

Corporate Update

MCA:

- **MCA has designated Special Courts for the States of Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Union Territory of Chandigarh, Districts of Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Erode, Krishnagiri, Namakkal, Nilgiris, Salem and Tiruppur, Union Territory of Puducherry** for the purposes of providing speedy trial of offences punishable with imprisonment of two years or more under the Companies Act, 2013. The Special Courts of the above-mentioned States and UTs are provided in the notification. MCA has already designated Special Court in respect of jurisdiction of National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- **Applicability of Provisions of Section 124 (Unpaid Dividend Account) and Section 125 (IEPF) of Companies Act, 2013:** Central Government has appointed 07.09.2016 as the date on which the provisions of following sections shall come into force:
 1. Section 124 UNPAID DIVIDEND ACCOUNT: Notified on 05.09.2016 and effective from 07.09.2016.
 2. Section 125 INVESTOR EDUCATION AND PROTECTION FUND:
 - a) Sub-sections (1) to (4), (6) [Manner of Administration] and (8) to (11) : Notified on 05.09.2016 and effective from 07.09.2016.
 - b) Section 125 - Sub-section (5) (6) [except manner of administration of IEPF] and (7): Notified and effective from 13.01.2016.
- **LLP Forms Form 4, Form 5 and Form 8** has been revised on MCA21 LLP Forms w.e.f **8th September 2016**.

SERVICE TAX:

- **The Department of Revenue has specified that the religious places shall be exempted from payment of Service Tax.** All religious places shall be considered to fall within the purview of clause (a) of entry 5 of Notification No. 25/2012- Service Tax, to be exempted from payment of service tax. The Department clarified that services provided by renting of precincts of a religious place meant for general public, owned or managed by an entity registered as a charitable or religious trust under section 12AA of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (hereinafter referred to as the Income-tax Act), or a trust or an institution registered under sub clause (v) of clause (23C) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act or a body or an authority covered under clause (23BBA) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act shall be exempted from payment of service tax.

SEBI:

- **Restrictions on Promoters and Whole-Time Directors of Compulsorily Delisted Companies Pending Fulfillment of Exit Offers to the Shareholders:** In addition to the restriction imposed under Regulation 24 of the Delisting Regulations, in order to ensure effective enforcement of exit option to the public shareholders in case of compulsory delisting and taking into account the interests of investors, it is felt necessary to strengthen the regulatory mechanism in this regard.
- To improve transparency in spot price discovery at commodity exchanges, **SEBI has issued a Circular on Spot Price Polling Mechanism.** The exchanges have been asked to display the spot price polling mechanism adopted for every contract on its website from September 29. They also need to give details about the contract, mechanism of spot price polling, method for arrival at spot prices, whether mechanism outsourced to any external agency and criteria for selection of these polling participants. The exchanges can assign a code such A1, A2, A3 for polling participants of a particular contract and reveal his location and price for the day. This information would be updated on exchange website every day for every contract traded on the exchange platform. The exchanges have to review on a monthly basis the prices polled by the participants to identify participants habitually polling unrealistic prices. The exchanges would have to address such complaints in a time-bound manner and keep the audit trail of all such complaints received and the steps taken for redressal.

DIPP:

- DIPP has clarified that **Internet broadcasting companies shall also come under the purview of statutory licensing under section 31D of the Copyrights Act, 1957.** In its interpretation of the Section 31D, DIPP said the words “any broadcasting organisation desirous of communicating to the public” may not be restrictively interpreted to be covering only radio and television broadcasting as definition of “broadcast” read with “communication to the public” appears to be including all kinds of broadcast including Internet broadcasting.

CBDT:

- **Due Date to File Tax Audit Report Has been Extended to 17th October**
- **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered 20 unilateral advance pricing agreements (APAs) with taxpayers** on August 29, 2016 and August 30, 2016 with Indian taxpayers in order to reduce litigation by providing certainty in transfer pricing. Further, the taxpayers have the option to rollback the APA for four preceding years. Option for ‘Rollback’ was introduced in 2014 under the APA Scheme which came under Income-tax Act in 2012. The 20 APAs signed pertain to sectors like, information technology, banking and finance, insurance, human resources, pharmaceutical, solar energy, oil and gas, foods and beverages, telecommunications, and NGOs.

LABOUR LAW:

- **PCS authorised to conduct third party certification of labour law audit in Haryana**

GST: President gives assent to GST Constitutional Amendment Bill

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