

LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP (LLP)

LLPs are more like general partnerships than LPs because all the partners benefit from some limited liability protection.



LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

LLP, a legal form available world-wide is now introduced in India and is governed by the Limited Liability Partnership Act 2008, with effect from April 1, 2009

LLP combines the advantages of ease of running a Partnership and separate legal entity status and limited liability aspect of a Company.

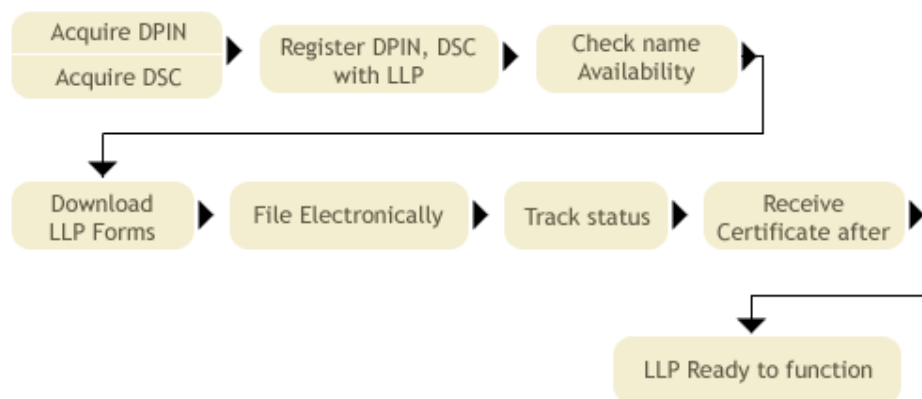
Here are some of the main features of a LLP

- LLP is a separate legal entity separate from its partners, can own assets in its name, sue and be sued.
- Unlike corporate shareholders, the partners have the right to manage the business directly
- One partner is not responsible or liable for another partner's misconduct or negligence.
- Minimum of 2 partners and no maximum.
- Should be 'for profit' business.
- Perpetual succession.
- The rights and duties of partners in LLP, will be governed by the agreement between partners and the partners have the flexibility to devise the agreement as per their choice. The duties and obligations of Designated Partners shall be as provided in the law.
- Liability of the partners is limited to the extent of his contribution in the LLP. No exposure of personal assets of the partner, except in cases of fraud.
- LLP shall maintain annual accounts. However, audit of the accounts is required only if the contribution exceeds Rs. 25 lakhs or annual turnover exceeds Rs.40 lakhs.

A LLP is indeed advantageous because of comparatively lower cost of formation, lesser compliance requirements, easy to manage and run and also easy to wind-up and dissolve, no requirement of minimum capital contributions, partners are not liable for the acts of the other partners and importantly no minimum alternate tax (as of date). But, LLP cannot raise money from the public.

The **process for incorporating a LLP** is pretty simple. The flow chart [here](#) depicts it clearly.

Process to Start LLP



The Registrar of Companies (ROC) is the authority having jurisdiction over the incorporation. The steps required are:

- Decide on the Partners and the Designated Partners
- Obtain Designated Partner Identification Number (DPIN) and a digital signature certificate.
- Decide on the name of the LLP and check whether it is available.
- Draft the LLP agreement
- File the LLP Agreement, incorporation documents and obtain the Certificate of Incorporation.

In order to help you decide on which legal form to choose, here's a feature comparison between the LLP, Partnership firm and a Company:

Features	Company	Partnership firm	LLP
Registration	Compulsory registration required with the ROC. Certificate of Incorporation is conclusive evidence.	Not compulsory. Unregistered Partnership Firm will not have the ability to sue.	Compulsory registration required with the ROC
Name	Name of a public company to end with the word "limited" and a private company with the words "private limited"	No guidelines.	Name to end with "LLP" Limited Liability Partnership
Capital contribution	Private company should have a minimum paid up capital of Rs. 1 lakh and Rs.5 lakhs for a public company	Not specified	Not specified
Legal entity status	Is a separate legal entity	Not a separate legal entity	Is a separate legal entity
Liability	Limited to the extent of unpaid capital.	Unlimited, can extend to the personal assets of the partners	Limited to the extent of the contribution to the LLP.
No. of shareholders / Partners	Minimum of 2. In a private company, maximum of 50 shareholders	2- 20 partners	Minimum of 2. No maximum.
Foreign Nationals as shareholder / Partner	Foreign nationals can be shareholders.	Foreign nationals cannot form partnership firm.	Foreign nationals can be partners.
Taxability	The income is taxed at 30% + surcharge+cess	The income is taxed at 30% + surcharge+cess	Not yet notified.
Meetings	Quarterly Board of Directors meeting, annual shareholding meeting is mandatory	Not required	Not required.
Annual Return	Annual Accounts and Annual Return to be filed with ROC	No returns to be filed with the Registrar of Firms	Annual statement of accounts and solvency & Annual Return has to be filed with ROC
Audit	Compulsory, irrespective of share capital and turnover	Compulsory	Required, if the contribution is above Rs.25 lakhs or if annual turnover is above Rs. 40 lakhs.
How do the bankers view	High creditworthiness, due to stringent compliances and disclosures required	Creditworthiness depends on goodwill and credit worthiness of the partners	Perception is higher compared to that of a partnership but lesser than a company.
Dissolution	Very procedural. Voluntary or by Order of National Company Law Tribunal	By agreement of the partners, insolvency or by Court Order	Less procedural compared to company. Voluntary or by Order of National Company Law Tribunal
Whistle blowing	No such provision	No such provision	Protection provided to employees and partners who provide useful information during the investigation process.

FORMS REQUIRED FOR LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

FORM 1	Form for application for reservation or change of name
FORM 2	Form of Incorporation Document
FORM 3	Form of Application & Declaration for Incorporation of a LLP
FORM 4	Form for Filing Limited Liability Partnership Agreement & Changes, if any, made there in.
FORM 5	Notice of Appointment of Partners & changes among them or consent of incoming partner to become a partner / Designated Partner
FORM 6	Intimation of particulars / change in particulars to the Limited Liability Partnership by the Partner
FORM 7	Application for allotment of Designated Partner Identification Number
FORM 8	Form for filing Statement of Account & Solvency
FORM 9	Consent to Act as Designated Partner
FORM 10	Intimation of changes in particulars of Designated Partners' to be given to the Central Govt.
FORM 11	Annual Return of a Limited Liability Partnership
FORM 12	Form for intimating other address for service of Documents
FORM 13	Notice by Partner to resign as a Partner to the other Partners
FORM 14	Form for intimating the Registrar of Firms / Registrar of Companies for conversion of Firm / Company into Limited Liability Partnership
FORM 15	Notice of change of place of registered office
FORM 16	Certificate of Incorporation
FORM 17	Application by a Firm for its conversion into Limited Liability Partnership
FORM 18	Application by a Private Company / Unlisted Public Company for its conversion into LLP
FORM 19	Certificate of Registration on conversion of Firm / Company to Limited Liability Partnership
FORM 20	Summons for directions to convene a meeting under section 60 (1)
FORM 21	Affidavit in support of Summons
FORM 22	Notice of Intimation of Order of Court / Tribunal
FORM 23	Application For direction to change the name
FORM 24	Application to the Registrar or Central Govt.
FORM 25	Notice of intimation of DIN for the purpose of DPIN
FORM 26	Intimation of Allotment of Designated Partner Identification No. (DPIN) to the Limited Liability Partnership by the Designated Partner
FORM 27	Application for reservation / renewal of reservation of name
FORM 28	Notice of Change of name
FORM 29	Form of Proxy

FAQ ON LPP

NATURE OF LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP (LLP)

1. Concept of “limited liability partnership”

- LLP is an alternative corporate business form that gives the benefits of limited liability of a company and the flexibility of a partnership.
- The LLP can continue its existence irrespective of changes in partners. It is capable of entering into contracts and holding property in its own name.
- The LLP is a separate legal entity, is liable to the full extent of its assets but liability of the partners is limited to their agreed contribution in the LLP.
- Further, no partner is liable on account of the independent or un-authorized actions of other partners, thus individual partners are shielded from joint liability created by another partner's wrongful business decisions or misconduct.
- Mutual rights and duties of the partners within a LLP are governed by an agreement between the partners or between the partners and the LLP as the case may be. The LLP, however, is not relieved of the liability for its other obligations as a separate entity.

Since LLP contains elements of both 'a corporate structure' as well as 'a partnership firm structure' LLP is called a hybrid between a company and a partnership.

2. Structure of an LLP

LLP shall be a **body corporate** and a **legal entity** separate from its partners. It will have **perpetual succession**.

3. Advantages of LLP form

LLP form is a form of business model which:

- (i) is organized and **operates on the basis of an agreement**.
- (ii) provides **flexibility without imposing detailed legal and procedural requirements**
- (iii) enables professional/technical expertise and initiative to combine with financial risk taking capacity in an innovative and efficient manner

4. Other countries where this form is available

The LLP structure is available in countries like **United Kingdom, United States of America, various Gulf countries, Australia and Singapore**. On the advice of experts who have studied LLP legislations in various countries, the **LLP Act** is broadly **based on UK LLP Act 2000 and Singapore LLP Act 2005**. Both these Acts allow creation of LLPs in a body corporate form i.e. as a separate legal entity, separate from its partners/members.

5. Difference between LLP & “traditional partnership firm”

- Under “traditional partnership firm”, every partner is liable, jointly with all the other partners and also severally for all acts of the firm done while he is a partner.
- Under LLP structure, liability of the partner is limited to his agreed contribution. Further, no partner is liable on account of the independent or un-authorized acts of other partners, thus allowing individual partners to be shielded from joint liability created by another partner's wrongful acts or misconduct.

6. Difference between LLP & a Company

- A basic difference between an LLP and a joint stock company lies in that the **internal governance structure** of a company is regulated by statute (i.e. Companies Act, 1956) whereas for an LLP it would be by a contractual agreement between partners.
- The **management-ownership divide** inherent in a company is not there in a limited liability partnership.
- LLP will have more flexibility as compared to a company.
- LLP will have lesser compliance requirements as compared to a company.

APPLICABILITY OF THE LLP Act

7. Whether the LLP Act is applicable to any specific services like professional services regulated by Statutes?

No. Any two or more persons associating for carrying on a lawful business **with a view to profit** may set up an LLP.

In the light of various inputs received by this Ministry for applicability of the LLP form to small entities and venture capital funded enterprises, it is proposed that the **framework should not be restricted to professional services alone as was earlier recommended by Naresh Chandra Committee**. Accordingly, the LLP Act does not restrict the benefit of LLP structure to certain classes of professionals only.

8. Likely users/beneficiaries of the LLP Law?

India has witnessed considerable growth in services sector and the quality of our professionals is acknowledged internationally. It is necessary that entrepreneurship knowledge and risk capital combine to provide a further impetus to our impressive economic growth. Equally the services sector promises an economic opportunity similar to that provided by information technology over the past few years. It is likely that in the years to come Indian professionals would be providing accountancy, legal and various other professional/technical services to a large number of entities across the globe. Such services would require multidisciplinary combinations that would offer a menu of solutions to international clients. In view of all this, the LLP framework could be used for many enterprises, such as:-

- Persons providing services of any kind
- Enterprises in new knowledge and technology based fields where the corporate form is not suited.
- For professionals such as Chartered Accountants (CAs), Cost and Works Accountants (CWAs), Company Secretaries (CSs) and Advocates, etc.
- Venture capital funds where risk capital combines with knowledge and expertise
- Professionals and enterprises engaged in any scientific, technical or artistic discipline, for any activity relating to research production, design and provision of services.
- Small Sector Enterprises (including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)
- Producer Companies in Handloom, Handicrafts sector

9. Whether an entity which has objectives like “charitable or other not for profit objectives” would be able to set up under LLP Act?

No. The essential requirement for setting LLP is ‘carrying on a lawful business **with a view to profit**’.

10. Whether provisions of Indian Partnership Act, 1932 would be applicable to LLPs?

No, these shall not be applicable to LLPs.

11. Why a new legislation for LLP? Why not amendments in Companies Act or Partnership Act are made?

The Companies Act is not suited to the liability and governance structure intended for LLPs. The overall intent of the legislation to regulate widely-held companies is different. Therefore, in accordance with the recommendations of the Irani Committee, it is felt appropriate to bring about a separate legislation for LLPs. The administration and enforcement of partnership firms under the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 is at the **State level**. Besides, a partnership firm involves **full joint and several liability** of the partners. Because of this, many firms/enterprises engaged in biotech, information technology, Intellectual property and other knowledge based sectors find traditional partnerships unsuitable. The traditional partnerships are also considered unsuitable for **multi-disciplinary combinations** comprising a **large number** of partners, seeking a flexible working environment but with limited liability. LLP structure would promote growth and enable such firms/enterprises expand their trade/business or services across States in India as also abroad.

12. Committees, which have made recommendations for legislation on LLPs in India

The desirability of LLP form has been expressed **in the context of small enterprises** by :-

- **Bhat Committee** (1972);
- **Naik Committee** (1992);
- Expert Committee on Development of Small Sector Enterprises headed by Sh. **Abid Hussain in 1997** and
- Study Group on Development of Small Sector Enterprises (SSEs) headed by **Dr. S P Gupta (2001)**.

Following **Committees set up by M/o Company Affairs** have also recommended for legislation on LLPs:-

- Committee on Regulation of Private Companies and Partnerships headed by Sh. **Naresh Chandra** (2003)
- The Committee on New Company Law (Dr. J.J. **Irani Committee**) (2005)

13. Whether Ministry has adopted a “Consultative Approach” while bringing out the LLP Act?

Yes. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs, on 2nd November, 2005, placed a **Concept Paper** on LLP Law on its website so that all interested stakeholders may express their opinions on the concepts involved and suggest formulations for the consideration of the Ministry on various aspects of LLP Law. The Concept Paper was also circulated to various concerned Ministries/Departments and autonomous bodies like Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) etc. for their comments.

Large number of comments and suggestions were received by the Ministry on the Concept Paper. These were examined in light of international practice/law on the subject. The Act has been prepared keeping in view the Indian requirements.

PARTNERS AND DESIGNATED PARTNERS

14. What are the restrictions in respect of minimum and maximum number of partners in an LLP?

A **minimum of two** partners will be required for formation of an LLP. **There will not be any limit to the maximum number** of partners.

15. Whether a body corporate may be a partner of an LLP?

Yes.

16. What are the qualifications for becoming a partner?

Any individual or body corporate may be a partner in a LLP. However an individual **shall not be capable** of becoming a partner of a LLP, if—

- (a) he has been found to be of unsound mind by a Court of competent jurisdiction and the finding is in force;
- (b) he is an undischarged insolvent; or
- (c) he has applied to be adjudicated as an insolvent and his application is pending.

17. What are the requirements in respect of “Designated Partners”?

Appointment of **at least two** “Designated Partners” shall be mandatory for all LLPs. “Designated Partners” shall also be **accountable for regulatory and legal compliances**, besides their liability as ‘partners, per-se’.

18. Who can be a “Designated Partner”?

Every LLP shall be required to have atleast two Designated Partners who shall be **individuals** and **at least one of the Designated Partner shall be a resident of India**. In case of a LLP in which all the partners are bodies corporate or in which one or more partners are individuals and bodies corporate, at least two individuals who are partners of such LLP or nominees of such bodies corporate shall act as designated partners.

19. Should the number of designated partners resident in India not be more than partners from outside India?

LLPs, particularly those as may be engaged in the services or technology-based sectors, may provide services globally. This may require any number of its partners to locate them abroad. In view of liability structure of partners, designated partners and LLP, clearly provided for in the Act, there does not appear to be any necessity and justification for restriction relating to designated partners to out-number partners located abroad. In fact it may pose unnecessary restriction.

20. Whether there would be any requirement of ‘identification number’ of Designated Partner? Whether Designated Partners would be subject to any other condition/requirement before they are appointed as such?

Every Designated Partner would be required to obtain a **“Designated Partner’s Identification Number”** (DPIN) on the lines similar to “Director’s Identification Number” (DIN) required in case of directors of companies. Enabling provisions have been made to prescribe under rules conditions, which would have to be fulfilled by an individual who is eligible to be appointed as a ‘designated-partner’.

LLP AGREEMENT

21. How the mutual rights and duties of partners inter-se and those of partners and LLPs would be governed?

The mutual rights and duties of partners *inter se* and those of the LLP and its partners shall be governed by the agreement between partners or between the LLP and the partners. This Agreement would be known as **“LLP Agreement”**.

22. Whether LLP Agreement would be mandatory for all LLPs?

As per provisions of the LLP Act, in the absence of any LLP agreement, the mutual rights and liabilities shall be as provided for under **Schedule I** to the Act. Therefore, in case any LLP proposes to exclude provisions/requirements of Schedule I to the Act, it would have to enter into an LLP Agreement, specifically excluding applicability of any or all paragraphs of Schedule I.

REGISTRATION

23. What are the registration formalities relating to LLPs?

LLPs shall be **registered with** the Registrar of Companies (**ROC**) (appointed under the Companies Act, 1956) after following the provisions specified in the LLP Act. Every LLP shall have a **registered office**. An **Incorporation Document** subscribed by at least two partners shall have to be delivered to the Registrar in a prescribed form. **Contents of LLP Agreement**, as may be prescribed, shall also be required to be filed with ROC.

24. What are the broad provisions of the Act in respect of names of LLPs?

Every limited liability partnership shall have either the words “limited liability partnership” or the acronym “LLP” as the last words of its name. LLPs would not be given names, which, in the opinion of the Central Government, are undesirable. Registrar would be under obligation to follow such rules, which would be framed by the Central Government in connection with allotting names to LLPs. There are also provisions in respect of **‘rectification of name’** in case two LLPs have been registered with the same name, inadvertently.

25. Can LLP give any other address (besides its registered office) for the purpose of receiving communication from Registrar?

It has been provided in the Act that a document may be served on a LLP or a partner or designated partner by sending it by post or by any other mode (to be prescribed under Rules) at the registered office **and any other address specifically declared by the LLP** for the purpose in such form and manner as may be prescribed (in the rules). Thus, an LLP shall have option to declare one more address (other than the registered office) for getting statutory notices/letters etc. from Registrar.

CHANGE IN PARTNERS

26. How can a person become a partner of an LLP?

Persons, who subscribed to the “Incorporation Document” at the time of incorporation of LLP, shall be partners of LLP. Subsequent to incorporation, new partners can be admitted in the LLP as per conditions and requirements of LLP Agreement.

27. How can an existing partner cease to be a partner of an LLP?

A person may cease to be a partner in accordance with the **agreement** or in the absence of agreement, by giving **30 days notice** to the other partners.

A person shall also cease to be a partner of a limited liability partnership-

- (a) on his death or dissolution of the limited liability partnership; or
- (b) if he is declared to be of unsound mind by a competent court; or
- (c) if he has applied to be adjudged as an insolvent or declared as an insolvent.

Notice is required to be given to ROC when a person becomes or ceases to be partner or for any change in partners.

28. What will be the obligation of a partner in case he changes his name or address?

Every partner shall inform the LLP of any change in his name or address within a period of fifteen days of such change. The LLP, in turn, would be under obligation to file such details with the Registrar within thirty days of such change.

PARTNER'S CONTRIBUTION AND TRANSACTIONS OF PARTNERS WITH LLP

29. What is the manner in which a partner of an LLP can bring his contribution? How will it be recorded/disclosed in the accounts?

Partner's contribution may consist of **both tangible and/or intangible property and any other benefit to the LLP**. The **monetary value** of contribution of each partner shall be accounted for and disclosed in the accounts of the limited liability partnership in the manner as may be prescribed in the rules.

30. Whether a partner would be able to give loan to or transact other commercial transactions with LLP? What will be his rights and obligations in this regard?

A partner may lend money to and transact other business with the LLP and shall have the same rights and obligations with respect to the loan or other transactions as a person who is not a partner.

31. Whether a partner would be able to transfer his 'economic rights'?

A partner's economic rights (i.e. rights of a partner to a share of the profits and losses of the LLP and to receive distribution at the time of winding up) in the LLP shall be transferable. However, such a transfer shall not by itself cause the partner's disassociation or a dissolution and winding up of the LLP.

However, such transfer shall not entitle the transferee or assignee to participate in the management or conduct of the LLP's activities. Therefore, the transferee would not be deemed to be a 'partner' of the LLP just because a partner has transferred him the 'economic rights'. For becoming a partner of LLP, the manner specified in the LLP Agreement or the provisions of the Act would have to be followed.

LIABILITY OF PARTNERS

32. Nature & extent of liability of a partner of an LLP?

Every partner of an LLP would be, for the purpose of the business of the LLP, an agent of the LLP but not of the other partners. Liability of partners shall be limited except in case of unauthorized acts, fraud and negligence. But a partner shall not be personally liable for the wrongful acts or omission of any other partner. An obligation of the limited liability partnership whether arising in contract or otherwise, is solely the obligation of the limited liability partnership. The liabilities of LLP shall be met out of the property of the LLP.

33. Whether a 'partner by holding out' will be liable under the Act?

The Act provides that any person (not being a partner in any LLP), who by words spoken or written or by conduct, represents himself, or knowingly permits himself to be represented to be a partner in a LLP (known as 'partner by Holding out') is **liable to any person** who has on the faith of any such representation given credit to the LLP, whether the person representing himself or represented to be a partner does or does not know that the representation has reached the person so giving credit.

It has further been provided that where any credit is received by the LLP as a result of such representation, the LLP shall, **without prejudice to the liability of the person** so representing himself or represented to be a partner, be liable to the extent of credit received by it or any financial benefit derived thereon.

The provisions have also been made in the Act to provide that where after a partner's death the business is continued in the same LLP name, the continued use of that name or of the deceased partner's name as a part

thereof shall not of itself make his legal representative or his estate liable for any act of the LLP done after his death.

34. How penal action on errant partners who are not residents of India will be taken?

For statutory compliances provisions of at least one resident designated partner (DP) in every LLP is would ensure that at least one partner is available in India for at least six months for regulatory compliance requirements. The LLPs would have freedom to appoint more than one resident as DP. LLP as an entity would always remain liable for regulatory or other compliances. Civil liability on such a partner would be adjudicated by the courts under civil law which recognises 'foreign awards'. Criminal liability would require adjudication/enforcement by the courts including using the extradition process. Position would be similar to the cases of directors of companies who are foreign nationals.

DISCLOSURE, AUDIT AND FILING REQUIREMENTS

35. Whether every LLP would be required to maintain and file accounts?

An LLP shall be under obligation to maintain annual accounts reflecting true and fair view of its state of affairs. A "Statement of Accounts and Solvency" in prescribed form shall be filed by every LLP with the Registrar every year.

36. Whether audit of all LLPs would be mandatory?

Audit of LLPs shall be mandatory. However a more simplified compliance regime for small LLPs is being proposed by exempting such LLPs from the requirement of audit by exemption through notification by the Central Government.

37. Whether any provisions in respect of 'mandatory insurance' are being proposed in the Act?

No mandatory insurance is being proposed in the Act. It would be **difficult to assess** insurance requirements of different types and sizes of LLPs. This would depend upon the nature of commercial risk attached with work or assignment handled by each. Applying common insurance requirements across a class of LLPs would result in **increasing their costs of operation**. Therefore, the underlying concern as to the credit worthiness of the LLP in the event of a contractual default is being addressed through statutory provisions for **solvency declaration, disclosure of financial information and audit**.

38. Whether any Annual Return would be required to be filed by an LLP?

Every LLP would be required to file with ROC, every year, an Annual Return, contents of which would be prescribed under rules.

39. Whether the Registrar would have any power to call for information from LLPs?

Registrar would have power to obtain such information which he may consider necessary for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of the Act, from any designated partner, partner or employee of the LLP. He would also have power to summon any designated partner, partner or employee of any LLP before him for any such purpose, in case the information has not been furnished to him or in case the Registrar is not satisfied with the information furnished to him.

40. Which documents will be available for public inspection in the office of Registrar?

The following documents/information will be available for inspection by any person:-

- Incorporation document,
- Names of partners and changes, if any, made therein,
- Statement of Account and Solvency

- Annual Return

The manner and fees for such inspection shall be prescribed in the rules.

41. How would compliance management (i.e. ensuring that LLPs file their documents with Registrars timely and otherwise comply with other procedural requirements under the Act) be ensured in the Act?

The provisions of the Act require LLPs to file the documents like Statement of Account and Solvency (SAS) and Annual Return (AR) and notices in respect of changes among partners etc. within the time specifically indicated in relevant provisions. The Act contains provisions for allowing LLPs to file such documents after their due dates on payment of additional fees. It has been provided that in case LLPs file relevant documents after their due dates with additional fees upto 300 days, no action for prosecution will be taken against them. In case there is delay of 300 days or more, the LLPs will be required to pay normal filing fees, additional fee and shall also be liable to be prosecuted.

The Act also contains provisions for compounding of offences which are punishable with fine only.

INVESTIGATION OF AFFAIRS OF LLPs AND ROLE OF GOVERNMENT TO CHECK UNSCRUPULOUS LLPs ETC.

42. What are the measures, which can be taken against an LLP, which has engaged in fraudulent activities?

Central Govt may appoint inspectors to investigate the affairs of an LLP. The manner and procedure for conduct of investigation has been specified in the Act.

43. What will be the role of Government in regulation of LLPs? How will the Act able to prevent 'fly-by-night' promoters or LLPs vanishing after incorporation?

LLP structure is proposed to allow entrepreneurs and businessmen/servicemen to combine themselves with a view to run a business/service for profit in a more flexible manner than companies. The internal processes of LLPs shall be governed by the LLP Agreement. To protect interests of various stakeholders, following approach has been followed in the LLP Act:-

- mandatory incorporation of LLPs with registrar with suitable due diligence to be followed by promoters/professionals at the time of incorporation. Provisions for mandatory Designated Partners Identification Number (DPIN) to be obtained by every designated partner (similar to DIP for directors of companies) have been proposed in the Act.
- MCA-21 e-Governance process will be used for incorporation purposes which will help to track any unscrupulous promoter/partner of an LLP.
- Details of partners and any changes made therein shall be required to be filed with the registrar;
- Filing of annual documents like (SAS and Annual Return) with the Registrars will be mandatory. Such documents will also be open for public inspection;
- Audit of all LLPs (except small LLPs which may be exempted by way of notification by Central Govt) shall be mandatory;
- Provisions have been proposed in the Act to empower Registrar to conduct scrutiny of documents filed with him and for calling of any other relevant information from LLP or its partners/officials and also for summoning of LLPs' partners/officials in certain cases.
- The Act also contains provisions for investigation of affairs of LLPs by competent inspectors to be appointed by Central Government, wherever circumstances so require.

44. What is the tax treatment being provided for LLPs?

As advised by the Ministry of Finance, Taxation of LLPs has been left to be provided for under the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Note: Indian LLPs would eventually extend their operations beyond Indian borders and would also have international presence as in the case of LLPs in countries such as UK, USA, etc. In such situation, the taxation regime would have a significant impact on the viability of LLPs since it would determine the manner in which the LLP and its individual partners would be taxed, avoid situations resulting in double taxation and provide for carry forward of losses in the event of conversion from other forms to LLP and vice versa. The attractiveness of LLPs as a suitable vehicle for venture capital would also require a tax treatment that provides appropriate incentives for innovation and investment. It would, therefore, be necessary to provide for a regime for taxation of LLPs with clarity on the above issues and in a manner that does not adversely affect the competitiveness of Indian LLPs internationally.

CONVERSION OF OTHER ENTITIES INTO LLPs AND VICE VERSA

45. Whether other business entities like firm or company would be able to convert themselves into LLP?

Yes. The LLP Act contains enabling provisions pursuant to which a firm (set up under Indian Partnership Act, 1932) and private company or unlisted public company (incorporated under Companies Act) would be able to convert themselves into LLPs. Provisions of clause 58 and Schedule II to Schedule IV to the Act provide procedure in this regard.

46. Whether LLP would be able to convert itself into company under the Companies Act, 1956?

This would not be allowed under LLP Act. However, enabling provisions would be required to be made in the Companies Act for such conversion. Necessary action in this regard would be taken when Companies Act would be revised.

47. What is the treatment for stamp duty issues, both in terms of original incorporation and conversion from other business structures? Would there be any stamp duty exemption in case of conversion?

The Act does not contain any provision for treatment of stamp duty issues either on incorporation of an LLP or on conversion of other entities into LLP since this is a subject reserved for the States. This, however, is an important issue from the point of view of making the LLP structure more attractive.

48. What are the requirements and consequence provided in the Act in respect of licences, permits, approvals etc obtained by a firm, private company or an unlisted public company, prior to its conversion into LLP?

It has been provided in the Act that on conversion of a firm/private company/unlisted public company into LLP, any approval, permit or licence issued to the firm/private company/unlisted company under any other Act shall, subject to the provisions of such other Act under which such approval, permit or licence was issued, be transferred in the name of converted entity viz LLP.

MERGER AND WINDING-UP OF LLPS

49. Whether two LLPs would be allowed to merge?

Provisions of clauses 60 to 62 of the Act provide for the manner in which compromises or arrangements including mergers and amalgamations involving LLPs shall be allowed.

50. What would be the provisions in respect of winding- up of LLPs?

It is proposed to provide the provisions and procedures required to be complied with when the affairs of an LLP are to be wound-up and dissolved, by enabling the Central Government to make rules under the LLP Act, 2008.

OFFENCES & PENALTIES AND JURISDICTION OF COURTS/TRIBUNAL

51. Broad provisions in respect of Offences and Penalties

Offences and penalties arising out of the non-compliance with the provisions of the Act have been **defined along with the substantive provisions themselves**. However, for defaults/ non-compliance on **procedural matters** such as time limits for filing requirements, penalties have been provided for application in a non-discretionary manner, through the levy of a **default fee** for every day for which the default continues. Such default fee would be payable at the rate of rupee one hundred per day after the expiry of the date of filing (as prescribed in relevant provision) upto a period of three hundred days. Charging of such default fees would, however, be without prejudice to any other action or liability under the Act, in case the filing is made beyond the expiry of three hundred days.

The offences can be punished either (i) through **payment of fine** or (ii) through payment of **fine as well as imprisonment** of the offender. The **Judicial Magistrate of the first class**, or, as the case may be, the **Metropolitan Magistrate** shall have jurisdiction to try offences under the LLP Act.

Though most of the offences in the Act provide for punishment by way of charging fine, **imprisonment has been provided for in respect of violations relating to**

(i) making by any person a **false statement** at the time of incorporation of LLP (ii) carrying on business of LLP with intent to **defraud** or for any fraudulent purposes and (iii) making, knowingly, false statements or omitting any material fact, in any return, documents etc under the Act. The offences which are punishable with fine only can be compounded by the Central Government, by collecting a sum not exceeding the amount of maximum fine prescribed for the offence.

Further, for defaults/non-compliance on procedural matters such as time limits for filing requirements provisions have been made for charging default fees (on daily basis) in a non-discretionary manner.

52. Whether offences would be compounded under the LLP Act? Whether any protection to whistle-blowers is being proposed in the Act?

The Act contains provisions empowering Central Government to compound any offence punishable with fine only by collecting a sum not exceeding the amount of maximum fine prescribed for the offence. Enabling provisions have also been made in the Act in respect of protection to “Whistle Blowers”.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

53. What are the provisions being proposed in the Act for striking off defunct LLPs? Whether LLPs would be allowed a less stringent framework for closing of business?

The Act empowers Registrars to strike off names of LLPs which are not carrying on any business or operation. They will be under obligation to give an opportunity of being heard to LLP concerned. Details for manner of striking off would be prescribed through rules. Since LLPs would be governed by LLP Agreement it would be possible for LLPs to make suitable clauses in such Agreement prescribing time limits or duration of LLPs. In such cases, provisions for striking off names could be used.

Besides, the Act empowers Central Government to make rules in respect of winding up and dissolution of LLPs. It is proposed to prescribe a simple procedure for voluntary winding up of LLPs under such rules.

54. Whether electronic filing of documents with ROC would be allowed? How far MCA-21 e-Governance initiative will be extended and be useful for LLPs structure under the Act?

The Act contains enabling provisions for use of electronic mode for filing of documents with Registrars. Details would be specified in the Rules. Authentication of documents as per Information Technology Act, 2000 has also been recognized in the LLP Act.

It is proposed that existing mechanism and infrastructure being used by Registrar of Companies for registration of companies and allowing inspection of documents under various provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 would be used for LLPs as well.

55. Whether provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 would be applicable to LLPs?

Since LLP shall be in the form of a body corporate, it is proposed that to address various situations applicable to LLPs as such, the relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 may be made applicable to LLPs at any time in the future by Notification by Central Government, with such changes or modifications as appropriate.

56. Whether, amendments will be required in the Regulatory Acts governing the various professional services so that these can be aligned with the objectives of the Act?

Yes. Amendments to various such Acts would be necessary which can be considered by concerned Ministries/Departments.

INTRODUCTION OF LLP BILL, 2006 IN THE PARLIAMENT AND EXAMINATION BY STANDING COMMITTEE AND SUBSEQUENT ACTION

57. When was the LLP Bill, 2006 was introduced? Whether the Bill was referred to Standing Committee? Has the Bill been revised?

The Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Bill, 2006 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 15th December, 2006. The Bill was referred to the Lok Sabha Standing Committee on Finance, for examination. The Standing Committee consulted various chambers of commerce, professional institutes and other experts and also heard the M/o Corporate Affairs.

The said Committee presented/submitted its report to the Parliament on 27th November, 2007. Based on such report the Ministry of Corporate Affairs revised the LLP Bill and the revised LLP Bill, 2008 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 21st October, 2008. This was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 24th October, 2008. The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on 12th December, 2008. The President has given assent to this Bill on 7th January, 2009.

58. Whether all recommendations made by Standing committee have been accepted by the Government?

All the recommendations except one made by Hon'ble Standing Committee have been accepted by the Government. The recommendation which has not been accepted related to proposing a restriction on number of LLPs in which a designated partner may become designated partner. During examination of this recommendation, it was felt that since under the Companies Act, 1956 there is no restriction on a person to become directors in any number of private companies. Since proposed structure for LLPs would be similar to private companies, it was felt that putting a restriction relating to maximum number of LLPs in which a person may become designated partner may not be necessary.

59. Whether the ongoing financial crisis across the globe requires any change in thoughts regarding the LLP Act, 2008?

The ongoing financial crisis across the globe does not appear to have affected Indian economy. The Indian companies and other business entities, including those engaged in banking and financial business are not likely to have any major impact in view of financial crisis of US or Europe, thanks to the strict and conservative legal and regulatory systems working in India.

Since a more professional and mature approach is needed in any country to handle such kinds of crisis, the LLP Act, 2008, which would allow professionals from various fields to combine and work together in providing various services, would be even more useful.

LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT, 2008

[ACT NO. 6 OF 2009], DATED 7-1-2009

An Act to make provisions for the formation and regulation of limited liability partnerships and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

Short title, extent and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint :

Provided that different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision.

Definitions.

2. (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “address”, in relation to a partner of a limited liability partnership, means—

(i) if an individual, his usual residential address; and

(ii) if a body corporate, the address of its registered office;

(b) “advocate” means an advocate as defined in clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Advocates Act, 1961 (25 of 1961);

(c) “Appellate Tribunal” means the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal constituted under sub-section (1) of section 10FR of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956);

(d) “body corporate” means a company as defined in section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) and includes—

(i) a limited liability partnership registered under this Act;

(ii) a limited liability partnership incorporated outside India; and

(iii) a company incorporated outside India,

but does not include—

(i) a corporation sole;

(ii) a co-operative society registered under any law for the time being in force; and

(iii) any other body corporate (not being a company as defined in section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) or a limited liability partnership as defined in this Act), which the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf;

(e) “business” includes every trade, profession, service and occupation;

(f) “chartered accountant” means a chartered accountant as defined in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (38 of 1949) and who has obtained a certificate of practice under sub-section (1) of section 6 of that Act;

- (g) “company secretary” means a company secretary as defined in clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 (56 of 1980) and who has obtained a certificate of practice under sub-section (1) of section 6 of that Act;
 - (h) “cost accountant” means a cost accountant as defined in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 (23 of 1959) and who has obtained a certificate of practice under sub-section (1) of section 6 of that Act;
 - (i) “Court”, with respect to any offence under this Act, means the Court having jurisdiction as per the provisions of section 77;
 - (j) “designated partner” means any partner designated as such pursuant to section 7;
 - (k) “entity” means anybody corporate and includes, for the purposes of sections 18, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52 and 53, a firm set-up under the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 (9 of 1932);
 - (l) “financial year”, in relation to a limited liability partnerships, means the period from the 1st day of April of a year to the 31st day of March of the following year :
Provided that in the case of a limited liability partnership incorporated after the 30th day of September of a year, the financial year may end on the 31st day of March of the year next following that year;
 - (m) “foreign limited liability partnership” means a limited liability partnership formed, incorporated or registered outside India which establishes a place of business within India;
 - (n) “limited liability partnership” means a partnership formed and registered under this Act;
 - (o) “limited liability partnership agreement” means any written agreement between the partners of the limited liability partnership or between the limited liability partnership and its partners which determines the mutual rights and duties of the partners and their rights and duties in relation to that limited liability partnership;
 - (p) “name”, in relation to a partner of a limited liability partnership, means—
 - (i) if an individual, his forename, middle name and surname; and
 - (ii) if a body corporate, its registered name;
 - (q) “partner”, in relation to a limited liability partnership, means any person who becomes a partner in the limited liability partnership in accordance with the limited liability partnership agreement;
 - (r) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
 - (s) “Registrar” means a Registrar, or an Additional, a Joint, a Deputy or an Assistant Registrar, having the duty of registering companies under the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956);
 - (t) “Schedule” means a Schedule to this Act;
 - (u) “Tribunal” means the National Company Law Tribunal constituted under sub-section (1) of section 10FB of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956).
- (2) Words and expressions used and not defined in this Act but defined in the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in that Act.

NATURE OF LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

Limited liability partnership to be body corporate.

3. (1) A limited liability partnership is a body corporate formed and incorporated under this Act and is a legal entity separate from that of its partners.
- (2) A limited liability partnership shall have perpetual succession;
- (3) Any change in the partners of a limited liability partnership shall not affect the existence, rights or liabilities of the limited liability partnership.

Non-applicability of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932.

4. Save as otherwise provided, the provisions of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 (9 of 1932) shall not apply to a limited liability partnership.

Partners

5. Any individual or body corporate may be a partner in a limited liability partnership :

Provided that an individual shall not be capable of becoming a partner of a limited liability partnership, if—

- (a) he has been found to be of unsound mind by a Court of competent jurisdiction and the finding is in force;
- (b) he is an undischarged insolvent; or
- (c) he has applied to be adjudicated as an insolvent and his application is pending.

Minimum number of partners.

6. (1) Every limited liability partnership shall have at least two partners.
- (2) If at any time the number of partners of a limited liability partnership is reduced below two and the limited liability partnership carries on business for more than six months while the number is so reduced, the person, who is the only partner of the limited liability partnership during the time that it so carries on business after those six months and has the knowledge of the fact that it is carrying on business with him alone, shall be liable personally for the obligations of the limited liability partnership incurred during that period.

Designated partners.

7. (1) Every limited liability partnership shall have at least two designated partners who are individuals and at least one of them shall be a resident in India :

Provided that in case of a limited liability partnership in which all the partners are bodies corporate or in which one or more partners are individuals and bodies corporate, at least two individuals who are partners of such limited liability partnership or nominees of such bodies corporate shall act as designated partners.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, the term “resident in India” means a person who has stayed in India for a period of not less than one hundred and eighty-two days during the immediately preceding one year.

- (2) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (1),—

- (i) if the incorporation document—
 - (a) specifies who are to be designated partners, such persons shall be designated partners on incorporation; or
 - (b) states that each of the partners from time to time of limited liability partnership is to be designated partner, every partner shall be a designated partner;
- (ii) any partner may become a designated partner by and in accordance with the limited liability partnership agreement and a partner may cease to be a designated partner in accordance with limited liability partnership agreement.

- (3) An individual shall not become a designated partner in any limited liability partnership unless he has given his prior consent to act as such to the limited liability partnership in such form and manner as may be prescribed.
- (4) Every limited liability partnership shall file with the Registrar the particulars of every individual who has given his consent to act as designated partner in such form and manner as may be prescribed within thirty days of his appointment.
- (5) An individual eligible to be a designated partner shall satisfy such conditions and requirements as may be prescribed.
- (6) Every designated partner of a limited liability partnership shall obtain a Designated Partner Identification Number (DPIN) from the Central Government and the provisions of sections 266A to 266G (both inclusive) of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* for the said purpose.

Liabilities of designated partners.

8. Unless expressly provided otherwise in this Act, a designated partner shall be—

- (a) responsible for the doing of all acts, matters and things as are required to be done by the limited liability partnership in respect of compliance of the provisions of this Act including filing of any document, return, statement and the like report pursuant to the provisions of this Act and as may be specified in the limited liability partnership agreement; and
- (b) liable to all penalties imposed on the limited liability partnership for any contravention of those provisions.

Changes in designated partners.

9. A limited liability partnership may appoint a designated partner within thirty days of a vacancy arising for any reason and provisions of sub-section (4) and sub-section (5) of section 7 shall apply in respect of such new designated partner :

Provided that if no designated partner is appointed, or if at any time there is only one designated partner, each partner shall be deemed to be a designated partner.

Punishment for contravention of sections 7, 8 and 9.

10. (1) If the limited liability partnership contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 7, the limited liability partnership and its every partner shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to five lakh rupees.

(2) If the limited liability partnership contravenes the provisions of sub-section (4) and sub-section (5) of section 7, section 8 or section 9, the limited liability partnership and its every partner shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to one lakh rupees.

INCORPORATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP AND MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO

Incorporation document.

11. (1) For a limited liability partnership to be incorporated,—

- (a) two or more persons associated for carrying on a lawful business with a view to profit shall subscribe their names to an incorporation document;
- (b) the incorporation document shall be filed in such manner and with such fees, as may be prescribed with the Registrar of the State in which the registered office of the limited liability partnership is to be situated; and
- (c) there shall be filed along with the incorporation document, a statement in the prescribed form, made by either an advocate, or a Company Secretary or a Chartered Accountant or a Cost Accountant, who is engaged in the formation of the limited liability partnership and by any one who subscribed his name to the incorporation document, that all the requirements of this Act and the rules made thereunder have been complied with, in respect of incorporation and matters precedent and incidental thereto.

(2) The incorporation document shall—

- (a) be in a form as may be prescribed;
- (b) state the name of the limited liability partnership;
- (c) state the proposed business of the limited liability partnership;
- (d) state the address of the registered office of the limited liability partnership;
- (e) state the name and address of each of the persons who are to be partners of the limited liability partnership on incorporation;
- (f) state the name and address of the persons who are to be designated partners of the limited liability partnership on incorporation;
- (g) contain such other information concerning the proposed limited liability partnership as may be prescribed.

(3) If a person makes a statement under clause (c) of sub-section (1) which he—

- (a) knows to be false; or
- (b) does not believe to be true,

shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years and with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to five lakh rupees.

Incorporation by registration.

12. (1) When the requirements imposed by clauses (b) and (c) of sub-section (1) of section 11 have been complied with, the Registrar shall retain the incorporation document and, unless the requirement imposed by clause (a) of that sub-section has not been complied with, he shall, within a period of fourteen days—

- (a) register the incorporation document; and
- (b) give a certificate that the limited liability partnership is incorporated by the name specified therein.

(2) The Registrar may accept the statement delivered under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 11 as sufficient evidence that the requirement imposed by clause (a) of that sub-section has been complied with.

(3) The certificate issued under clause (b) of sub-section (1) shall be signed by the Registrar and authenticated by his official seal.

(4) The certificate shall be conclusive evidence that the limited liability partnership is incorporated by the name specified therein.

Registered office of limited liability partnership and change therein.

13. (1) Every limited liability partnership shall have a registered office to which all communications and notices may be addressed and where they shall be received.

(2) A document may be served on a limited liability partnership or a partner or designated partner thereof by sending it by post under a certificate of posting or by registered post or by any other manner, as may be prescribed, at the registered office and any other address specifically declared by the limited liability partnership for the purpose in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

(3) A limited liability partnership may change the place of its registered office and file the notice of such change with the Registrar in such form and manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed and any such change shall take effect only upon such filing.

(4) If the limited liability partnership contravenes any provisions of this section, the limited liability partnership and its every partner shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than two thousand rupees but which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees.

Effect of registration.

14. On registration, a limited liability partnership shall, by its name, be capable of—

- (a) suing and being sued;
- (b) acquiring, owning, holding and developing or disposing of property, whether movable or immovable, tangible or intangible;
- (c) having a common seal, if it decides to have one; and
- (d) doing and suffering such other acts and things as bodies corporate may lawfully do and suffer.

Name.

15. (1) Every limited liability partnership shall have either the words “limited liability partnership” or the acronym “LLP” as the last words of its name.

(2) No limited liability partnership shall be registered by a name which, in the opinion of the Central Government is—

- (a) undesirable; or
- (b) identical or too nearly resembles to that of any other partnership firm or limited liability partnership or body corporate or a registered trade mark, or a trade mark which is subject of an application for registration, of any other person under the Trade Marks Act, 1999 (47 of 1999).

Reservation of name.

16. (1) A person may apply in such form and manner and accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed to the Registrar for the reservation of a name set out in the application as—

- (a) the name of a proposed limited liability partnership; or
- (b) the name to which a limited liability partnership proposes to change its name.

(2) Upon receipt of an application under sub-section (1) and on payment of the prescribed fee, the Registrar may, if he is satisfied, subject to the rules prescribed by the Central Government in the matter, that the name to be reserved is not one which may be rejected on any ground referred to in sub-section (2) of section 15, reserve the name for a period of three months from the date of intimation by the Registrar.

Change of name of limited liability partnership.

17. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 15 and 16, where the Central Government is satisfied that a limited liability partnership has been registered (whether through inadvertence or otherwise and whether originally or by a change of name) under a name which—

- (a) is a name referred to in sub-section (2) of section 15; or

(b) is identical with or too nearly resembles the name of any other limited liability partnership or body corporate or other name as to be likely to be mistaken for it,

the Central Government may direct such limited liability partnership to change its name, and the limited liability partnership shall comply with the said direction within three months after the date of the direction or such longer period as the Central Government may allow.

(2) Any limited liability partnership which fails to comply with a direction given under sub-section (1) shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to five lakh rupees and the designated partner of such limited liability partnership shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to one lakh rupees.

Application for direction to change name in certain circumstances.

18. (1) Any entity which already has a name similar to the name of a limited liability partnership which has been incorporated subsequently, may apply, in such manner as may be prescribed, to the Registrar to give a direction to any limited liability partnership, on a ground referred to in section 17 to change its name.

(2) The Registrar shall not consider any application under sub-section (1) to give a direction to a limited liability partnership on the ground referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 17 unless the Registrar receives the application within twenty-four months from the date of registration of the limited liability partnership under that name.

Change of registered name.

19. Any limited liability partnership may change its name registered with the Registrar by filing with him a notice of such change in such form and manner and on payment of such fees as may be prescribed.

Penalty for improper use of words “limited liability partnership” or “LLP”.

20. If any person or persons carry on business under any name or title of which the words “Limited Liability Partnership” or “LLP” or any contraction or imitation thereof is or are the last word or words, that person or each of those persons shall, unless duly incorporated as limited liability partnership, be punishable with fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees but which may extend to five lakh rupees.

Publication of name and limited liability.

21. (1) Every limited liability partnership shall ensure that its invoices, official correspondence and publications bear the following, namely :—

- (a) the name, address of its registered office and registration number of the limited liability partnership; and
- (b) a statement that it is registered with limited liability.

(2) Any limited liability partnership which contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than two thousand rupees but which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees.

PARTNERS AND THEIR RELATIONS

Eligibility to be partners.

22. On the incorporation of a limited liability partnership, the persons who subscribed their names to the incorporation document shall be its partners and any other person may become a partner of the limited liability partnership by and in accordance with the limited liability partnership agreement.

Relationship of partners.

23. (1) Save as otherwise provided by this Act, the mutual rights and duties of the partners of a limited liability partnership, and the mutual rights and duties of a limited liability partnership and its partners, shall be governed by the limited liability partnership agreement between the partners, or between the limited liability partnership and its partners.

(2) The limited liability partnership agreement and any changes, if any, made therein shall be filed with the Registrar in such form, manner and accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed.

(3) An agreement in writing made before the incorporation of a limited liability partnership between the persons who subscribe their names to the incorporation document may impose obligations on the limited liability partnership, provided such agreement is ratified by all the partners after the incorporation of the limited liability partnership.

(4) In the absence of agreement as to any matter, the mutual rights and duties of the partners and the mutual rights and duties of the limited liability partnership and the partners shall be determined by the provisions relating to that matter as are set out in the First Schedule.

Cessation of partnership interest.

24. (1) A person may cease to be a partner of a limited liability partnership in accordance with an agreement with the other partners or, in the absence of agreement with the other partners as to cessation of being a partner, by giving a notice in writing of not less than thirty days to the other partners of his intention to resign as partner.

(2) A person shall cease to be a partner of a limited liability partnership—

- (a) on his death or dissolution of the limited liability partnership; or
- (b) if he is declared to be of unsound mind by a competent court; or
- (c) if he has applied to be adjudged as an insolvent or declared as an insolvent.

(3) Where a person has ceased to be a partner of a limited liability partnership (hereinafter referred to as “former partner”), the former partner is to be regarded (in relation to any person dealing with the limited liability partnership) as still being a partner of the limited liability partnership unless—

- (a) the person has notice that the former partner has ceased to be a partner of the limited liability partnership; or
- (b) notice that the former partner has ceased to be a partner of the limited liability partnership has been delivered to the Registrar.

(4) The cessation of a partner from the limited liability partnership does not by itself discharge the partner from any obligation to the limited liability partnership or to the other partners or to any other person which he incurred while being a partner.

(5) Where a partner of a limited liability partnership ceases to be a partner, unless otherwise provided in the limited liability partnership agreement, the former partner or a person entitled to his share in consequence of the death or insolvency of the former partner, shall be entitled to receive from the limited liability partnership—

- (a) an amount equal to the capital contribution of the former partner actually made to the limited liability partnership; and
- (b) his right to share in the accumulated profits of the limited liability partnership,

after the deduction of accumulated losses of the limited liability partnership, determined as at the date the former partner ceased to be a partner.

(6) A former partner or a person entitled to his share in consequence of the death or insolvency of the former partner shall not have any right to interfere in the management of the limited liability partnership.

Registration of changes in partners .

25. (1) Every partner shall inform the limited liability partnership of any change in his name or address within a period of fifteen days of such change.

(2) A limited liability partnership shall—

- (a) where a person becomes or ceases to be a partner, file a notice with the Registrar within thirty days from the date he becomes or ceases to be a partner; and
- (b) where there is any change in the name or address of a partner, file a notice with the Registrar within thirty days of such change.

(3) A notice filed with the Registrar under sub-section (2)—

- (a) shall be in such form and accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed;
- (b) shall be signed by the designated partner of the limited liability partnership and authenticated in a manner as may be prescribed; and
- (c) if it relates to an incoming partner, shall contain a statement by such partner that he consents to becoming a partner, signed by him and authenticated in the manner as may be prescribed.

(4) If the limited liability partnership contravenes the provisions of sub-section (2), the limited liability partnership and every designated partner of the limited liability partnership shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than two thousand rupees but which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees.

(5) If any partner contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1), such partner shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than two thousand rupees but which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees.

(6) Any person who ceases to be a partner of a limited liability partnership may himself file with the Registrar the notice referred to in sub-section (3) if he has reasonable cause to believe that the limited liability partnership may not file the notice with the Registrar and in case of any such notice filed by a partner, the Registrar shall obtain a confirmation to this effect from the limited liability partnership unless the limited liability partnership has also filed such notice :

Provided that where no confirmation is given by the limited liability partnership within fifteen days, the Registrar shall register the notice made by a person ceasing to be a partner under this section.

**EXTENT AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY OF LIMITED LIABILITY
PARTNERSHIP AND PARTNERS**

Partner as agent.

26. Every partner of a limited liability partnership is, for the purpose of the business of the limited liability partnership, the agent of the limited liability partnership, but not of other partners.

Extent of liability of limited liability partnership.

27. (1) A limited liability partnership is not bound by anything done by a partner in dealing with a person if—

- (a) the partner in fact has no authority to act for the limited liability partnership in doing a particular act; and
- (b) the person knows that he has no authority or does not know or believe him to be a partner of the limited liability partnership.

(2) The limited liability partnership is liable if a partner of a limited liability partnership is liable to any person as a result of a wrongful act or omission on his part in the course of the business of the limited liability partnership or with its authority.

(3) An obligation of the limited liability partnership whether arising in contract or otherwise, shall be solely the obligation of the limited liability partnership.

(4) The liabilities of the limited liability partnership shall be met out of the property of the limited liability partnership.

Extent of liability of partner.

28. (1) A partner is not personally liable, directly or indirectly for an obligation referred to in sub-section (3) of section 27 solely by reason of being a partner of the limited liability partnership.

(2) The provisions of sub-section (3) of section 27 and sub-section (1) of this section shall not affect the personal liability of a partner for his own wrongful act or omission, but a partner shall not be personally liable for the wrongful act or omission of any other partner of the limited liability partnership.

Holding out.

29. (1) Any person, who by words spoken or written or by conduct, represents himself, or knowingly permits himself to be represented to be a partner in a limited liability partnership is liable to any person who has on the faith of any such representation given credit to the limited liability partnership, whether the person representing himself or represented to be a partner does or does not know that the representation has reached the person so giving credit :

Provided that where any credit is received by the limited liability partnership as a result of such representation, the limited liability partnership shall, without prejudice to the liability of the person so representing himself or represented to be a partner, be liable to the extent of credit received by it or any financial benefit derived thereon.

(2) Where after a partner's death the business is continued in the same limited liability partnership name, the continued use of that name or of the deceased partner's name as a part thereof shall not of itself make his legal representative or his estate liable for any act of the limited liability partnership done after his death.

Unlimited liability in case of fraud.

30. (1) In the event of an act carried out by a limited liability partnership, or any of its partners, with intent to defraud creditors of the limited liability partnership or any other person, or for any fraudulent purpose, the liability of the limited liability partnership and partners who acted with intent to defraud creditors or for any fraudulent purpose shall be unlimited for all or any of the debts or other liabilities of the limited liability partnership :

Provided that in case any such act is carried out by a partner, the limited liability partnership is liable to the same extent as the partner unless it is established by the limited liability partnership that such act was without the knowledge or the authority of the limited liability partnership.

(2) Where any business is carried on with such intent or for such purpose as mentioned in sub-section (1), every person who was knowingly a party to the carrying on of the business in the manner aforesaid shall be punishable with

imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years and with fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees but which may extend to five lakh rupees.

(3) Where a limited liability partnership or any partner or designated partner or employee of such limited liability partnership has conducted the affairs of the limited liability partnership in a fraudulent manner, then without prejudice to any criminal proceedings which may arise under any law for the time being in force, the limited liability partnership and any such partner or designated partner or employee shall be liable to pay compensation to any person who has suffered any loss or damage by reason of such conduct :

Provided that such limited liability partnership shall not be liable if any such partner or designated partner or employee has acted fraudulently without knowledge of the limited liability partnership.

Whistle blowing.

31. (1) The Court or Tribunal may reduce or waive any penalty leviable against any partner or employee of a limited liability partnership, if it is satisfied that—

- (a) such partner or employee of a limited liability partnership has provided useful information during investigation of such limited liability partnership; or
- (b) when any information given by any partner or employee (whether or not during investigation) leads to limited liability partnership or any partner or employee of such limited liability partnership being convicted under this Act or any other Act.

(2) No partner or employee of any limited liability partnership may be discharged, demoted, suspended, threatened, harassed or in any other manner discriminated against the terms and conditions of his limited liability partnership or employment merely because of his providing information or causing information to be provided pursuant to sub-section (1).

CHAPTER VI

CONTRIBUTIONS

Form of contribution.

32. (1) A contribution of a partner may consist of tangible, movable or immovable or intangible property or other benefit to the limited liability partnership, including money, promissory notes, other agreements to contribute cash or property, and contracts for services performed or to be performed.

(2) The monetary value of contribution of each partner shall be accounted for and disclosed in the accounts of the limited liability partnership in the manner as may be prescribed.

Obligation to contribute.

33. (1) The obligation of a partner to contribute money or other property or other benefit or to perform services for a limited liability partnership shall be as per the limited liability partnership agreement.

(2) A creditor of a limited liability partnership, which extends credit or otherwise acts in reliance on an obligation described in that agreement, without notice of any compromise between partners, may enforce the original obligation against such partner.

CHAPTER VII
FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

Maintenance of books of account, other records and audit, etc.

34. (1) The limited liability partnership shall maintain such proper books of account as may be prescribed relating to its affairs for each year of its existence on cash basis or accrual basis and according to double entry system of accounting and shall maintain the same at its registered office for such period as may be prescribed.

(2) Every limited liability partnership shall, within a period of six months from the end of each financial year, prepare a Statement of Account and Solvency for the said financial year as at the last day of the said financial year in such form as may be prescribed, and such statement shall be signed by the designated partners of the limited liability partnership.

(3) Every limited liability partnership shall file within the prescribed time, the Statement of Account and Solvency prepared pursuant to sub-section (2) with the Registrar every year in such form and manner and accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed.

(4) The accounts of limited liability partnerships shall be audited in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed :

Provided that the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, exempt any class or classes of limited liability partnerships from the requirements of this sub-section.

(5) Any limited liability partnership which fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than twenty-five thousand rupees but which may extend to five lakh rupees and every designated partner of such limited liability partnership shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to one lakh rupees.

Annual return.

35. (1) Every limited liability partnership shall file an annual return duly authenticated with the Registrar within sixty days of closure of its financial year in such form and manner and accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed.

(2) Any limited liability partnership which fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than twenty-five thousand rupees but which may extend to five lakh rupees.

(3) If the limited liability partnership contravenes the provisions of this section, the designated partner of such limited liability partnership shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to one lakh rupees.

Inspection of documents kept by Registrar.

36. The incorporation document, names of partners and changes, if any, made therein, Statement of Account and Solvency and annual return filed by each limited liability partnership with the Registrar shall be available for inspection by any person in such manner and on payment of such fee as may be prescribed.

Penalty for false statement.

37. If in any return, statement or other document required by or for the purposes of any of the provisions of this Act, any person makes a statement—

(a) which is false in any material particular, knowing it to be false; or

(b) which omits any material fact knowing it to be material,

he shall, save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine which may extend to five lakh rupees but which shall not be less than one lakh rupees.

Power of Registrar to obtain information.

38. (1) In order to obtain such information as the Registrar may consider necessary for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Act, the Registrar may require any person including any present or former partner or designated partner or employee of a limited liability partnership to answer any question or make any declaration or supply any details or particulars in writing to him within a reasonable period.

(2) In case any person referred to in sub-section (1) does not answer such question or make such declaration or supply such details or particulars asked for by the Registrar within a reasonable time or time given by the Registrar or when the Registrar is not satisfied with the reply or declaration or details or particulars provided by such person, the Registrar shall have power to summon that person to appear before him or an inspector or any other public officer whom the Registrar may designate, to answer any such question or make such declaration or supply such details, as the case may be.

(3) Any person who, without lawful excuse, fails to comply with any summons or requisition of the Registrar under this section shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than two thousand rupees but which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees.

Compounding of offences.

39. The Central Government may compound any offence under this Act which is punishable with fine only, by collecting from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence, a sum which may extend to the amount of the maximum fine prescribed for the offence.

Destruction of old records.

40. The Registrar may destroy any document filed or registered with him in physical form or in electronic form in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed.

Enforcement of duty to make returns, etc.

41. (1) If any limited liability partnership is in default in complying with—

- (a) any provisions of this Act or of any other law which requires the filing in any manner with the Registrar of any return, account or other document or the giving of notice to him of any matter; or
- (b) any request of the Registrar to amend or complete and resubmit any document or to submit a fresh document,

and fails to make good the default within fourteen days after the service on the limited liability partnership of a notice requiring it to be done, the Tribunal may, on application by the Registrar, make an order directing that limited liability partnership or its designated partners or its partners to make good the default within such time as specified in the order.

(2) Any such order may provide that all the costs of and incidental to the application shall be borne by that limited liability partnership.

(3) Nothing in this section shall limit the operation of any other provision of this Act or any other law imposing penalties in respect of any default referred to in this section on that limited liability partnership.

CHAPTER VIII

ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER OF PARTNERSHIP RIGHTS

Partner's transferable interest.

42. (1) The rights of a partner to a share of the profits and losses of the limited liability partnership and to receive distributions in accordance with the limited liability partnership agreement are transferable either wholly or in part.

(2) The transfer of any right by any partner pursuant to sub-section (1) does not by itself cause the disassociation of the partner or a dissolution and winding up of the limited liability partnership.

(3) The transfer of right pursuant to this section does not, by itself, entitle the transferee or assignee to participate in the management or conduct of the activities of the limited liability partnership, or access information concerning the transactions of the limited liability partnership.

CHAPTER IX

INVESTIGATION

Investigation of the affairs of limited liability partnership.

43. (1) The Central Government shall appoint one or more competent persons as inspectors to investigate the affairs of a limited liability partnership and to report thereon in such manner as it may direct if—

- (a) the Tribunal, either *suo motu*, or on an application received from not less than one-fifth of the total number of partners of limited liability partnership, by order, declares that the affairs of the limited liability partnership ought to be investigated; or
- (b) any Court, by order, declares that the affairs of a limited liability partnership ought to be investigated.

(2) The Central Government may appoint one or more competent persons as inspectors to investigate the affairs of a limited liability partnership and to report on them in such manner as it may direct.

(3) The appointment of inspectors pursuant to sub-section (2) may be made,—

- (a) if not less than one-fifth of the total number of partners of the limited liability partnership make an application along with supporting evidence and security amount as may be prescribed; or
- (b) if the limited liability partnership makes an application that the affairs of the limited liability partnership ought to be investigated; or
- (c) if, in the opinion of the Central Government, there are circumstances suggesting—
 - (i) that the business of the limited liability partnership is being or has been conducted with an intent to defraud its creditors, partners or any other person, or otherwise for a fraudulent or unlawful purpose, or in a manner oppressive or unfairly prejudicial to some or any of its partners, or that the limited liability partnership was formed for any fraudulent or unlawful purpose; or
 - (ii) that the affairs of the limited liability partnership are not being conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Act; or
 - (iii) that, on receipt of a report of the Registrar or any other investigating or regulatory agency, there are sufficient reasons that the affairs of the limited liability partnership ought to be investigated.

Application by partners for investigation.

44. An application by partners of the limited liability partnership under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 43 shall be supported by such evidence as the Tribunal may require for the purpose of showing that the applicants have good reason for requiring the investigation and the Central Government may, before appointing an inspector, require the applicants to give security, of such amount as may be prescribed, for payment of costs of the investigation.

Firm, body corporate or association not to be appointed as inspector.

45. No firm, body corporate or other association shall be appointed as an inspector.

Power of inspectors to carry out investigation into affairs of related entities, etc.

46. (1) If an inspector appointed by the Central Government to investigate the affairs of a limited liability partnership thinks it necessary for the purposes of his investigation to investigate also the affairs of an entity which has been associated in the past or is presently associated with the limited liability partnership or any present or former partner or designated partner of the limited liability partnership, the inspector shall have the power to do so and shall report on the affairs of the other entity or partner or designated partner, so far as he thinks that the results of his investigation thereof are relevant to the investigation of the affairs of the limited liability partnership.

(2) In the case of any entity or partner or designated partner referred to in sub-section (1), the inspector shall not exercise his power of investigating into, and reporting on, its or his affairs without first having obtained the prior approval of the Central Government thereto :

Provided that before according approval under this sub-section, the Central Government shall give the entity or partner or designated partner a reasonable opportunity to show cause why such approval should not be accorded.

Production of documents and evidence.

47. (1) It shall be the duty of the designated partner and partners of the limited liability partnership—

- (a) to preserve and to produce before an inspector or any person authorised by him in this behalf with the previous approval of the Central Government, all books and papers of, or relating to, the limited liability partnership or, as the case may be, the other entity, which are in their custody or power; and
- (b) otherwise to give to the inspector all assistance in connection with the investigation which they are reasonably able to give.

(2) The inspector may, with the previous approval of the Central Government, require any entity other than an entity referred to in sub-section (1) to furnish such information to, or produce such books and papers before him or any person authorised by him in this behalf, with the previous approval of that Government, as he may consider necessary, if the furnishing of such information or the production of such books and papers is relevant or necessary for the purposes of his investigation.

(3) The inspector may keep in his custody any books and papers produced under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) for thirty days and thereafter shall return the same to the limited liability partnership, other entity or individual by whom or on whose behalf the books and papers are produced :

Provided that the inspector may call for the books and papers if they are needed again :

Provided further that if certified copies of the books and papers produced under sub-section (2) are furnished to the inspector, he shall return those books and papers to the entity or person concerned.

(4) An inspector may examine on oath—

- (a) any of the persons referred to in sub-section (1) ;
- (b) with the previous approval of the Central Government, any other person in relation to the affairs of the limited liability partnership or any other entity, as the case may be; and
- (c) may administer an oath accordingly and for that purpose may require any of those persons to appear before him personally.

(5) If any person fails without reasonable cause or refuses—

- (a) to produce before an inspector or any person authorised by him in this behalf with the previous approval of the Central Government any book or paper which it is his duty under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) to produce; or
- (b) to furnish any information which it is his duty under sub-section (2) to furnish; or
- (c) to appear before the inspector personally when required to do so under sub-section (4) or to answer any question which is put to him by the inspector in pursuance of that sub-section; or
- (d) to sign the notes of any examination,

he shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than two thousand rupees but which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees and with a further fine which shall not be less than fifty rupees but which may extend to five hundred rupees for every day after the first day after which the default continues.

(6) The notes of any examination under sub-section (4) shall be taken down in writing and signed by the person whose examination was made on oath and a copy of such notes shall be given to the person so examined on oath and thereafter be used as an evidence by the inspector.

Seizure of documents by inspector.

48. (1) Where in the course of investigation, the inspector has reasonable ground to believe that the books and papers of, or relating to, the limited liability partnership or other entity or partner or designated partner of such limited liability partnership may be destroyed, mutilated, altered, falsified or secreted, the inspector may make an application to the Judicial Magistrate of the first class, or, as the case may be, the Metropolitan Magistrate, having jurisdiction, for an order for the seizure of such books and papers.

(2) After considering the application and hearing the inspector, if necessary, the Magistrate may, by order, authorise the inspector —

- (a) to enter, with such assistance, as may be required, the place or places where such books and papers are kept;
 - (b) to search that place or those places in the manner specified in the order; and
 - (c) to seize books and papers which the inspector considers it necessary for the purposes of his investigation.
- (3) The inspector shall keep in his custody the books and papers seized under this section for such period not later than the conclusion of the investigation as he considers necessary and thereafter shall return the same to the concerned entity or person from whose custody or power they were seized and inform the Magistrate of such return :

Provided that the books and papers shall not be kept seized for a continuous period of more than six months :

Provided further that the inspector may, before returning such books and papers as aforesaid, place identification marks on them or any part thereof.

(4) Save as otherwise provided in this section, every search or seizure made under this section shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) relating to searches or seizures made under that Code.

Inspector's report.

49. (1) The inspectors may, and if so directed by the Central Government, shall make interim reports to that Government, and on the conclusion of the investigation, shall make a final report to the Central Government and any such report shall be written or printed, as the Central Government may direct.

(2) The Central Government—

- (a) shall forward a copy of any report (other than an interim report) made by the inspectors to the limited liability partnership at its registered office, and also to any other entity or person dealt with or related to the report; and
- (b) may, if it thinks fit, furnish a copy thereof, on request and on payment of the prescribed fee, to any person or entity related to or affected by the report.

Prosecution.

50. If, from the report under section 49, it appears to the Central Government that any person in relation to the limited liability partnership or in relation to any other entity whose affairs have been investigated, has been guilty of any offence for which he is liable, the Central Government may prosecute such person for the offence; and it shall be the duty of all partners, designated partners and other employees and agents of the limited liability partnership or other entity, as the case may be, to give the Central Government all assistance in connection with the prosecution which they are reasonably able to give.

Application for winding up of limited liability partnership.

51. If any such limited liability partnership is liable to be wound up under this Act or any other law for the time being in force, and it appears to the Central Government from any such report under section 49 that it is expedient to do so by reason of any such circumstances as are referred to in sub-clause (i) or sub-clause (ii) of clause (c) of sub-section (3) of section 43, the Central Government may, unless the limited liability partnership is already being wound up by the Tribunal, cause to be presented to the Tribunal by any person authorised by the Central Government in this behalf, a petition for the winding up of the limited liability partnership on the ground that it is just and equitable that it should be wound up.

Proceedings for recovery of damages or property.

52. If, from any report under section 49, it appears to the Central Government that proceedings ought, in the public interest, to be brought by the limited liability partnership or any entity whose affairs have been investigated,—

- (a) for the recovery of damages in respect of any fraud, misfeasance or other misconduct in connection with the promotion or formation, or the management of the affairs, of such limited liability partnership or such other entity; or
- (b) for the recovery of any property of such limited liability partnership or such other entity, which has been misapplied or wrongfully retained,

the Central Government may itself bring proceedings for that purpose.

Expenses of investigation.

53. (1) The expenses of and incidental to an investigation by an inspector appointed by the Central Government under this Act shall be defrayed in the first instance by the Central Government; but the following persons shall, to the extent mentioned below, be liable to reimburse the Central Government in respect of such expenses, namely :—

- (a) any person who is convicted on a prosecution, or who is ordered to pay damages or restore any property in proceedings brought by virtue of section 52, may, in the same proceedings, be ordered to pay the said expenses to such extent as may be specified by the court convicting such person, or ordering him to pay such damages or restore such property, as the case may be;
- (b) any entity in whose name proceedings are brought as aforesaid shall be liable, to the extent of the amount or value of any sums or property recovered by it as a result of the proceedings; and
- (c) unless, as a result of the investigation, a prosecution is instituted in pursuance of section 50,—
 - (i) any entity, a partner or designated partner or any other person dealt with by the report of the inspector shall be liable to reimburse the Central Government in respect of the whole of the expenses, unless and except insofar as, the Central Government otherwise directs; and
 - (ii) the applicants for the investigation, where the inspector was appointed in pursuance of the provisions of clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 43, shall be liable to such extent, if any, as the Central Government may direct.

(2) Any amount for which a limited liability partnership or other entity is liable by virtue of clause (b) of sub-section (1) shall be a first charge on the sums or property mentioned in that clause.

(3) The amount of expenses in respect of which any limited liability partnership, other entity, a partner or designated partner or any other person is liable under sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of sub-section (1) to reimburse the Central Government shall be recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

(4) For the purposes of this section, any costs or expenses incurred by the Central Government or in connection with the proceedings brought by virtue of section 52 shall be treated as expenses of the investigation giving rise to the proceedings.

Inspector's report to be evidence.

54. A copy of any report of any inspector or inspectors appointed under the provision of this Act, authenticated in such manner, if any, as may be prescribed, shall be admissible in any legal proceeding as evidence in relation to any matter contained in the report.

CONVERSION TO LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP**Conversion from firm into limited liability partnership.**

55. A firm may convert into a limited liability partnership in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and the Second Schedule.

Conversion from private company into limited liability partnership.

56. A private company may convert into a limited liability partnership in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and the Third Schedule.

Conversion from unlisted public company into limited liability partnership.

57. An unlisted public company may convert into a limited liability partnership in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and the Fourth Schedule.

Registration and effect of conversion.

58. (1) The Registrar, on satisfying that a firm, private company or an unlisted public company, as the case may be, has complied with the provisions of the Second Schedule, the Third Schedule or the Fourth Schedule, as the case may be, shall, subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, register the documents submitted under such Schedule and issue a certificate of registration in such form as the Registrar may determine stating that the limited liability partnership is, on and from the date specified in the certificate, registered under this Act :

Provided that the limited liability partnership shall, within fifteen days of the date of registration, inform the concerned Registrar of Firms or Registrar of Companies, as the case may be, with which it was registered under the provisions of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 (9 of 1932) or the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956), as the case may be, about the conversion and of the particulars of the limited liability partnership in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

(2) Upon such conversion, the partners of the firm, the shareholders of private company or unlisted public company, as the case may be, the limited liability partnership to which such firm or such company has converted, and the partners of the limited liability partnership shall be bound by the provisions of the Second Schedule, the Third Schedule or the Fourth Schedule, as the case may be, applicable to them.

(3) Upon such conversion, on and from the date of certificate of registration, the effects of the conversion shall be such as specified in the Second Schedule, the Third Schedule or the Fourth Schedule, as the case may be.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, on and from the date of registration specified in the certificate of registration issued under the Second Schedule, the Third Schedule or the Fourth Schedule, as the case may be,—

- (a) there shall be a limited liability partnership by the name specified in the certificate of registration registered under this Act;
- (b) all tangible (movable or immovable) and intangible property vested in the firm or the company, as the case may be, all assets, interests, rights, privileges, liabilities, obligations relating to the firm or the company, as the case may be, and the whole of the undertaking of the firm or the company, as the case may be, shall be transferred to and shall vest in the limited liability partnership without further assurance, act or deed; and
- (c) the firm or the company, as the case may be, shall be deemed to be dissolved and removed from the records of the Registrar of Firms or Registrar of Companies, as the case may be.

FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIPS

Foreign limited liability partnerships.

59. The Central Government may make rules for provisions in relation to establishment of place of business by foreign limited liability partnerships within India and carrying on their business therein by applying or incorporating, with such modifications, as appear appropriate, the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) or such regulatory mechanism with such composition as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER XII

COMPROMISE, ARRANGEMENT OR RECONSTRUCTION OF LIMITED
LIABILITY PARTNERSHIPS

Compromise, or arrangement of limited liability partnerships.

60. (1) Where a compromise or arrangement is proposed—

- (a) between a limited liability partnership and its creditors; or
- (b) between a limited liability partnership and its partners,

the Tribunal may, on the application of the limited liability partnership or of any creditor or partner of the limited liability partnership, or, in the case of a limited liability partnership which is being wound up, of the liquidator, order a meeting of the creditors or of the partners, as the case may be, to be called, held and conducted in such manner as may be prescribed or as the Tribunal directs.

(2) If a majority representing three-fourths in value of the creditors, or partners, as the case may be, at the meeting, agree to any compromise or arrangement, the compromise or arrangement shall, if sanctioned by the Tribunal, by order be binding on all the creditors or all the partners, as the case may be, and also on the limited liability partnership, or in the case of a limited liability partnership which is being wound up, on the liquidator and contributories of the limited liability partnership :

Provided that no order sanctioning any compromise or arrangement shall be made by the Tribunal unless the Tribunal is satisfied that the limited liability partnership or any other person by whom an application has been made under sub-section (1) has disclosed to the Tribunal, by affidavit or otherwise, all material facts relating to the limited liability partnership, including the latest financial position of the limited liability partnership and the pendency of any investigation proceedings in relation to the limited liability partnership.

(3) An order made by the Tribunal under sub-section (2) shall be filed by the limited liability partnership with the Registrar within thirty days after making such an order and shall have effect only after it is so filed.

(4) If default is made in complying with sub-section (3), the limited liability partnership, and every designated partner of the limited liability partnership shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees.

(5) The Tribunal may, at any time after an application has been made to it under this section, stay the commencement or continuation of any suit or proceeding against the limited liability partnership on such terms as the Tribunal thinks fit, until the application is finally disposed of.

Power of Tribunal to enforce compromise or arrangement.

61. (1) Where the Tribunal makes an order under section 60 sanctioning a compromise or an arrangement in respect of a limited liability partnership, it—

- (a) shall have power to supervise the carrying out of the compromise or an arrangement; and
- (b) may, at the time of making such order or at any time thereafter, give such directions in regard to any matter or make such modifications in the compromise or arrangement as it may consider necessary for the proper working of the compromise or arrangement.

(2) If the Tribunal aforesaid is satisfied that a compromise or an arrangement sanctioned under section 60 cannot be worked satisfactorily with or without modifications, it may, either on its own motion or on the application of any person

interested in the affairs of the limited liability partnership, make an order for winding up the limited liability partnership, and such an order shall be deemed to be an order made under section 64 of this Act.

Provisions for facilitating reconstruction or amalgamation of limited liability partnerships.

62. (1) Where an application is made to the Tribunal under section 60 for sanctioning of a compromise or arrangement proposed between a limited liability partnership and any such persons as are mentioned in that section, and it is shown to the Tribunal that—

- (a) compromise or arrangement has been proposed for the purposes of, or in connection with, a scheme for the reconstruction of any limited liability partnership or limited liability partnerships, or the amalgamation of any two or more limited liability partnerships; and
- (b) under the scheme the whole or any part of the undertaking, property or liabilities of any limited liability partnership concerned in the scheme (in this section referred to as a “transferor limited liability partnership”) is to be transferred to another limited liability partnership (in this section referred to as the “transferee limited liability partnership”),

the Tribunal may, either by the order sanctioning the compromise or arrangement or by a subsequent order, make provisions for all or any of the following matters, namely :—

- (i) the transfer to the transferee limited liability partnership of the whole or any part of the undertaking, property or liabilities of any transferor limited liability partnership;
- (ii) the continuation by or against the transferee limited liability partnership of any legal proceedings pending by or against any transferor limited liability partnership;
- (iii) the dissolution, without winding up, of any transferor limited liability partnership;
- (iv) the provision to be made for any person who, within such time and in such manner as the Tribunal directs, dissent from the compromise or arrangement; and
- (v) such incidental, consequential and supplemental matters as are necessary to secure that the reconstruction or amalgamation shall be fully and effectively carried out :

Provided that no compromise or arrangement proposed for the purposes of, or in connection with, a scheme for the amalgamation of a limited liability partnership, which is being wound up, with any other limited liability partnership or limited liability partnerships, shall be sanctioned by the Tribunal unless the Tribunal has received a report from the Registrar that the affairs of the limited liability partnership have not been conducted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of its partners or to public interest :

Provided further that no order for the dissolution of any transferor limited liability partnership under clause (iii) shall be made by the Tribunal unless the Official Liquidator has, on scrutiny of the books and papers of the limited liability partnership, made a report to the Tribunal that the affairs of the limited liability partnership have not been conducted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of its partners or to public interest.

(2) Where an order under this section provides for the transfer of any property or liabilities, then, by virtue of the order, that property shall be transferred to and vest in, and those liabilities shall be transferred to and become the liabilities of, the transferee limited liability partnership; and in the case of any property, if the order so directs, freed from any charge which is, by virtue of the compromise or arrangement, to cease to have effect.

(3) Within thirty days after the making of an order under this section, every limited liability partnership in relation to which the order is made shall cause a certified copy thereof to be filed with the Registrar for registration.

(4) If default is made in complying with the provisions of sub-section (3), the limited liability partnership, every designated partner of the limited liability partnership shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees.

Explanation.—In this section “property” includes property, rights and powers of every description; and “liabilities” includes duties of every description.

CHAPTER XIII
WINDING UP AND DISSOLUTION

Winding up and dissolution.

63. The winding up of a limited liability partnership may be either voluntary or by the Tribunal and limited liability partnership, so wound up may be dissolved.

Circumstances in which limited liability partnership may be wound up by Tribunal.

64. A limited liability partnership may be wound up by the Tribunal,—

- (a) if the limited liability partnership decides that limited liability partnership be wound up by the Tribunal;
- (b) if, for a period of more than six months, the number of partners of the limited liability partnership is reduced below two;
- (c) if the limited liability partnership is unable to pay its debts;
- (d) if the limited liability partnership has acted against the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State or public order;
- (e) if the limited liability partnership has made a default in filing with the Registrar the Statement of Account and Solvency or annual return for any five consecutive financial years; or
- (f) if the Tribunal is of the opinion that it is just and equitable that the limited liability partnership be wound up.

Rules for winding up and dissolution.

65. The Central Government may make rules for the provisions in relation to winding up and dissolution of limited liability partnerships.

CHAPTER XIV
MISCELLANEOUS

Business transactions of partner with limited liability partnership.

66. A partner may lend money to and transact other business with the limited liability partnership and has the same rights and obligations with respect to the loan or other transactions as a person who is not a partner.

Application of the provisions of the Companies Act.

67. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct that any of the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) specified in the notification—

- (a) shall apply to any limited liability partnership; or
- (b) shall apply to any limited liability partnership with such exception, modification and adaptation, as may be specified, in the notification.

(2) A copy of every notification proposed to be issued under sub-section (1) shall be laid in draft before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in disapproving the issue of the notification or both Houses agree in making any modification in the notification, the notification shall not be issued or, as the case may be, shall be issued only in such modified form as may be agreed upon by both the Houses.

Electronic filing of documents.

68. (1) Any document required to be filed, recorded or registered under this Act may be filed, recorded or registered in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.

(2) A copy of or an extract from any document electronically filed with or submitted to the Registrar which is supplied or issued by the Registrar and certified through affixing digital signature as per the Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000) to be a true copy of or extract from such document shall, in any proceedings, be admissible in evidence as of equal validity with the original document.

(3) Any information supplied by the Registrar that is certified by the Registrar through affixing digital signature to be a true extract from any document filed with or submitted to the Registrar shall, in any proceedings, be admissible in evidence and be presumed, unless evidence to the contrary is adduced, to be a true extract from such document.

Payment of additional fee.

69. Any document or return required to be filed or registered under this Act with the Registrar, if, is not filed or registered in time provided therein, may be filed or registered after that time up to a period of three hundred days from the date within which it should have been filed, on payment of additional fee of one hundred rupees for every day of such delay in addition to any fee as is payable for filing of such document or return :

Provided that such document or return may, without prejudice to any other action or liability under this Act, also be filed after such period of three hundred days on payment of fee and additional fee specified in this section.

Enhanced punishment.

70. In case a limited liability partnership or any partner or designated partner of such limited liability partnership commits any offence, the limited liability partnership or any partner or designated partner shall, for the second or subsequent offence, be punishable with imprisonment as provided, but in case of offences for which fine is prescribed either along with or exclusive of imprisonment, with fine which shall be twice the amount of fine for such offence.

Application of other laws not barred.

71. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

Jurisdiction of Tribunal and Appellate Tribunal.

72. (1) The Tribunal shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as are, or may be, conferred on it by or under this Act or any other law for the time being in force.

(2) Any person aggrieved by an order or decision of Tribunal may prefer an appeal to the Appellate Tribunal and the provisions of sections 10FQ, 10FZA, 10G, 10GD, 10GE and 10GF of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) shall be applicable in respect of such appeal.

Penalty on non-compliance of any order passed by Tribunal.

73. Whoever fails to comply with any order made by the Tribunal under any provision of this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months and shall also be liable to a fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees.

General penalties.

74. Any person guilty of an offence under this Act for which no punishment is expressly provided shall be liable to a fine which may extend to five lakh rupees but which shall not be less than five thousand rupees and with a further fine which may extend to fifty rupees for everyday after the first day after which the default continues.

Power of Registrar to strike defunct limited liability partnership off register.

75. Where the Registrar has reasonable cause to believe that a limited liability partnership is not carrying on business or its operation, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the name of limited liability partnership may be struck off the register of limited liability partnerships in such manner as may be prescribed :

Provided that the Registrar shall, before striking off the name of any limited liability partnership under this section, give such limited liability partnership a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

Offences by limited liability partnerships.

76. Where an offence under this Act committed by a limited liability partnership is proved—

- (a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of a partner or partners or designated partner or designated partners of the limited liability partnership; or
- (b) to be attributable to any neglect on the part of the partner or partners or designated partner or designated partners of that limited liability partnership,

the partner or partners or designated partner or designated partners of the limited liability partnership, as the case may be, as well as that limited liability partnership shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Jurisdiction of Court.

77. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in any Act for the time being in force, the Judicial Magistrate of the first class or, as the case may be, the Metropolitan Magistrate shall have jurisdiction to try any offence under this Act and shall have power to impose punishment in respect of said offence.

Power to alter Schedules.

78. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, alter any of the provisions contained in any of the Schedules to this Act.

(2) Any alteration notified under sub-section (1) shall have effect as if enacted in the Act and shall come into force on the date of the notification, unless the notification otherwise directs.

(3) Every alteration made by the Central Government under sub-section (1) shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the alteration, or both Houses agree that the alteration should not be made, the alteration shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done in pursuance of that alteration.

Power to make rules.

79. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely :—

- (a) form and manner of prior consent to be given by designated partner under sub-section (3) of section 7;
- (b) the form and manner of particulars of every individual agreeing to act as designated partner of limited liability partnership under sub-section (4) of section 7;
- (c) the conditions and requirements relating to the eligibility of an individual to become a designated partner under sub-section (5) of section 7;
- (d) the manner of filing the incorporation document and payment of fees payable thereof under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 11;
- (e) the form of statement to be filed under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 11;
- (f) the form of incorporation document under clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 11;
- (g) the information to be contained in the incorporation document concerning the proposed limited liability partnership under clause (g) of sub-section (2) of section 11;
- (h) the manner of serving the documents on a limited liability partnership or a partner or a designated partner and the form and manner in which any other address may be declared by the limited liability partnership under sub-section (2) of section 13;

- (i) the form and manner of notice to the Registrar and the conditions in respect of change of registered office under sub-section (3) of section 13;
- (j) the form and manner of application and amount of fee payable to the Registrar under sub-section (1) of section 16;
- (k) the manner in which names will be reserved by the Registrar under sub-section (2) of section 16;
- (l) the manner in which an application may be made by an entity under sub-section (1) of section 18;
- (m) the form and manner of notice of change of name of limited liability partnership and the amount of fee payable under section 19;
- (n) the form and manner of the limited liability partnership agreement and the changes made therein and the amount of fee payable under sub-section (2) of section 23;
- (o) the form of notice, the amount of fee payable and the manner of authentication of the statement under clauses (a), (b) and (c) of sub-section (3) of section 25;
- (p) the manner of accounting and disclosure of monetary value of contribution of a partner under sub-section (2) of section 32;
- (q) the books of account and the period of their maintenance under sub-section (1) of section 34;
- (r) the form of Statement of Account and Solvency under sub-section (2) of section 34;
- (s) the form, manner, fee and time of filing of Statement of Account and Solvency under sub-section (3) of section 34;
- (t) the audit of accounts of a limited liability partnership under sub-section (4) of section 34;
- (u) the form and manner of annual return and fee payable under sub-section (1) of section 35;
- (v) the manner and amount of fee payable for inspection of incorporation document, names of partners and changes made therein, Statement of Account and Solvency and Annual Return under section 36;
- (w) the destruction of documents by Registrar in any form under section 40;
- (x) the amount required as security under clause (a) of sub-section (3) of section 43;
- (y) the amount of security to be given under section 44;
- (z) the fee payable for furnishing a copy under clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 49;
- (za) the manner of authentication of report of inspector under section 54;
- (zb) the form and manner of particulars about conversion under the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 58;
- (zc) in relation to establishment of place of business and carrying on business in India by foreign limited liability partnerships and regulatory mechanism and composition under section 59;
- (zd) the manner of calling, holding and conducting meeting under sub-section (1) of section 60;
- (ze) in relation to winding up and dissolution of limited liability partnerships under section 65;
- (zf) the manner and conditions for filing document electronically under sub-section (1) of section 68;
- (zg) the manner for striking off the names of limited liability partnerships from the register under section 75;
- (zh) the form and manner of statement containing particulars and amount of fee payable under sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 4 of the Second Schedule;
- (zi) the form and manner of particulars about conversion under proviso to paragraph 5 of the Second Schedule;
- (zj) the form and manner of the statement and the amount of fee payable under sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 3 of the Third Schedule;
- (zk) the form and manner of particulars about conversion under the proviso to paragraph 4 of the Third Schedule;

(zl) the form and manner of the statement and amount of fee payable under sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 4 of the Fourth Schedule; and

(zm) the form and manner of particulars about conversion under the proviso to paragraph 5 of the Fourth Schedule.

(3) Every rule made under this Act by the Central Government shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule, or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

Power to remove difficulties.

80. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to it to be necessary for removing the difficulty :

Provided that no such order shall be made under this section after the expiry of a period of two years from the commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be, after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

Transitional provisions.

81. Until the Tribunal and the Appellate Tribunal are constituted under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956), the provisions of this Act shall have effect subject to the following modifications, namely :—

- (a) for the word “Tribunal” occurring in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 41, clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 43 and section 44, the words “Company Law Board” had been substituted;
- (b) for the word “Tribunal” occurring in section 51 and in sections 60 to 64, the words “High Court” had been substituted;
- (c) for the words “Appellate Tribunal” occurring in sub-section (2) of section 72, the words “High Court” had been substituted.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

[See section 23(4)]

PROVISIONS REGARDING MATTERS RELATING TO MUTUAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PARTNERS AND LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP AND ITS PARTNERS APPLICABLE IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY AGREEMENT ON SUCH MATTERS

1. The mutual rights and duties of the partners and the mutual rights and duties of the limited liability partnership and its partners shall be determined, subject to the terms of any limited liability partnership agreement or in the absence of any such agreement on any matter, by the provisions in this Schedule.
2. All the partners of a limited liability partnership are entitled to share equally in the capital, profits and losses of the limited liability partnership.
3. The limited liability partnership shall indemnify each partner in respect of payments made and personal liabilities incurred by him—
 - (a) in the ordinary and proper conduct of the business of the limited liability partnership; or
 - (b) in or about anything necessarily done for the preservation of the business or property of the limited liability partnership.
4. Every partner shall indemnify the limited liability partnership for any loss caused to it by his fraud in the conduct of the business of the limited liability partnership.
5. Every partner may take part in the management of the limited liability partnership.
6. No partner shall be entitled to remuneration for acting in the business or management of the limited liability partnership.
7. No person may be introduced as a partner without the consent of all the existing partners.
8. Any matter or issue relating to the limited liability partnership shall be decided by a resolution passed by a majority in number of the partners, and for this purpose, each partner shall have one vote. However, no change may be made in the nature of business of the limited liability partnership without the consent of all the partners.
9. Every limited liability partnership shall ensure that decisions taken by it are recorded in the minutes within thirty days of taking such decisions and are kept and maintained at the registered office of the limited liability partnership.
10. Each partner shall render true accounts and full information of all things affecting the limited liability partnership to any partner or his legal representatives.
11. If a partner, without the consent of the limited liability partnership, carries on any business of the same nature as and competing with the limited liability partnership, he must account for and pay over to the limited liability partnership all profits made by him in that business.
12. Every partner shall account to the limited liability partnership for any benefit derived by him without the consent of the limited liability partnership from any transaction concerning the limited liability partnership, or from any use by him of the property, name or any business connection of the limited liability partnership.
13. No majority of the partners can expel any partner unless a power to do so has been conferred by express agreement between the partners.
14. All disputes between the partners arising out of the limited liability partnership agreement which cannot be resolved in terms of such agreement shall be referred for arbitration as per the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (26 of 1996).

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

[See section 55]

CONVERSION FROM FIRM INTO LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

Interpretation.

1. In this Schedule, unless the context otherwise requires,—

- (a) ‘firm’ means a firm as defined in section 4 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 (9 of 1932);
- (b) ‘convert’, in relation to a firm converting into a limited liability partnership, means a transfer of the property, assets, interests, rights, privileges, liabilities, obligations and the undertaking of the firm to the limited liability partnership in accordance with this Schedule.

Conversion from firm into limited liability partnership.

2. (1) A firm may convert into a limited liability partnership by complying with the requirements as to the conversion set out in this Schedule.

(2) Upon such conversion, the partners of the firm shall be bound by the provisions of this Schedule that are applicable to them.

Eligibility for conversion.

3. A firm may apply to convert into a limited liability partnership in accordance with this Schedule if and only if the partners of the limited liability partnership into which the firm is to be converted, comprise, all the partners of the firm and no one else.

Statements to be filed.

4. A firm may apply to convert into a limited liability partnership by filing with the Registrar—

- (a) a statement by all of its partners in such form and manner and accompanied by such fee as the Central Government may prescribe, containing the following particulars, namely:—
 - (i) the name and registration number, if applicable, of the firm; and
 - (ii) the date on which the firm was registered under the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 (9 of 1932) or under any other law, if applicable, and
- (b) incorporation document and statement referred to in section 11.

Registration of conversion.

5. On receiving the documents referred to in paragraph 4, the Registrar shall subject to the provisions of this Act, register the documents and issue a certificate of registration in such form as the Registrar may determine stating that the limited liability partnership is, on and from the date specified in the certificate, registered under this Act:

Provided that the limited liability partnership shall, within fifteen days of the date of registration, inform, the concerned Registrar of Firms with which it was registered under the provisions of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 (9 of 1932) about the conversion and of the particulars of the limited liability partnership in such form and manner as the Central Government may prescribe.

Registrar may refuse to register.

6. (1) Nothing in this Schedule shall be construed as to require the Registrar to register any limited liability partnership if he is not satisfied with the particulars or other information furnished under the provisions of this Act:

Provided that an appeal may be made before the Tribunal in case of refusal of registration by the Registrar.

(2) The Registrar may, in any particular case, require the documents referred to in paragraph 4 to be verified in such manner, as he considers fit.

Effect of registration.

7. On and from the date of registration specified in the certificate of registration issued under paragraph 5,—

- (a) there shall be a limited liability partnership by the name specified in the certificate of registration registered under this Act;
- (b) all tangible (movable and immovable) property as well as intangible property vested in the firm, all assets, interests, rights, privileges, liabilities, obligations relating to the firm and the whole of the undertaking of the firm shall be transferred to and shall vest in the limited liability partnership without further assurance, act or deed; and
- (c) the firm shall be deemed to be dissolved and if earlier registered under the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 (9 of 1932) removed from the records maintained under that Act.

Registration in relation to property.

8. If any property to which sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 7 applies is registered with any authority, the limited liability partnership shall, as soon as practicable after the date of registration, take all necessary steps as required by the relevant authority to notify the authority of the conversion and of the particulars of the limited liability partnership in such medium and form as the authority may specify.

Pending proceedings.

9. All proceedings by or against the firm which are pending in any Court or Tribunal or before any authority on the date of registration may be continued, completed and enforced by or against the limited liability partnership.

Continuance of conviction, ruling, order or judgment.

10. Any conviction, ruling, order or judgment of any Court, Tribunal or other authority in favour of or against the firm may be enforced by or against the limited liability partnership.

Existing agreements.

11. Every agreement to which the firm was a party immediately before the date of registration, whether or not of such nature that the rights and liabilities thereunder could be assigned, shall have effect as from that date as if—

- (a) the limited liability partnership were a party to such an agreement instead of the firm; and
- (b) for any reference to the firm, there were substituted in respect of anything to be done on or after the date of registration a reference to the limited liability partnership.

Existing contracts, etc.

12. All deeds, contracts, schemes, bonds, agreements, applications, instruments and arrangements subsisting immediately before the date of registration relating to the firm or to which the firm is a party, shall continue in force on and after that date as if they relate to the limited liability partnership and shall be enforceable by or against the limited liability partnership as if the limited liability partnership were named therein or were a party thereto instead of the firm.

Continuance of employment.

13. Every contract of employment to which paragraph 11 or paragraph 12 applies shall continue to be in force on or after the date of registration as if the limited liability partnership were the employer thereunder instead of the firm.

Existing appointment, authority or power.

14. (1) Every appointment of the firm in any role or capacity which is in force immediately before the date of registration shall take effect and operate from that date as if the limited liability partnership were appointed.

(2) Any authority or power conferred on the firm which is in force immediately before the date of registration shall take effect and operate from that date as if it were conferred on the limited liability partnership.

Application of paragraphs 7 to 14.

15. The provisions of paragraphs 7 to 14 (both inclusive) shall apply to any approval, permit or licence issued to the firm under any other Act which is in force immediately before the date of registration of the limited liability partnership, subject to the provisions of such other Act under which such approval, permit or licence has been issued.

Partner liable for liabilities and obligations of firm before conversion.

16. (1) Notwithstanding anything in paragraphs 7 to 14 (both inclusive), every partner of a firm that has converted into a limited liability partnership shall continue to be personally liable (jointly and severally with the limited liability partnership) for the liabilities and obligations of the firm which were incurred prior to the conversion or which arose from any contract entered into prior to the conversion.

(2) If any such partner discharges any liability or obligation referred to in sub-paragraph (1), he shall be entitled (subject to any agreement with the limited liability partnership to the contrary) to be fully indemnified by the limited liability partnership in respect of such liability or obligation.

Notice of conversion in correspondence.

17. (1) The limited liability partnership shall ensure that for a period of twelve months commencing not later than fourteen days after the date of registration, every official correspondence of the limited liability partnership bears the following :

(a) a statement that it was, as from the date of registration, converted from a firm into a limited liability partnership; and

(b) the name and registration number, if applicable, of the firm from which it was converted.

(2) Any limited liability partnership which contravenes the provisions of sub-paragraph (1) shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to one lakh rupees and with a further fine which shall not be less than fifty rupees but which may extend to five hundred rupees for every day after the first day after which the default continues.

THE THIRD SCHEDULE

[See section 56]

CONVERSION FROM PRIVATE COMPANY INTO LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

Interpretation.

1. In this Schedule, unless the context otherwise requires,—

- (a) ‘company’ means a private company as defined in clause (iii) of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956);
- (b) ‘convert’, in relation to a private company converting into a limited liability partnership, means a transfer of the property, assets, interests, rights, privileges, liabilities, obligations and the undertaking of the private company to the limited liability partnership in accordance with this Schedule.

Eligibility for conversion of private companies into limited liability partnership.

2. (1) A company may convert into a limited liability partnership by complying with the requirements as to the conversion set out in this Schedule.

(2) A company may apply to convert into a limited liability partnership in accordance with this Schedule if and only if—

- (a) there is no security interest in its assets subsisting or in force at the time of application; and
 - (b) the partners of the limited liability partnership to which it converts comprise all the shareholders of the company and no one else.
- (3) Upon such conversion, the company, its shareholders, the limited liability partnership into which the company has converted and the partners of that limited liability partnership shall be bound by the provisions of this Schedule that are applicable to them.

Statements to be filed.

3. A company may apply to convert into a limited liability partnership by filing with the Registrar—

- (a) a statement by all its shareholders in such form and manner to be accompanied by such fees as the Central Government may prescribe, containing the following particulars, namely:—
 - (i) the name and registration number of the company;
 - (ii) the date on which the company was incorporated; and
- (b) incorporation document and statement referred to in section 11.

Registration of conversion.

4. On receiving the documents referred to in paragraph 3, the Registrar shall, subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, register the documents and issue a certificate of registration in such form as the Registrar may determine stating that the limited liability partnership is, on and from the date specified in the certificate, registered under this Act:

Provided that the limited liability partnership shall, within fifteen days of the date of registration, inform the concerned Registrar of Companies with which it was registered under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) about the conversion and of the particulars of the limited liability partnership in such form and manner as the Central Government may prescribe.

Registrar may refuse to register.

5. (1) Nothing in this Schedule shall be construed as to require the Registrar to register any limited liability partnership if he is not satisfied with the particulars or other information furnished under the provisions of this Act:

Provided that an appeal may be made before the Tribunal in case of refusal of registration by the Registrar.

(2) The Registrar may, in any particular case, require the documents referred to in paragraph 3 to be verified in such manner, as he considers fit.

Effect of registration.

6. On and from the date of registration specified in the certificate of registration issued under paragraph 4—

- (a) there shall be a limited liability partnership by the name specified in the certificate of registration registered under this Act;
- (b) all tangible (movable or immovable) and intangible property vested in the company, all assets, interests, rights, privileges, liabilities, obligations relating to the company and the whole of the undertaking of the company shall be transferred to and shall vest in the limited liability partnership without further assurance, act or deed; and
- (c) the company shall be deemed to be dissolved and removed from the records of the Registrar of Companies.

Registration in relation to property.

7. If any property to which clause (b) of paragraph 6 applies is registered with any authority, the limited liability partnership shall, as soon as practicable, after the date of registration, take all necessary steps as required by the relevant authority to notify the authority of the conversion and of the particulars of the limited liability partnership in such form and manner as the authority may determine.

Pending proceedings.

8. All proceedings by or against the company which are pending before any Court, Tribunal or other authority on the date of registration may be continued, completed and enforced by or against the limited liability partnership.

Continuance of conviction, ruling, order or judgment.

9. Any conviction, ruling, order or judgment of any Court, Tribunal or other authority in favour of or against the company may be enforced by or against the limited liability partnership.

Existing agreements.

10. Every agreement to which the company was a party immediately before the date of registration, whether or not of such nature that the rights and liabilities thereunder could be assigned, shall have effect as from that date as if—

- (a) the limited liability partnership were a party to such an agreement instead of the company; and
- (b) for any reference to the company, there were substituted in respect of anything to be done on or after the date of registration a reference to the limited liability partnership.

Existing contracts, etc.

11. All deeds, contracts, schemes, bonds, agreements, applications, instruments and arrangements subsisting immediately before the date of registration relating to the company or to which the company is a party shall continue in force on and after that date as if they relate to the limited liability partnership and shall be enforceable by or against the limited liability partnership as if the limited liability partnership were named therein or were a party thereto instead of the company.

Continuance of employment.

12. Every contract of employment to which paragraph 10 or paragraph 11 applies shall continue in force on or after the date of registration as if the limited liability partnership were the employer thereunder instead of the company.

Existing appointment, authority or power.

13. (1) Every appointment of the company in any role or capacity which is in force immediately before the date of registration shall take effect and operate from that date as if the limited liability partnership were appointed.

(2) Any authority or power conferred on the company which is in force immediately before the date of registration shall take effect and operate from that date as if it were conferred on the limited liability partnership.

Application of paragraphs 6 to 13.

14. The provisions of paragraphs 6 to 13 (both inclusive) shall apply to any approval, permit or licence issued to the company under any other Act which is in force immediately before the date of registration of the limited liability partnership, subject to the provisions of such other Act under which such approval, permit or licence has been issued.

Notice of conversion in correspondence.

15. (1) The limited liability partnership shall ensure that for a period of twelve months commencing not later than fourteen days after the date of registration, every official correspondence of the limited liability partnership bears the following, namely:—

- (a) a statement that it was, as from the date of registration, converted from a company into a limited liability partnership; and
- (b) the name and registration number of the company from which it was converted.

(2) Any limited liability partnership which contravenes the provisions of sub-paragraph (1) shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to one lakh rupees and with a further fine which shall not be less than fifty rupees but which may extend to five hundred rupees for every day after the first day after which the default continues.

THE FOURTH SCHEDULE

[See section 57]

**CONVERSION FROM UNLISTED PUBLIC COMPANY INTO
LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP**

Interpretation.

1. In this Schedule, unless the context otherwise requires,—

- (a) ‘company’ means an unlisted public company;
- (b) ‘convert’, in relation to a company converting into a limited liability partnership, means a transfer of the property, assets, interests, rights, privileges, liabilities, obligations and the undertaking of the company to the limited liability partnership in accordance with the provisions of this Schedule;
- (c) ‘listed company’ means a listed company as defined in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Disclosure and Investor Protection) Guidelines, 2000 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India under section 11 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992);
- (d) ‘unlisted public company’ means a company which is not a listed company.

Conversion of company into a limited liability partnership.

2. (1) A company may convert into a limited liability partnership by complying with the requirements as to the conversion set out in this Schedule.

(2) Upon such conversion, the company, its shareholders, the limited liability partnership into which the company has converted and the partners of that limited liability partnership shall be bound by the provisions of this Schedule that are applicable to them.

Eligibility for conversion.

3. A company may apply to convert into a limited liability partnership in accordance with the provisions of this Schedule if and only if—

- (a) there is no security interest in its assets subsisting or in force at the time of application; and
- (b) the partners of the limited liability partnership to which it converts comprise all the shareholders of the company and no one else.

Statements to be filed.

4. A company may apply to convert into a limited liability partnership by filing with the Registrar—

(a) a statement by all its shareholders in such form and manner to be accompanied by such fee as the Central Government may prescribe containing the following particulars, namely:—

(i) the name and registration number of the company;

(ii) the date on which the company was incorporated; and

(b) incorporation document and statement referred to in section 11.

Registration of conversion.

5. On receiving the documents referred to in paragraph 4, the Registrar shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, and the rules made thereunder, register the documents and issue a certificate of registration in such form as the Registrar may determine stating that the limited liability partnership is, on and from the date specified in the certificate, registered under this Act:

Provided that the limited liability partnership shall, within fifteen days of the date of registration, inform the concerned Registrar of Companies with which it was registered under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) about the conversion and of the particulars of the limited liability partnership in such form and manner as the Central Government may prescribe.

Registrar may refuse to register.

6. (1) Nothing in this Schedule shall be construed as to require the Registrar to register any limited liability partnership if he is not satisfied with the particulars or other information furnished under the provisions of this Act :

Provided that an appeal may be made before the Tribunal in case of refusal of registration by the Registrar.

(2) The Registrar may, in any particular case, require the documents referred to in paragraph 4 to be verified in such manner, as he considers fit.

Effect of registration.

7. On and from the date of registration specified in the certificate of registration issued under paragraph 5—

(a) there shall be a limited liability partnership by the name specified in the certificate of registration registered under this Act;

(b) all tangible (movable or immovable) and intangible property vested in the company, all assets, interests, rights, privileges, liabilities, obligations relating to the company and the whole of the undertaking of the company shall be transferred to and shall vest in the limited liability partnership without further assurance, act or deed; and

(c) the company shall be deemed to be dissolved and removed from the records of the Registrar of Companies.

Registration in relation to property.

8. If any property to which clause (b) of paragraph 7 applies is registered with any authority, the limited liability partnership shall, as soon as practicable, after the date of registration, take all necessary steps as required by the relevant authority to notify the authority of the conversion and of the particulars of the limited liability partnership in such form and manner as the authority may determine.

Pending proceedings.

9. All proceedings by or against the company which are pending in any Court or Tribunal or before an authority on the date of registration may be continued, completed and enforced by or against the limited liability partnership.

Continuance of conviction, ruling, order or judgment.

10. Any conviction, ruling, order or judgment of any Court, Tribunal or other authority in favour of or against the company may be enforced by or against the limited liability partnership.

Existing agreements.

11. Every agreement to which the company was a party immediately before the date of registration, whether or not of such nature that the rights and liabilities thereunder could be assigned, shall have effect as from that date as if—

- (a) the limited liability partnership were a party to such an agreement instead of the company; and
- (b) for any reference to the company, there were substituted in respect of anything to be done on or after the date of registration a reference to the limited liability partnership.

Existing contracts, etc.

12. All deeds, contracts, schemes, bonds, agreements, applications, instruments and arrangements subsisting immediately before the date of registration relating to the company or to which the company is a party shall continue in force on and after that date as if they relate to the limited liability partnership and shall be enforceable by or against the limited liability partnership as if the limited liability partnership were named therein or were a party thereto instead of the company.

Continuance of employment.

13. Every contract of employment to which paragraph 11 or paragraph 12 applies shall continue in force on or after the date of registration as if the limited liability partnership were the employer thereunder instead of the company.

Existing appointment, authority or power.

14. (1) Every appointment of the company in any role or capacity which is in force immediately before the date of registration shall take effect and operate from that date as if the limited liability partnership were appointed.

(2) Any authority or power conferred on the company which is in force immediately before the date of registration shall take effect and operate from that date as if it were conferred on the limited liability partnership.

Application of paragraphs 7 to 14.

15. The provisions of paragraphs 7 to 14 (both inclusive) shall apply to any approval, permit or licence issued to the company under any other Act which is in force immediately before the date of registration of the limited liability partnership, subject to the provisions of such other Act under which such approval, permit or licence has been issued.

Notice of conversion in correspondence.

16. (1) The limited liability partnership shall ensure that for a period of twelve months commencing not later than fourteen days after the date of registration, every official correspondence of the limited liability partnership bears the following, namely:—

- (a) a statement that it was, as from the date of registration, converted from a company into a limited liability partnership; and
- (b) the name and registration number of the company from which it was converted.

(2) Any limited liability partnership which contravenes the provisions of sub-paragraph (1) shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to one lakh rupees and with a further fine which shall not be less than fifty rupees but which may extend to five hundred rupees for every day after the first day after which the default continues.

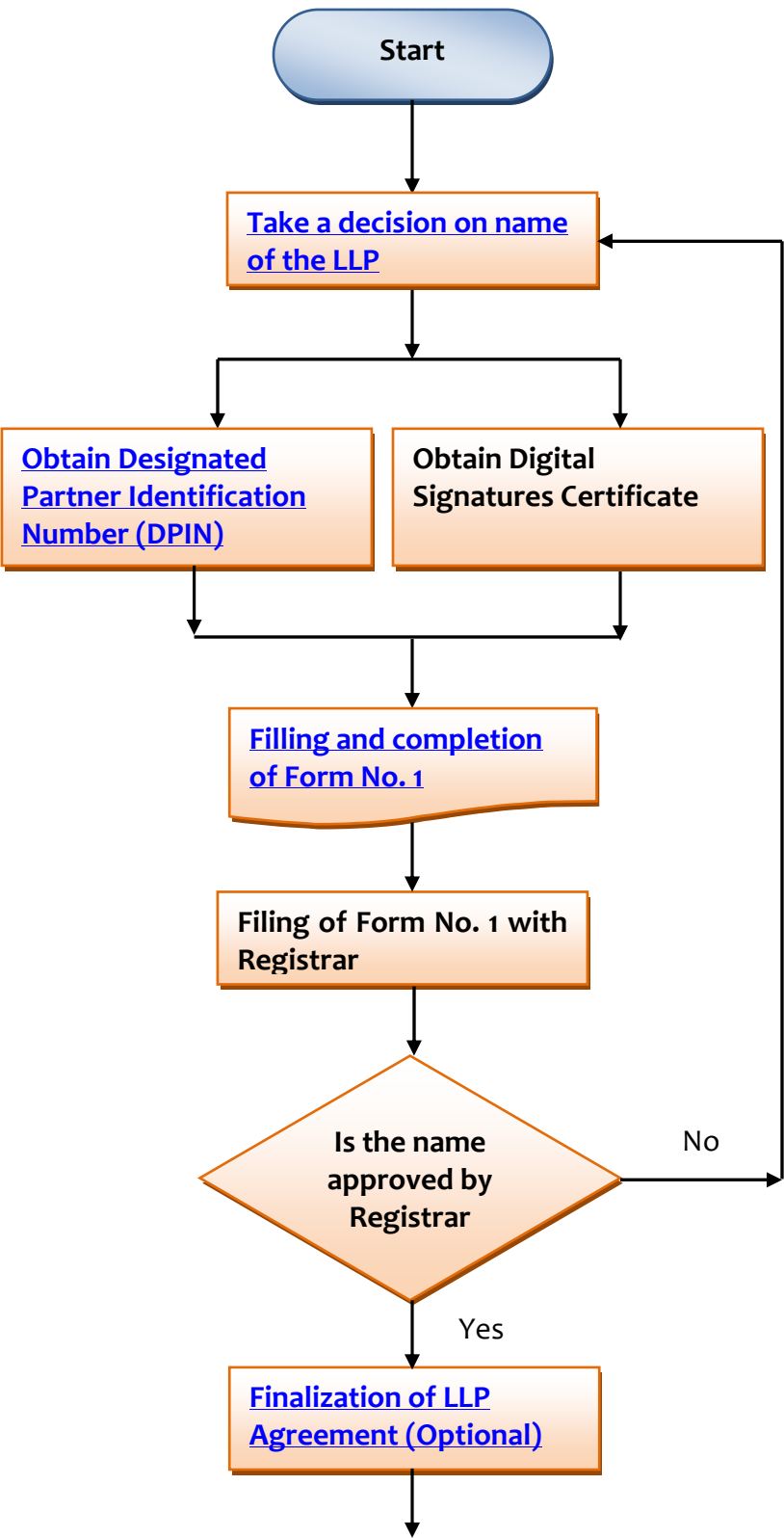
STEPS FOR INCORPORATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

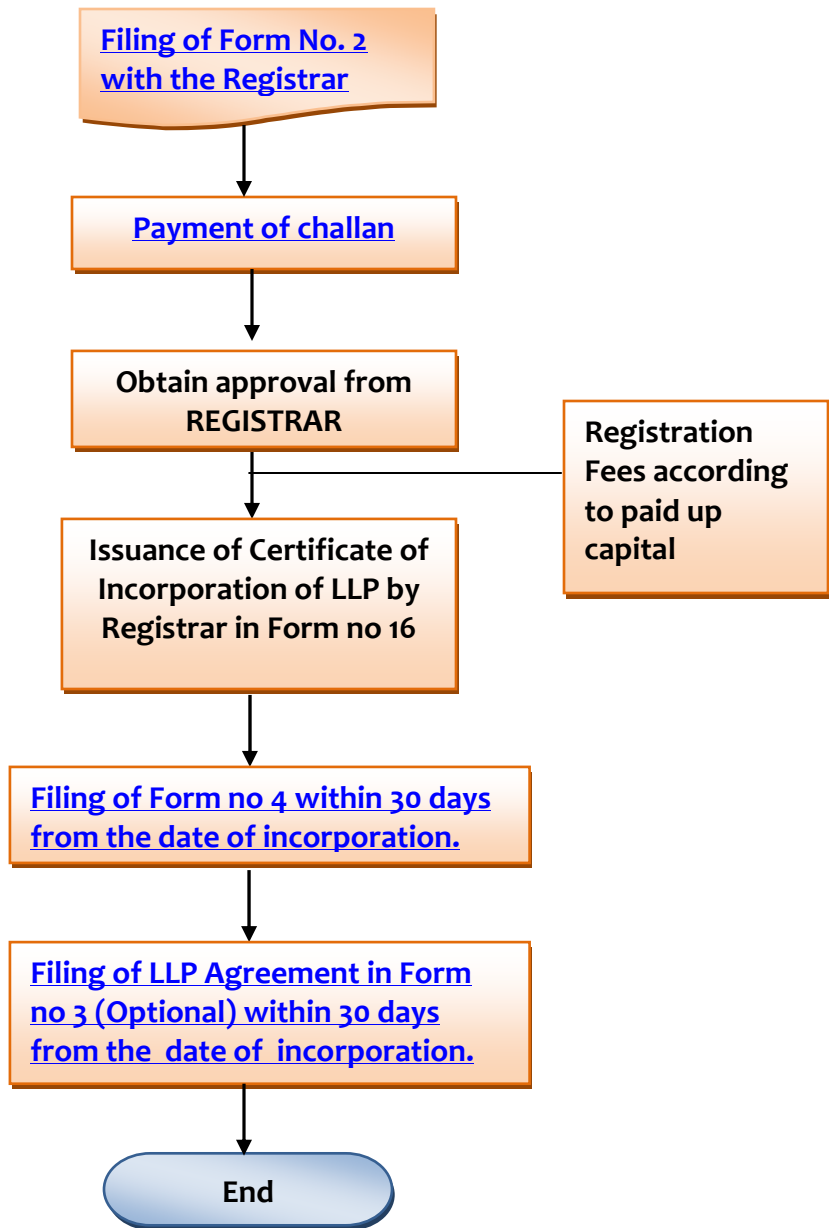


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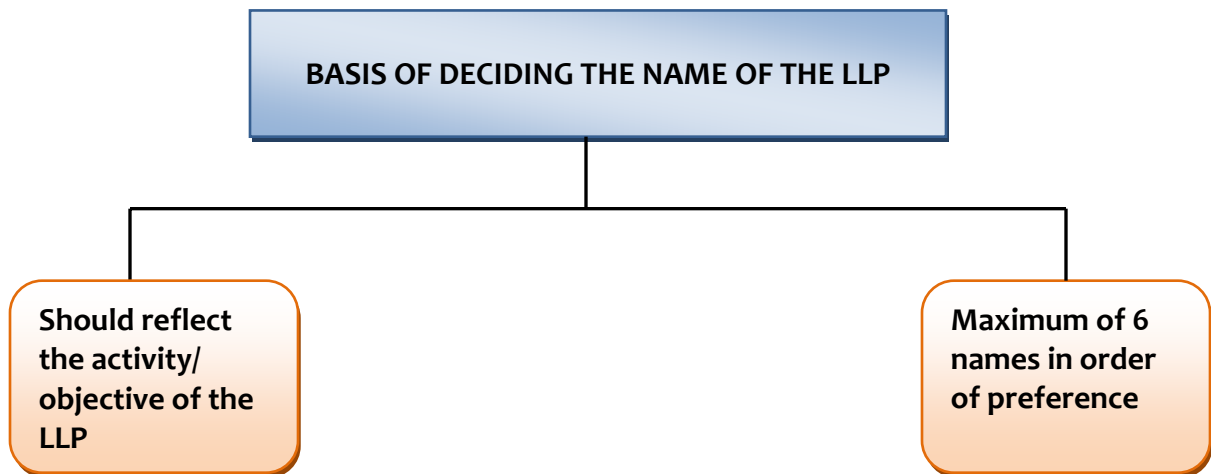
Basis of deciding the name of the LLP _____	4
Disclosure Form _____	5
Filing and completion of Form no. 1 _____	6
Approval of name by Registrar of Firm (ROF) _____	7
Finalization of LLP Agreement _____	8
Filing of Forms with Registrar of Firm _____	9
Payment of fees to Registrar of Firm _____	10
Approval by the Registrar of Firm _____	11
Designated Partner Identification Number (DPIN) _____	14

FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP (Flow Chart)





Basis of deciding the name of the LLP



The name of the limited liability partnership shall not be similar or identical with Company or LLP already registered in India and it should not contains words prohibited under the **‘Emblems and Names (Prevention of improper use) Act, 1950’** or which are also not **‘Undesirable’** in the opinion of Central Government or which satisfies the conditions prescribed under rule 18(2).

In case any Body Corporate is partner, copy of Board resolution authorizing the incorporation of LLP shall be attached

A Disclosure Form needs to be filled at this stage. [Sample format attached below.](#)

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Disclosure Form - for incorporation of LLP

1. Proposed Name of the LLP :(Maximum Six Name in order of Preference)

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.

2. Name of the Applicant applied for Name availability

Name of the Applicant (must have digital signature)	Occupation	Address	State	Country	Pin code

3. Details of partners :

Name of the Partner	Husband / Father's Name	Capital contribution	Date of Birth/ incorporation

4. Registered address of the LLP :

5. Detail of Designated Partners :

Name of the Designated Partner	Father's Name	DPIN Number	Nationality	Date of Birth	PAN Number	Address

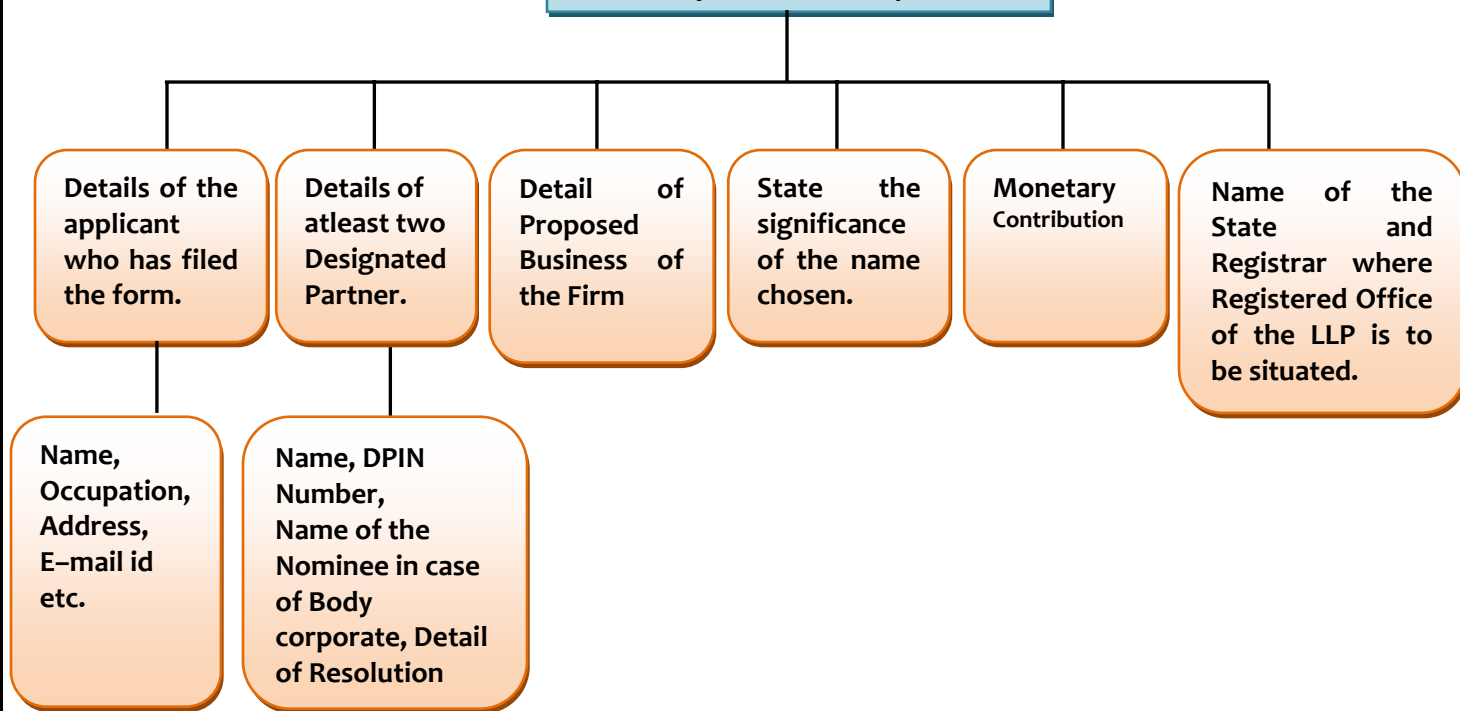
6. Capital Contribution of the Partners :

% of Capital Contribution	Type of Contribution	Amount

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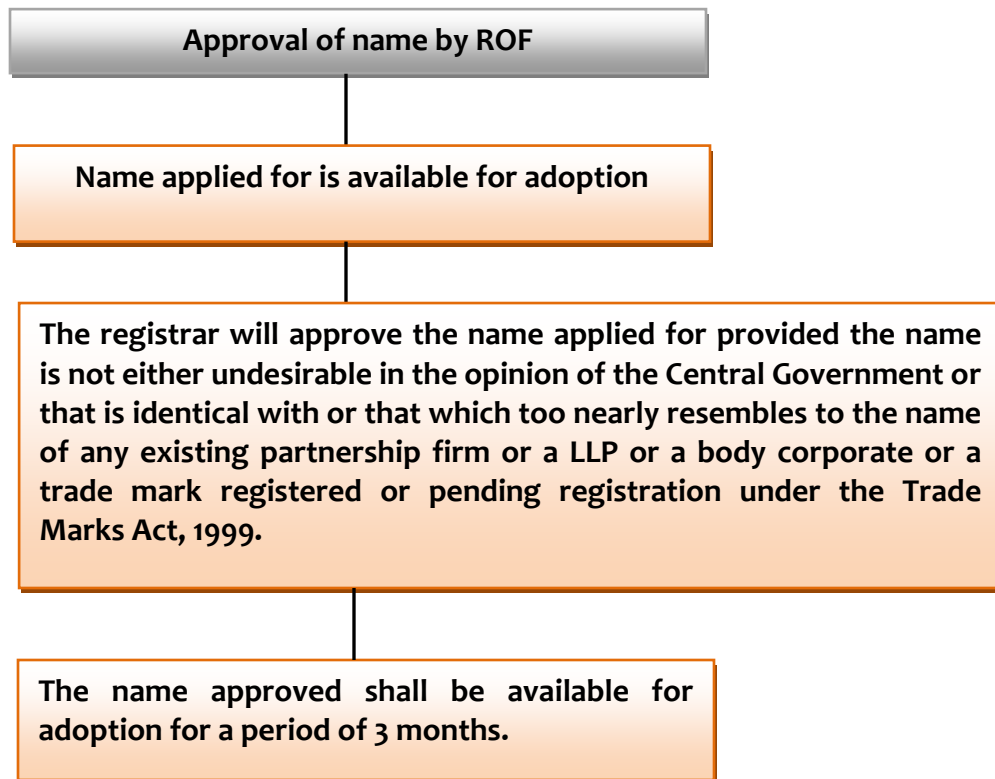
Filling and completion of Form no. 1

Form No. 1 (Various heads)



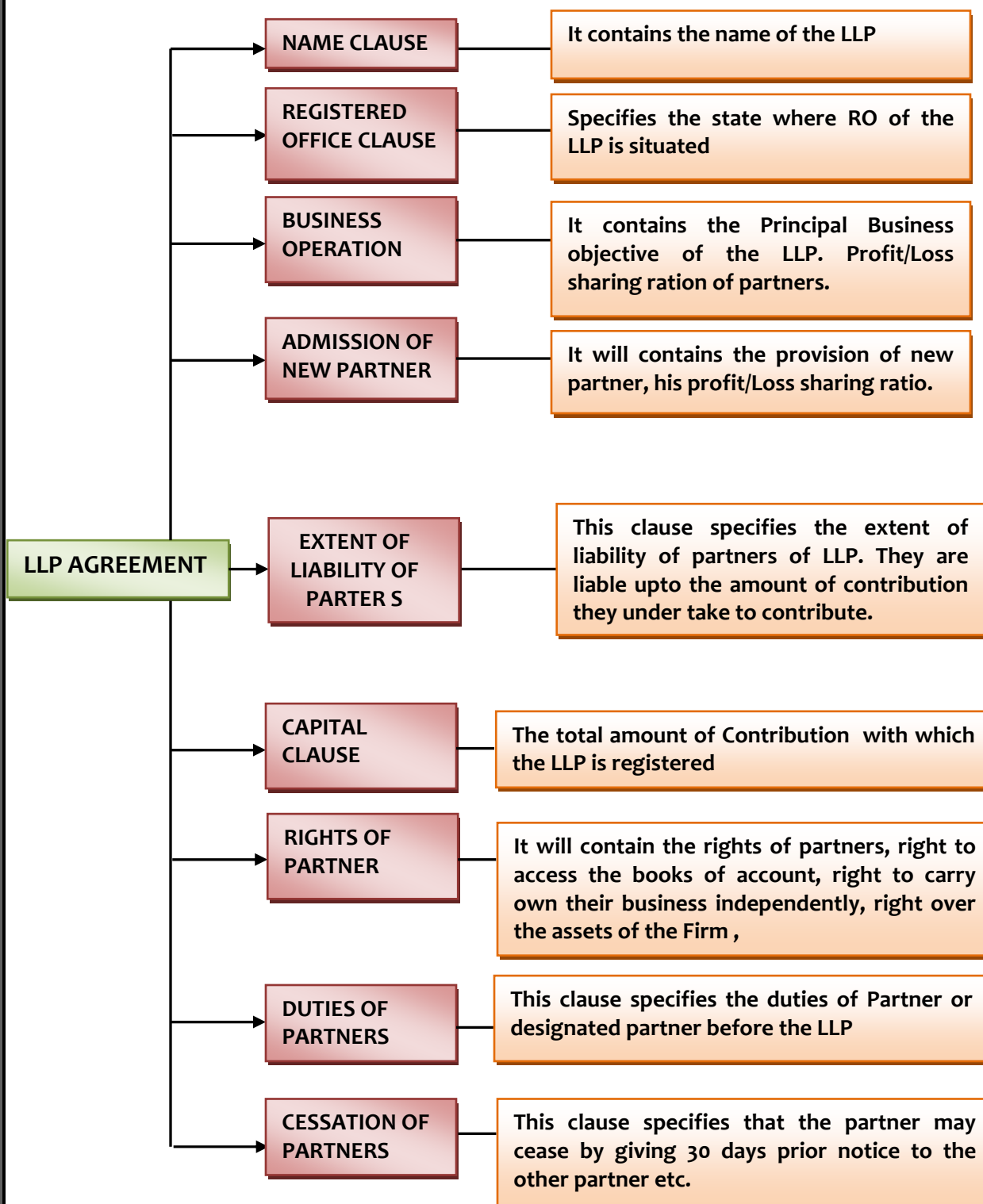
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Approval of name by Registrar of Firm (ROF)



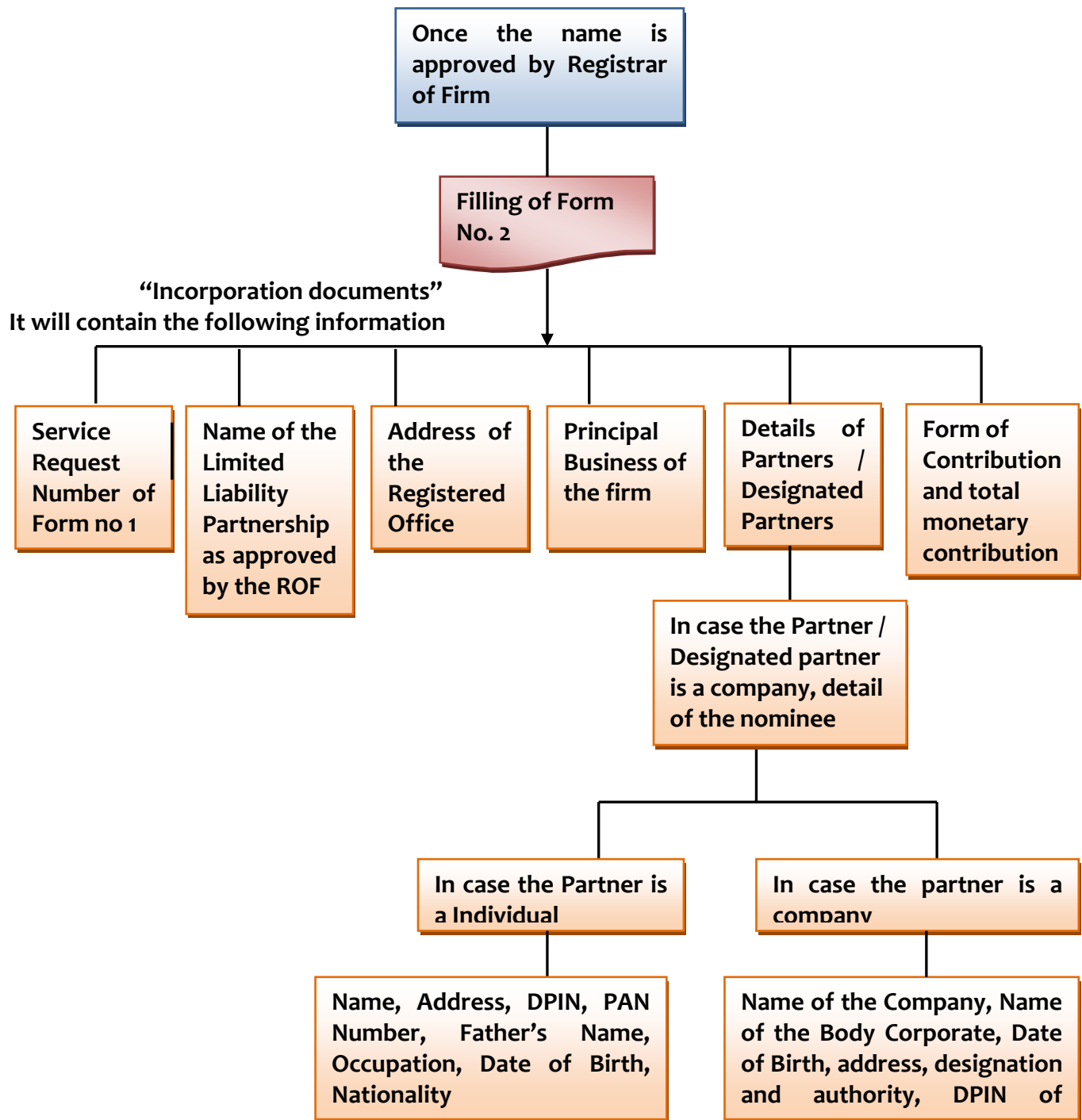
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Finalization of LLP Agreement



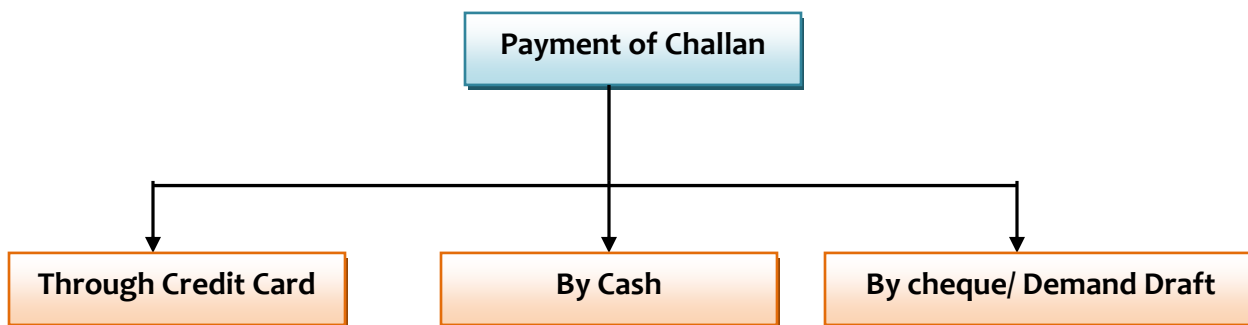
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Filing of Forms with Registrar of Firm



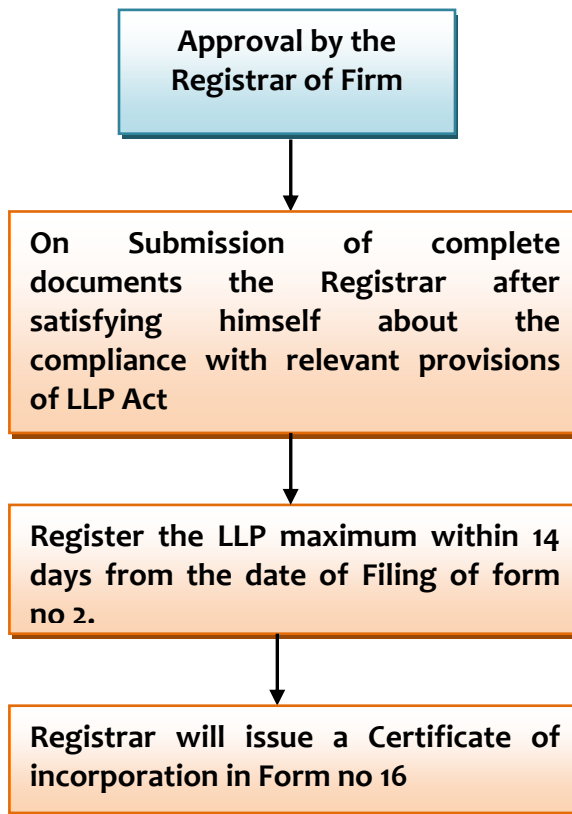
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Payment of fees to Registrar of Firm

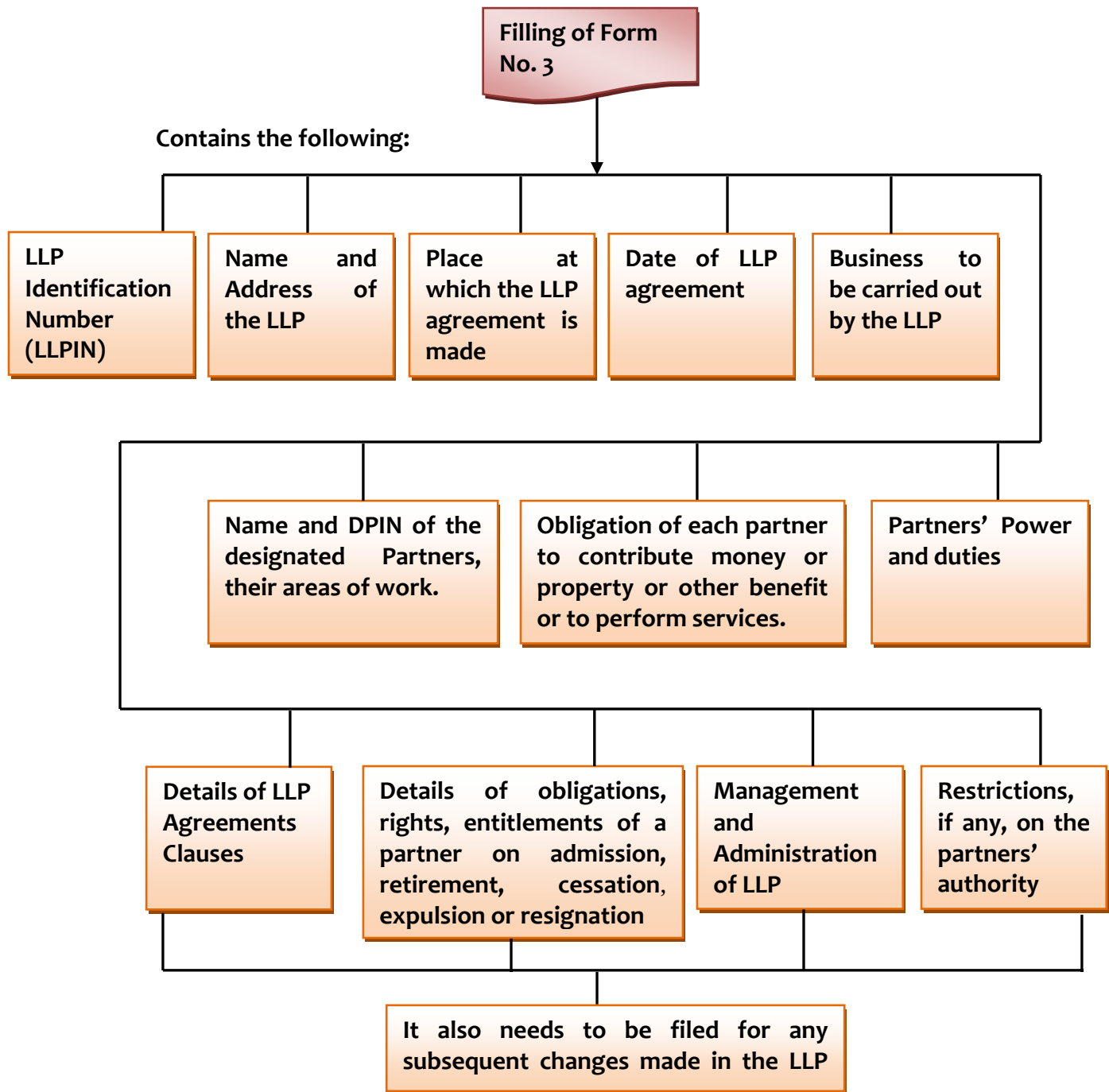


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Approval by the Registrar of Firm



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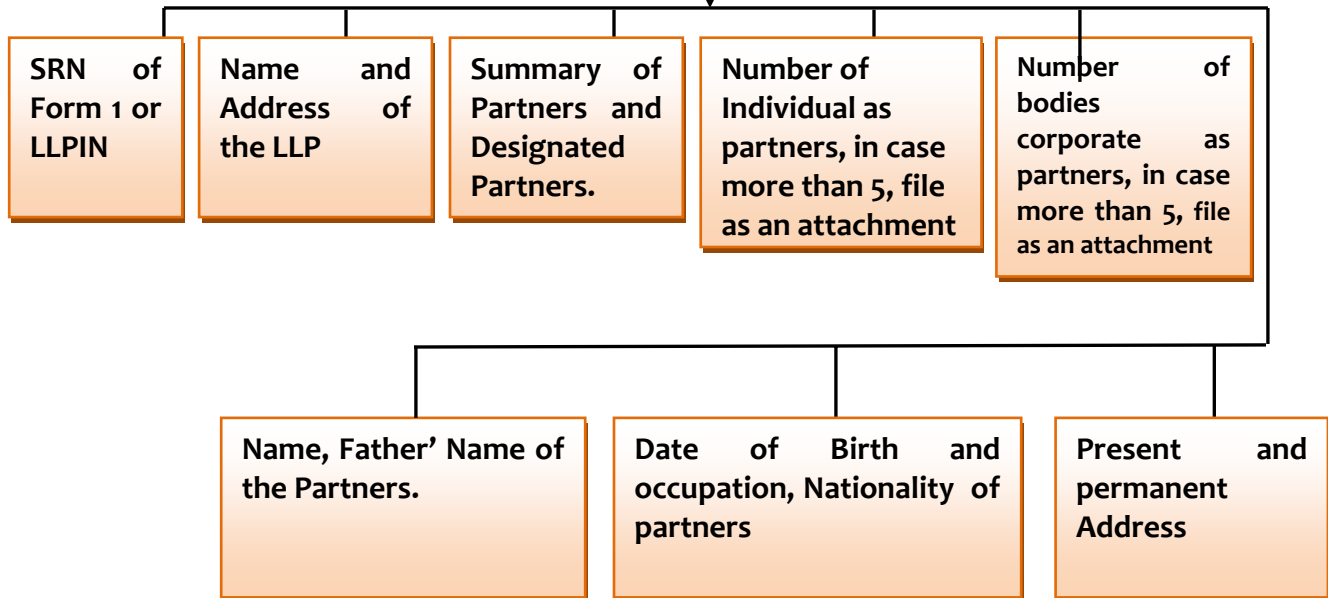
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NOTE:

Form 3 (Information with regard to LLP agreement and changes, if any made therein) may be filed with the prescribed fee simultaneously at the time of filing Form-2 or within 30 days of the date of incorporation or within 30 days of such subsequent changes.

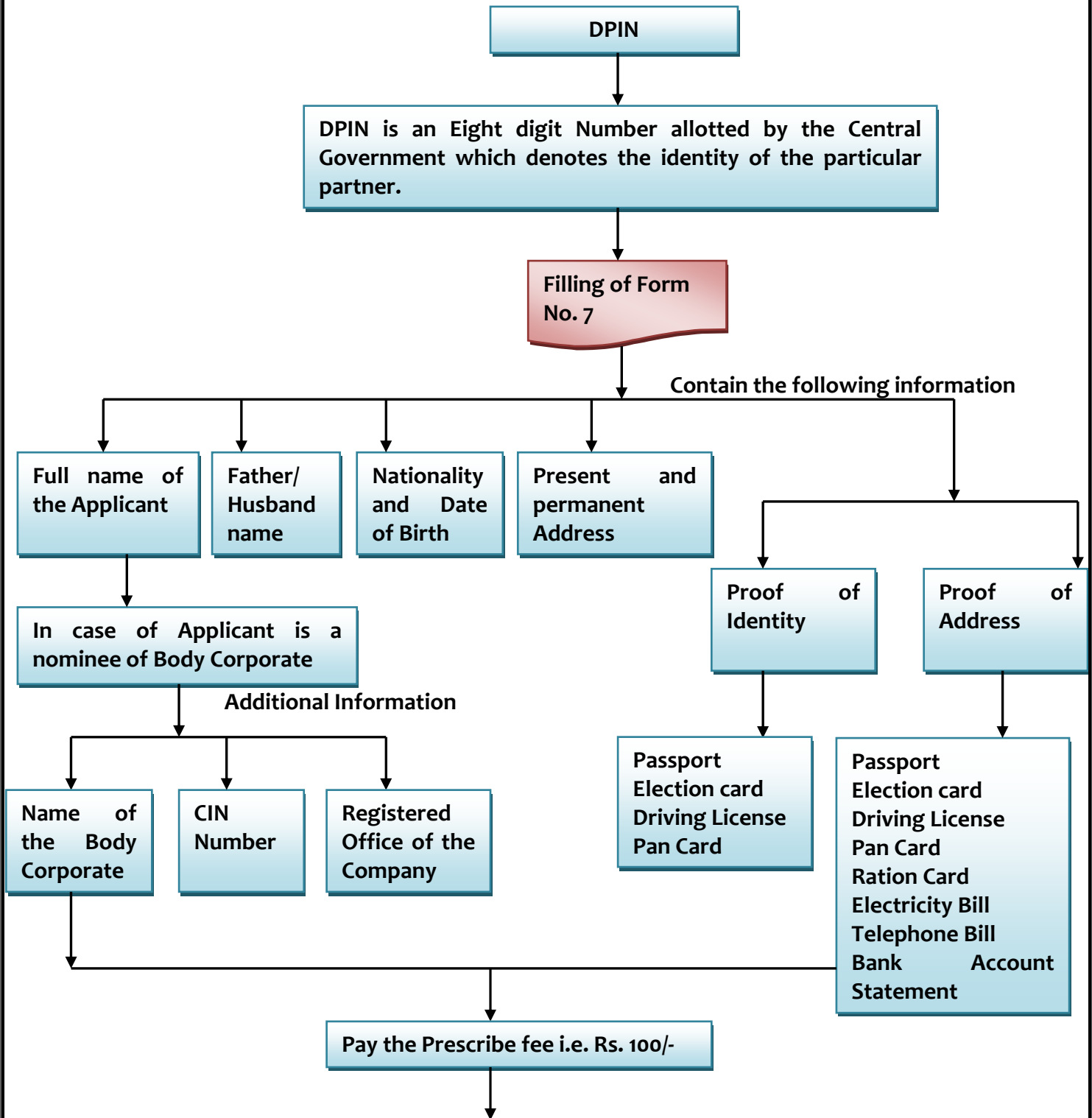
**Filling of Form
No. 4**

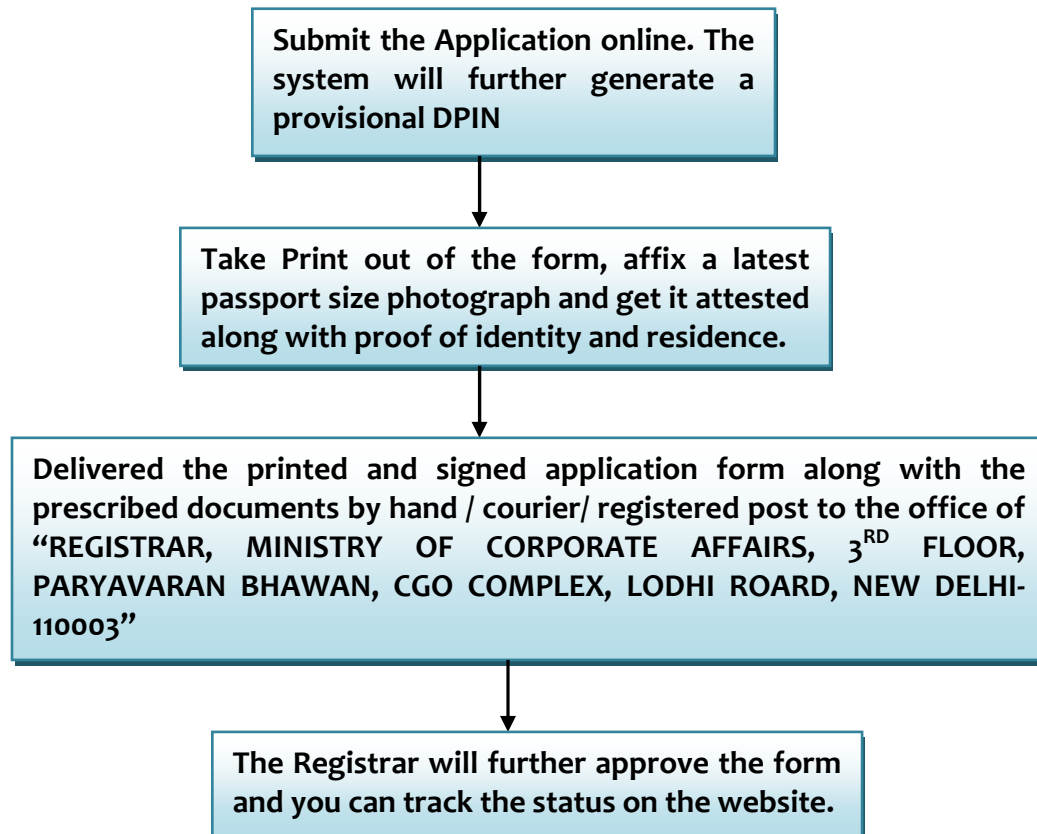
Contains the following:



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Designated Partner Identification Number (DPIN)





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