Income arises to any hospital or other institution for the reception and treatment of persons suffering from illness or mental defectiveness or for the reception and treatment of persons during convalescence or of persons requiring medical attention or rehabilitation, existing solely for philanthropic purposes and not for purposes of profit, shall be exempt from tax under following situations:

- 1) If the hospital or other institution is wholly or substantially financed by the Government then exemption would be available under section 10(23C)(iiiaa).
- 2) If the aggregate annual receipt of such hospital or institution do not exceed Rs. 1 Crore then exemption would be available under section 10(23C)(iiiaa).



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- 3) If the hospital is approved by the prescribed authority, i.e., by Commissioners of Income-tax (Exemptions) as authorized by CBDT via Notification No. 76/2014 dated 1-12-2014 then exemption would be available under section 10(23C)(via).

Income of Charitable Institution or Fund [Section 10(23C)(iv)]

Any income of a charitable institution or fund which is approved by the prescribed authority having regard to its objects and its importance throughout India or throughout any State or States is exempt from tax.

CBDT has authorized Commissioners of Income-tax (Exemptions) via Notification No. 75/2014 dated 1-12-2014 for granting approval under this section.

Income of religious/charitable trust [Section 10(23C)(v)]

Income of any trust (including any other legal obligation) or institution formed wholly for public religious purposes or wholly for public religious and charitable purposes, which is approved by the prescribed authority having regard to the manner in which the affairs of the trust or institution are administered and supervised for ensuring that the income accruing thereto is properly applied for the objects thereof, is exempt from tax.

CBDT has authorized Commissioners of Income-tax (Exemptions) via Notification No. 75/2014 dated 1-12-2014 for granting approval under this section.

Conditions for claiming exemption under section 10(23C)(iv)/(v)/(vi)/(via)

In order to claim exemption under section 10(23C)(iv)/(v)/(vi)/(via), the fund or trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution, as the case may be, had to comply with the following conditions:

1. An application in Form No. 56 (for claiming exemption under section 10(23C)(iv) and (v) or continuance thereof) and in Form No. 56D (for claiming exemption under section 10(23C)(vi) and (via) or continuance thereof) has to be filed with prescribed authority, i.e., Commissioners of Income-tax (Exemptions).
2. It should furnish such documents (including audited annual accounts) or information, which the prescribed authority, i.e., Commissioners of Income-tax (Exemptions) may consider necessary in order to satisfy itself about the genuineness of the activities of such fund or trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution, as the case may be.
3. It should apply its income, or accumulate it for application, wholly and exclusively to the objects for which it is established and in a case where more than fifteen per cent of its income is accumulated on or after the 1st day of April, 2002, the period of the accumulation of the amount exceeding fifteen per cent of its income shall in no case exceed five years.
4. Funds should not be invested or deposited for any period during the previous year otherwise than in any one or more of the forms/modes specified in section 11(5). However, this condition is not applicable in respect of the following:-
 - (i) any assets which form part of the corpus of the fund, trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution as on the 1st day of June, 1973;
 - (ii) Equity shares of a public company, held by any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution where such equity shares form part of the





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corpus of any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution as on the 1st day of June, 1998

- (iii) Debentures of a company acquired by the fund, trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution before the 1st day of March, 1983;
- (iv) any accretion to the shares, forming part of the corpus of the fund mentioned in point no. (i) and (ii), by way of bonus shares allotted to the fund, trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution;
- (v) voluntary contributions received and maintained in the form of jewellery, furniture or any other article as the Board may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify,

Note:

1. Exemption shall not be denied in relation to voluntary contribution [other than voluntary contribution in cash or voluntary contribution of the nature referred to in (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) or (v) supra] subject to the condition that such voluntary contribution is not held by the fund, trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution, as the case may be, otherwise than in any one or more of the forms or modes specified in sub-section (5) of [section 11](#), after the expiry of one year from the end of the previous year in which such asset is acquired.
2. Exemption is not available in relation to any income of the fund, trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution, as the case may be, being profits and gains of business, unless the business is incidental to the attainment of its objectives and separate books of account are maintained by it in respect of such business
5. For claiming exemption under section 10(23C)(iv) and (v), the fund, trust or institution, as the case may be, should disinvest by March 30, 1993, all the investment made before April 1, 1989, otherwise than in any one or more of the forms or modes specified in section 11(5).
6. For claiming exemption under section 10(23C)(vi) and (via), the university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution, as the case may be, should disinvest by March 30, 2001, all the investment made before June 1, 1998, otherwise than in any one or more of the forms or modes specified in section 11(5).
7. If taxable income [before giving exemption under section 10(23C)] exceeds the exemption limit, the institution should get books of account audited in Form No. 10BB and audit report should be submitted along with return of income.
8. *Where any fund, trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution, as the case may be, has been approved or notified for claiming exemption under section 10(23C)(iv)/(v)/(vi)/(via) then it would not be entitled to claim any benefit of exemption under other provisions of section 10 (except the exemption in respect of agricultural income).*

Note:

For the purpose of claiming exemption under section 10(23C), where any income is required to be applied or accumulated, then, for such purpose the income shall be determined without any deduction or allowance by way of depreciation or otherwise in respect of any asset, acquisition



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of which has been claimed as an application of income under this clause in the same or any other previous year.

Income of mutual fund [Section 10(23D)]

Any income of following mutual funds (subject to provisions of sections 115R to 115T) is exempt from tax:

- A mutual fund registered under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act or regulation made thereunder.
- A mutual fund set-up by a public sector bank, or a public financial institution or authorised by RBI (subject to conditions notified by the Central Government).

Income of a securitisation trust [Section 10(23DA)]

Any income of a securitisation trust from the activity of securitisation is exempt from tax.

Income of notified investor protection fund [Section 10(23EA)]

Any income by way of contributions received from recognised stock exchanges and the members thereof, of a notified Investor Protection Fund set up by recognised stock exchanges in India is exempt from tax.

Provided that where any amount standing to the credit of the Fund and not charged to income-tax during any previous year is shared, either wholly or in part, with a recognised stock exchange, the whole of the amount so shared shall be deemed to be the income of the previous year in which such amount is so shared and shall accordingly be chargeable to income-tax.

Income of Credit Guarantee Fund Trust [Section 10(23EB)]

Any income of Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries, being a trust created by the Government of India and the Small Industries Development Bank of India, is exempt from tax for 5 years relevant to the assessment years 2002-03 to 2006-07.

Income of the notified investor protection fund set-up by commodity exchange [Section 10(23EC)]

Any income by way of contributions received from commodity exchanges and the members thereof, of a notified Investor Protection Fund set up by commodity exchanges in India is exempt from tax.

Provided that where any amount standing to the credit of the Fund and not charged to income-tax during any previous year is shared, either wholly or in part, with a commodity exchange, the whole of the amount so shared shall be deemed to be the income of the previous year in which such amount is so shared and shall accordingly be chargeable to income-tax.

Income of Investor Protection Fund set by a depository [Section 10(23ED)]

Any income, by way of contributions received from a depository, of notified Investor Protection Fund set up by a depository in accordance with the regulations made under the SEBI Act and Depository Act is exempt from tax.

Provided that where any amount standing to the credit of the Fund and not charged to income-tax during any previous year is shared, either wholly or in part with a depository, the whole of the amount so shared shall be deemed to be the income of the previous year in which such amount is so shared and shall, accordingly, be chargeable to income-tax.

Income of a venture capital fund or a venture capital company from investment in a venture capital undertaking [Section 10(23FB)]



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Income of a venture capital fund or a venture capital company from investment in a venture capital undertaking is exempt from tax from assessment year 2001-02. However, this exemption is subject to satisfaction of conditions specified in section 10(23FB).

Income of a Business Trust [Section 10(23FC)]

Any income of a business trust by way of interest received or receivable from a special purpose vehicle is exempt from tax.

“special purpose vehicle” means an Indian company in which the business trust holds controlling interest and any specific percentage of shareholding or interest, as may be required by the regulations under which such trust is granted registration.

Distributed Income of a Unit Holder from the Business Trust [Section 10(23FD)]

Any distributed income, referred to in section 115UA, received by a unit holder from the business trust, not being that proportion of the income which is of the same nature as the income referred to in clause (23FC) is exempt from tax.

Income of a registered trade union [Section 10(24)]

Any income chargeable under the head “Income from house property” and “Income from other sources” of a registered union within the meaning of the Indian Trade Union Act, 1926, formed primarily for the purpose of regulating the relation between workmen and employers or between workmen and workmen is exempt from tax. Similar exemption is available to an association of registered unions.

Income of provident fund [Section 10(25)]

Following income is exempt from tax under this section:

- Interest on securities held by a statutory provident fund and any capital gains arising from such securities.
- Any income received by the trustee on behalf of a recognised provident fund or an approved superannuation fund or an approved gratuity fund; and
- Any income received by the Board of Trustees on behalf of Deposit-linked Insurance Fund.

Income of the Employees’ State Insurance Fund [Section 10(25A)]

Any income of the Employees’ State Insurance Fund of the Employees’ State Insurance Corporation set-up under the provisions of the Employees’ State Insurance Act, 1948 is exempt from tax under section 10(25A).

Income of a member of a Scheduled Tribe [Section 10(26)]

Income of a member of a Scheduled Tribe [as per article 366(25) of the Constitution] is exempt from tax, if following conditions are satisfied:

- Such member resides in any area in the State of Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram or district of North Cachar Hills, Mikir Hills, Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills or in the Ladakh region of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Such exemption is available in respect of income which accrues/arises from any source in such areas or income by way of dividends/interest on securities arises from any area.

Income of a “Sikkimese” individual [Section 10(26AAA)]

Following income of a Sikkimese individual [as explained in section 10(26AAA)], is exempt from tax:

- Any income from the State of Sikkim; or



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- Income by way of dividend or interest on securities (generated in Sikkim or any other place). This exemption is not available to a Sikkimese woman who, on or after April 1, 2008 marries a non- Sikkimese individual.

Income of an Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee/Board [Section 10(26AAB)]

With effect from assessment year 2009-10, any income of an Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee/Board constituted under any law for the purpose of regulating the marketing of agricultural produce is exempt from tax under section 10(26AAB).

Income of corporation or other body or institution or association established for promoting the interest of members of Scheduled Caste, etc. [Section 10(26B)]

Any income of a corporation established by a Central, State or Provincial Act or of any other body, institution or association (wholly financed by the Government), formed for promoting the interests of the members of the Scheduled Castes/Tribes/backward classes or of any two or all of them [as explained in section 10(26B)], is exempt from tax under section 10(26B).

Income of corporation established for promoting interest of minority caste [Section 10(26BB)]

Any income of a corporation established by the Central Government or State Government for promoting the interests of the members of such minority community as notified by the Central Government from time-to-time, is exempt from tax under section 10(26BB).

Income of corporation established for ex-servicemen [Section 10(26BBB)]

From assessment year 2004-05, any income of a statutory corporation established by Central, State or Provincial Act for the welfare and economic upliftment of ex-servicemen (being citizen of India) is exempt from tax under section 10(26BBB).

“ex-serviceman” means a person who has served in any rank, whether as combatant or non-combatant, in the armed forces of the Union or armed forces of the Indian States before the commencement of the Constitution (but excluding the Assam Rifles, Defence Security Corps, General Reserve Engineering Force, Lok Sahayak Sena, Jammu and Kashmir Militia and Territorial Army) for a continuous period of not less than six months after attestation and has been released, otherwise than by way of dismissal or discharge on account of misconduct or inefficiency, and in the case of a deceased or incapacitated ex-serviceman includes his wife, children, father, mother, minor brother, widowed daughter and widowed sister, wholly dependant upon such ex-serviceman immediately before his death or incapacitation

Income of a co-operative society formed for promoting the interests of the members of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes [Section 10(27)]

Any income of a co-operative society formed for promoting the interests of the members of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes or both [as given in section 10(26B)] is exempt from tax. Exemption is available only if the membership of the co-operative society consists of only other co-operative societies formed for similar purposes and the finances of the society are provided by the Government and such other societies [Section 10(27)].

Income of coffee board, rubber board, etc. [Section 10(29A)]

Any income of Coffee Board, Rubber Board, Tea Board, Tobacco Board, Marine Products Export Development Authority, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Spices Board and Coir Board, is exempt from tax under section 10(29A).

Subsidy from the Tea Board [Section 10(30)]

In the case of a taxpayer, who carries on business of growing and manufacturing tea in India, the amount of any subsidy received from or through the Tea Board under the notified scheme for





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replantation or replacement of tea bushes or for rejuvenation or consolidation of the area used for cultivation of tea, is exempt from tax (for notified schemes see Notification No. S.O. 3616, dated September 27, 1976).

To claim exemption, a certificate from the Tea Board as to the amount of subsidy paid to the taxpayer during the year is to be obtained.

A similar exemption is available under section 10(31) in respect of subsidy received by an taxpayer engaged in the business of growing and manufacturing rubber, coffee, cardamom or such other commodities as the Central Government may by notification specify [Section 10(31)].

Income of minor [Section 10(32)]

Under section 64(1A) income of a minor child is clubbed along with the income of his/her parent, subject to certain conditions. If the income of an individual includes any income of his/her minor child, then such individual can claim exemption (in respect of each minor child) of lower of following amount:

- (a) Rs. 1,500 per minor child; or
- (b) Amount of income of each minor child (which is clubbed).

Capital gains on transfer of US 64 [Section 10(33)]

As per section 10(33), long-term or short-term capital gains arising on transfer of units of Unit Scheme, 1964 (US 64) are exempt from tax if the transfer of such asset takes place on or after 1/04/2002.

Dividends and interest on units [Section 10(34)/(35)]

Following incomes are not chargeable to tax from the assessment year 2004-05:

- Any income by way of dividends covered by section 115-O [i.e., any dividends from a domestic company other than dividends covered under section 2(22)(e)];
- Any income in respect of units of a mutual fund;
- Income received by a unit holder of UTI;
- Income in respect of units of a specified company.

Note:

1. Under section 115-O and section 115R, the person paying the dividends on share or income on units will have to pay distribution tax on dividend/income distributed.
2. It should be noted that under this clause, Income on transfer of units is not exempt.

Income of a shareholder on account of buy back of shares by the company [Section 10(34A)]

Any income arising to an assessee, being a shareholder, on account of buy back of shares (not being listed on a recognised stock exchange) by the company as referred to in section 115QA is exempt from tax under section 10(34A). This exemption is available only in those cases where additional income-tax is payable on distributed income under section 115QA by the company opting for buy back of such shares.

Income of an investor received from a securitisation trust [Section 10(35A)]

Any distributed income referred to in section 115TA received from a securitisation trust by any person being an investor of the said trust is exempt from tax under section 10(35A).

Capital gains in case of compulsory acquisition of urban agricultural land [Section 10(37)]

An individual or Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) can claim exemption in respect of capital gain arising on transfer by way of compulsory acquisition of agricultural land situated in an urban area provided compensation is received on or after April 1, 2004. This exemption is available if



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the land was used by the taxpayer (or by his parents in the case of an individual) for agricultural purpose for a period of 2 years immediately preceding the date of its transfer.

Long-term capital gains on transfer of equity shares or units of an equity oriented mutual fund or a unit of a business trust covered by securities transaction tax [Section 10(38)]

Long-term capital gains arising on transfer of securities are not chargeable to tax in the hands of any person, if following conditions are satisfied:

1. The asset transferred should be equity shares of a company or units of an equity oriented mutual fund or a unit of a business trust.
2. The transaction should be liable to securities transaction tax, at the time of transfer.
3. Such asset should be a long-term capital asset.
4. Transfer should have taken place on or after October 1, 2004.

The provisions of this clause shall not apply in respect of any income arising from transfer of units of a business trust which were acquired in consideration of a transfer referred to in clause (xvii) of section 47, i.e., allotment of unit by a business trust on transfer of shares of a special purpose vehicle.

Equity oriented mutual fund means a mutual fund specified under section 10(23D) and 65% of its investible funds, out of total proceeds are invested in equity shares of a domestic company.

Income from international sporting event [Section 10(39)]

From the assessment year 2006-07, any specified income of notified person, arising from an international sporting event held in India is exempt from tax, if the event is approved by the international body and is notified by the Central Government and has participation by more than two countries.

Grants received by specified subsidiary company [Section 10(40)]

Income of any subsidiary company by way of grant or otherwise received from its Indian holding company which is engaged in the business of generation/ transmission/distribution of power is exempt, if such receipt is for settlement of dues in connection with reconstruction or revival of an existing business of power generation. The exemption is available, if the reconstruction or revival is by way of transfer of business to the Indian company notified under section 80 IA(4)(v)(a).

Under section 10(41), any capital gain arising in the above case is not chargeable to tax, if the transfer has taken place before April 1, 2006.

Income of certain non-profit body or authority [Section 10(42)]

Any specified income of non-profit body/authority notified by the Central Government and established, constituted or appointed under a multilateral treaty agreement or convention to which Central Government is a signatory is exempt from tax under section 10(42).

Loan in the case of reverse mortgage [Section 10(43)]

Any amount received by an individual as a loan (either in lump sum or in instalments) in a transaction of reverse mortgage referred to in section 47(xvi), is not chargeable to tax.

Income of New Pension System Trust [Section 10(44)]

With effect from assessment year 2009-10, any income received by any person for, or on behalf of the New Pension System Trust established on 27-2-2008 under the provisions of the Indian Trust Act, 1882 will be exempt from tax.

Any notified allowance or perquisite paid to the Chairman/retired Chairman or any other member/retired member of the UPSC [Section 10(45)]



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As per section 10(45), any allowance or perquisite, as may be notified by the Central Government in the Official Gazette in this behalf, paid to the Chairman or a retired Chairman or any other member or retired member of the Union Public Service Commission is exempt from tax.

Exemption of specified income of notified body/ authority/trust/board/commission [Section 10(46)]

Under section 10(46), any specified income arising to any notified body/authority/Board/Trust/Commission (by whatever name called) which has been established or constituted by or under a Central, State or Provincial Act, or has been constituted by the Government or a State Government with the object of regulating or administering any activity for the benefit of the general public and is not engaged in any commercial activity and is notified by the Central Government in the Official Gazette for the purposes of this clause is exempt from tax.

Any income of a notified infrastructure debt fund set-up in accordance with prescribed guidelines [Section 10(47)]

As per section 10(47), any income of a notified infrastructure debt fund set-up in accordance with the guidelines prescribed in Rule 2F of the Income-tax Rules is exempt from tax.

Income received by certain foreign companies in Indian currency for import of crude oil etc. [Section 10(48)]

Any income received in India in Indian currency by a foreign company on account of sale of crude oil, any other notified goods or rendering of notified services to any person in India is exempt from tax provided-

- (i) receipt of such income in India by the foreign company is pursuant to an agreement or an arrangement entered into by the Central Government or approved by the Central Government;
- (ii) having regard to the national interest, the foreign company and the agreement or arrangement are notified by the Central Government in this behalf; and
- (iii) the foreign company is not engaged in any activity, other than receipt of such income, in India..

Tax exemption to National Financial Holdings Company Limited [Section 10(49)]

As per section 10(49), any income of the National Financial Holdings Company Limited, being a company set-up by the Central Government, of any year relevant to any assessment year commencing on or before the 1st day of April, 2014 is exempt from tax.

Other important exemptions

Apart from above discussed exemption of section 10 following is the list of other important exemptions:

- Section 10A provides for exemption in respect of income of newly established undertakings in free trade zone or electronic hardware technology park or electronic software technology park.
- Section 10AA provides for exemption in respect of income of newly established units in Special Economic Zones.
- Section 11 and 12 provide exemption in respect of income of a public charitable or religious trust.
- Section 13A provides exemption in respect of income of a political party.
- Section 13B provides exemption in respect of income of an electoral trust.



MCQ on TAX-FREE INCOMES

Q1. Section _____ grants exemption to gratuity received by Government employee (i.e., Central Government or State Government or local authority).

- (a) 10(5) (b) 10(10)(i)
(c) 10(10)(ii) (d) 10(10A)

Correct answer : (b)

Justification of correct answer :

Section 10(10)(i) grants exemption to gratuity received by Government employee (i.e., Central Government or State Government or local authority).

Thus, option (b) is the correct option.

Q2. Exemption under section 10(10D) is not available in respect of policy taken in the name of a person suffering from diseases/disability specified under section 80DDB/80U.

- (a) True (b) False

Correct answer : (b)

Justification of correct answer :

Exemption under section 10(10D) is unconditionally available in respect of sum received for a policy which is issued on or before March 31, 2003. However, in respect of policies issued on or after April 1st, 2003, the exemption is available only if the amount of premium paid on such policy in any financial year does not exceed 20% (10% in respect of policy taken on or after 1st April, 2012) of the actual capital sum assured. With effect from 1-4-2013, in respect of policy taken in the name of a person suffering from diseases specified under section 80DDB or in the name of a person suffering from disability specified under section 80U, the limit will be increased to **15%** of capital sum assured.

Thus, the statement given in the question is false and hence, option (b) is the correct option.

Q3. While computing the exemption in respect of House Rent Allowance under section 10(13A) read with rule 2A, salary will include only basic salary and dearness allowance forming part of salary while computing all retirement benefits.

- (a) True (b) False

Correct answer : (b)

Justification of correct answer :

While computing the exemption in respect of House Rent Allowance As per section 10(13A), read with rule 2A, salary will include basic salary, dearness allowance forming part of salary while computing all retirement benefits and commission based on fixed percentage of turnover achieved by the employee. Apart from this, salary for this purpose does not include any other allowances/perquisites.

Thus, the statement given in the question is false and hence, option (b) is the correct option.

Q4. As per section _____ any income of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) is exempt from tax.

- (a) 10(20) (b) 10(21)
(c) 10(23BBE) (d) 10(23BBH)

Correct answer : (d)

Justification of correct answer :



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As per section 10(23BBH), any income of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) established under section 3(1) of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 is exempt from tax.

Thus, option (d) is the correct option.

Q5. The amount of exemption available under section 10(32) is lower of Rs. _____ per minor child or amount of income of each minor child (which is clubbed).

- (a) Rs. 500 (b) Rs. 1,000
(c) Rs. 1,500 (d) Rs. 2,000

Correct answer : (c)

Justification of correct answer :

Under section 64(1A) income of a minor child is clubbed along with the income of his/her parent, subject to certain condition. If the income of an individual includes any income of his/her minor child, then such individual can claim exemption (in respect of each minor child) of lower of following amount:

- (a) Rs. 1,500 per minor child; or
(b) Amount of income of each minor child (which is clubbed).

Thus, option (c) is the correct option.

Q6. Any income arising to an assessee, being a shareholder, on account of buy back of shares (not being listed on a recognised stock exchange) by the company as referred to in section 115QA is exempt from tax under section _____.

- (a) 10(34) (b) 10(34A)
(c) 10(35) (d) 10(35A)

Correct answer: (b)

Justification of correct answer :

Any income arising to an assessee, being a shareholder, on account of buy back of shares (not being listed on a recognised stock exchange) by the company as referred to in section 115QA is exempt from tax under section 10(34A). This exemption is available only in those cases where additional income-tax is payable on distributed income under section 115QA by the company opting for buy back of such shares. Thus, option (b) is the correct option.

Q7. Under section 10(37), a partnership firm can claim exemption in respect of capital gain arising on transfer of agricultural land situated in an urban area by way of compulsory acquisition.

- (a) True (b) False

Correct answer : (b)

Justification of correct answer :

As per section 10(37), an individual or Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) can claim exemption in respect of capital gain arising on transfer by way of compulsory acquisition of agricultural land situated in an urban area provided compensation is received on or after April 1, 2004. This exemption is available if the land was used by the taxpayer (or by his parents in the case of an individual) for agricultural purpose for a period of 2 years immediately preceding the date of its transfer.

Thus, the statement given in the question is false and hence, option (b) is the correct option.



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Q8. To claim exemption under section 10(38), the assets transferred should be a long-term capital assets being equity shares of a company or units of an equity oriented mutual fund or _____.

- (a) Units of debt oriented mutual funds (b) Preference shares
(c) Debentures (d) Units of a business trust

Correct answer : (d)

Justification of correct answer :

To claim exemption under section 10(38), the assets transferred should be a long-term capital assets being equity shares of a company or units of an equity oriented mutual fund or units of a business trust.

Thus, option (d) is the correct option.

Q9. As per section 10(48), any income received in India in Indian currency by a foreign company on account of sale of crude oil, any other notified goods or rendering of notified services, to any person in India is exempt from tax.

- (a) True (b) False

Correct answer : (a)

Justification of correct answer :

As per section 10(48), any income received in India in Indian currency by a foreign company on account of sale of crude oil, any other notified goods or rendering of notified services to any person in India is exempt from tax provided-

- (i) receipt of such income in India by the foreign company is pursuant to an agreement or an arrangement entered into by the Central Government or approved by the Central Government;
(ii) having regard to the national interest, the foreign company and the agreement or arrangement are notified by the Central Government in this behalf; and
(iii) the foreign company is not engaged in any activity, other than receipt of such income, in India. Thus, the statement given in the question is true and hence, option (a) is the correct option.

Q10. Section 13A provides exemption in respect of income of _____.

- (a) A political party (b) An electoral trust
(c) A public charitable or religious trust (d) Units established in SEZ

Correct answer : (a)

Justification of correct answer :

Section 13A provides exemption in respect of income of a political party.

Thus, option (a) is the correct option.