



STBA BULLETIN

MEMBER'S MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER
SILIGURI TAXATION BAR ASSOCIATION



MAY 2025



THE BIGGEST ADVENTURE YOU CAN TAKE IS TO LIVE THE LIFE OF YOUR DREAMS.

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Dear Esteemed Members of the Siliguri Taxation Bar Association,

A warm May greeting to you all! As the intensity of the summer season begins to embrace Siliguri, I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits. The onset of summer often brings a change of pace, but our commitment to professional excellence and engagement within the association remains unwavering.

I want to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of active participation in the Siliguri Taxation Bar Association's activities. Our association serves as a vital platform for learning, networking, and collective growth. The seminars, workshops, and discussions we organize are designed to equip you with the latest knowledge and insights necessary to excel in our field. Your presence and engagement in these programs not only benefit your individual professional development but also strengthen the collective expertise of our association.

Furthermore, I encourage all members to contribute their valuable perspectives and expertise to our newsletter. Sharing your knowledge through articles, case studies, and opinions enriches our community and fosters a culture of continuous learning.

As the summer heat intensifies, let us also remember to take care of our well-being. Finding a balance between our professional commitments and personal lives is crucial for sustained success and happiness.

I look forward to your continued active participation in the STBA's initiatives. Together, we can navigate the evolving economic landscape and uphold the highest standards of our profession.

I look forward to your continued engagement and participation in the association's activities.

Jai Hind!

With sincere appreciation,

Karan Singh Jain, Advocate
President
Siliguri Taxation Bar Association



Dear Esteemed Members of the Siliguri Taxation Bar Association,

As we step into the heart of summer, with the mercury steadily rising, I hope you and your families are taking necessary precautions to stay hydrated and healthy. The heat also reminds us to maintain our composure and resilience—virtues that serve us well both inside and outside the courtroom.

The past few weeks have been momentous for our nation's economic trajectory. India's GDP growth for Q4 of FY 2024–25 has exceeded expectations, with strong showings in the manufacturing and services sectors. The government's continued push for infrastructure development and the recent liberalisation in certain compliance norms are likely to further energize the business and taxation landscape.

The Direct Tax Board's digital initiatives continue to gain momentum, and we must stay abreast of these changes to effectively serve our clients and uphold the integrity of our profession.

Here at the Siliguri Taxation Bar Association, I am pleased to share that member participation in the recent seminars and interactive sessions has been encouraging. These platforms not only enhance our professional knowledge but also strengthen our camaraderie. I urge all members to continue engaging in the Association's activities, be it through knowledge-sharing sessions, mentoring young professionals, or offering constructive feedback for the betterment of our functioning.

In the coming weeks, we look forward to organizing workshops on recent updates in Income Tax & GST. I encourage all members to take full advantage of these opportunities.

Furthermore, I would like to remind all members to actively engage with the association's activities and contribute to the newsletter. Your insights and perspectives on these economic changes, as well as relevant case studies and articles, would be invaluable to our collective learning and growth. Please do send in your contributions to help make this newsletter a rich and informative resource for all members.

I look forward to many more milestones, and I am confident that our collective dedication will continue to elevate the Siliguri Taxation Bar Association to even greater heights in the years ahead.

Let us move forward with the spirit of learning, unity, and professionalism that defines our Association. Together, we shall continue to serve the cause of justice and contribute meaningfully to our community.

Wishing you a productive and peaceful month ahead

With warm regards and deepest appreciation,

CA Gaurav Sharma
General Secretary
Siliguri Taxation Bar Association



Dear Esteemed Members,

As the summer sun settles over Siliguri and much of India, bringing with it longer days and warmer evenings, we welcome you to the May 2025 edition of our monthly newsletter. With the season's intensity upon us, let us not forget to care for our health even as we remain steadfast in our professional commitments.

Key Developments in Indian Economy

- ✓ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified Income Tax Return Form 3 (ITR-3) for Assessment Year 2025-26, applicable for income earned in the financial year 2024-25. While the form has been officially released, the utility for filing it electronically is still awaited.
- ✓ It comes after the income tax department on April 29, 2025 notified ITR-1 and ITR-4 forms for AY 2025-26, and made it easier for individuals with long-term capital gains (LTCG) of up to Rs 1.25 lakh from listed equities to file returns.
- ✓ The past few days have witnessed significant developments on the national economic front. India's economy has once again demonstrated resilience, with recent data from the Ministry of Finance indicating a strong finish to FY 2024-25. Growth has been driven by solid performances in the manufacturing and export sectors, alongside a recovery in private consumption.
- ✓ Form 10AB condonation request for Section 12A is now available for filing on the e-filing portal pursuant to the Finance Act (No. 2), 2024. Refer to proviso to clause (ac) of Section 12A(1) of the Income Tax Act.

Your Contribution Matters!

The STBA Newsletter thrives on the contributions of its members. We invite you to share your expertise by submitting articles, case studies, or analytical write-ups on taxation laws and allied subjects. Your insights will not only enrich the professional community but also establish our collective intellectual presence.

Stay Engaged, Stay Informed!

We urge all members to actively participate in STBA's initiatives, seminars, and knowledge-sharing platforms. Your presence and engagement make our association stronger and more vibrant.

Looking forward to your continued support and participation!

Any suggestions, queries or articles on any matter may be mailed to us at manishslg@icai.org.

Warm regards,

CA. Manish Agarwal
Editor & Chairman – Newsletter Committee
Siliguri Taxation Bar Association

CBDT's New AI-Based Scrutiny of Income Tax Returns: What Tax Practitioners Need to Know

Introduction

In a significant move to modernize and streamline tax administration, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has rolled out an AI-based system for scrutiny of Income Tax Returns (ITRs). This initiative is part of the government's broader effort to increase transparency, improve compliance, and reduce manual intervention in tax assessments.

Understanding the AI-Based Scrutiny Mechanism

The AI-powered system is designed to analyze large volumes of data from multiple sources, including bank transactions, GST returns, Form 26AS, AIS (Annual Information Statement), TDS filings, and previous ITRs. Using machine learning algorithms and pattern recognition, it identifies anomalies, mismatches, and high-risk cases with greater accuracy than traditional methods.

Key features include:

- ✓ Risk-based profiling of taxpayers
- ✓ Real-time flagging of suspicious entries or discrepancies
- ✓ Automated selection of cases for scrutiny based on defined risk parameters
- ✓ Cross-verification of information from various sources

Implications for Tax Practitioners

As tax practitioners play a vital role in ensuring accurate and compliant filings, the shift to AI-driven scrutiny brings both opportunities and responsibilities.

1. Increased Emphasis on Data Accuracy

Practitioners must double down on due diligence to ensure that client disclosures match third-party data sources. Discrepancies, even unintentional, are more likely to be flagged under the new system.

2. Proactive Documentation

Maintaining proper documentation and substantiating all claims—especially for deductions, exemptions, and high-value transactions—will be critical. The AI system may request digital evidence or raise follow-up queries automatically.

3. Need for Technological Adaptation

Familiarity with tools such as AIS/TIS reports, data reconciliation software, and digital compliance platforms will become essential. Practitioners may need to upskill to interpret AI-generated alerts and respond appropriately.

4. Client Communication

Educating clients on the importance of transparent and timely disclosures is now more important than ever. Encouraging real-time updates and maintaining year-round communication can help minimize surprises during assessment.

Preparing for the Future

The CBDT's initiative reflects a global trend toward tech-driven tax governance. While this system is expected to reduce arbitrary scrutiny and enhance fairness, it will also demand a higher standard of accuracy and accountability.

Best Practices for Practitioners:

- ✓ Conduct pre-filing audits of client data
- ✓ Reconcile AIS/TIS with reported figures
- ✓ Address mismatches proactively before scrutiny (revise ITR or use ITR-U, if required)
- ✓ Keep abreast of CBDT notifications and AI updates
- ✓ Maintain an audit trail of key communications and filings

Final Thoughts

The AI scrutiny mechanism is a welcome step toward efficient and objective tax assessments. Tax practitioners who embrace this change, invest in the right tools, and prioritize data integrity will not only ensure smoother assessments but also add significant value to their client relationships.

Ankit Agarwal is a fellow member of ICAI and has an experience of more than 7 years in the accounting profession. He is also a member of Siliguri Taxation Bar Association since the last six years. He has been the President of Lions Clubs of Siliguri City in the year 2021-22. He is the promoter of the firm Ankit Pawan Agarwal & Co and looks after Direct & Indirect Taxes, Corporate Compliances, Audit and assurance services. He can be reached at:

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Navigating Income Tax Refund Delays for FY 24-25

Introduction

The anticipation of receiving an income tax refund after diligently filing your returns is natural. However, delays in processing refunds can sometimes occur, causing frustration and uncertainty. As we gear up for filing income tax returns for the Financial Year 2024-25 (Assessment Year 2025-26), understanding the potential reasons for these delays and knowing how to ensure a smoother process is crucial. This article delves into the common causes of income tax refund delays and provides essential tips to keep in mind while filing your returns this year.

Why Do Income Tax Refunds Get Delayed?

Several factors can contribute to delays in the issuance of your income tax refund. Understanding these reasons can help you take proactive steps to avoid them:

Errors in Filing: This is one of the most common reasons for refund delays. Mistakes such as incorrect PAN details, wrong assessment year selection, miscalculation of income or deductions, or providing incorrect bank account details can lead to your return being flagged for errors and subsequent delays in processing.

Mismatch in Information: Discrepancies between the information provided in your tax return and the data available with the Income Tax Department (e.g., details reported by your employer or banks) can trigger scrutiny and delay the refund. This could include mismatches in TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) amounts, interest income, or other financial transactions.

Verification Pending: Failure to verify your Income Tax Return (ITR) within the stipulated time (currently 30 days from the date of filing online) will result in the return being considered invalid. An unverified return will not be processed for a refund.

Complex Returns: Returns with intricate income sources, multiple deductions, or foreign income details might take longer for the Income Tax Department to process due to the need for thorough scrutiny.

Systemic Issues at the Department: While less frequent, technical glitches or a high volume of returns being processed simultaneously at the Income Tax Department can sometimes lead to temporary delays in refund processing.

Bank Account Issues: If the bank account details provided in your return are incorrect, inactive, or not pre-validated on the Income Tax portal, the refund might fail to be credited and lead to delays.

Outstanding Tax Liabilities: If you have any outstanding tax demands from previous assessment years, the current year's refund might be adjusted against those liabilities, which could appear as a delay in receiving the expected refund amount.

Key Things to Remember While Filing for FY 24-25 to Avoid Delays:

To ensure a timely receipt of your income tax refund for FY 24-25, keep the following points in mind while filing your return:

Provide Accurate PAN Details: Double-check and ensure that you have entered your Permanent Account Number (PAN) correctly in all relevant fields of the ITR form. Any discrepancy in the PAN can lead to significant processing delays. PAN should be linked with the bank account opted for refund.

Select the Correct Assessment Year: Make sure you are selecting the correct Assessment Year, which for the income earned between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025, is Assessment Year 2025-26, while filling TDS/TCS details in the relevant schedule of the ITR form. Filing under the wrong assessment year will lead to your return being invalid.

Accurately Report Income and Deductions: Carefully calculate and report all your income from various sources (salary, business, capital gains, etc.). Similarly, ensure you are claiming only eligible deductions and exemptions, supported by valid documentation.

Reconcile TDS and Form 26AS: Before filing, cross-verify the TDS amounts reflected in your Form 16/16A with the details available in your Form 26AS. Form 26AS is an annual consolidated tax statement that provides details of taxes deducted on your income. Any mismatch should be resolved with the deductor before filing your return. You can access Form 26AS from the Income Tax e-filing portal.

Provide Correct Bank Account Details and Pre-validate: Ensure that you provide the correct bank account number, IFSC code, and account type in your ITR. It is also crucial to pre-validate your bank account on the Income Tax e-filing portal. Pre-validation confirms that the account is active and can receive refunds directly.

File Your Return Early: Filing your return well before the due date (typically July 31st, unless extended) provides ample time to rectify any errors that might arise during the filing process. Early filing also generally leads to faster processing of refunds.

Verify Your Return Promptly: Once you have filed your return online, ensure you verify it within 30 days. You can verify your return electronically through Aadhaar OTP, Digital Signature Certificate (DSC), Electronic Verification Code (EVC) generated through net banking or Demat account. Failure to verify within the stipulated time will render your return invalid.

Keep Necessary Documents Ready: Gather all necessary documents such as salary slips, Form 16/16A, bank statements, investment proofs, and deduction-related documents before you start filing. This will help you avoid errors and ensure you have all the required information readily available.

Track Your Refund Status: After filing and verifying your return, you can regularly check the status of your refund on the Income Tax e-filing portal. This will give you an idea of the processing stage and any potential delays.

By paying close attention to these aspects while filing your income tax return for FY 24-25, you can significantly reduce the chances of encountering refund delays and ensure a smoother tax filing experience. Remember, accuracy and timely compliance are key to a hassle-free tax process.

Compliance Calendar for May 2025

Due dates in May 2025	Form to be filed	Period	Details
7	Challan No.281	Apr-25	Payment of Income Tax TCS collected in April 2025
7	Challan No.281	Apr-25	Payment of Income Tax TDS deducted in April 2025
10	GSTR 7	Apr-25	GSTR-7-Monthly Return by Tax Deductors for April 2025
10	GSTR 8	Apr-25	GSTR-8-Monthly Return by E-Commerce operators for April 2025
11	GSTR 1	Apr-25	Taxpayers having an aggregate turnover of more than Rs. 5 Crores or opted to file Monthly GSTR-1 Return
13	GSTR 6	Apr-25	GSTR-6 - Monthly Return of Input Service Distributor for April 2025
13	GSTR-1 / IFF	Apr-25	GSTR-1 / IFF – Optional for Taxpayers who have opted for QRMP
13	GSTR 5	Apr-25	GSTR 5 Return for Non-Resident Taxable Person for the month of April 2025
15	ESI Challan	Apr-25	ESI payment for April 2025
15	ECR	Apr-25	E-payment of Provident Fund for April 2025
15	Form 24G	Apr-25	Due date for furnishing of Form 24G by an office of the Government where Income Tax TDS/TCS for the month of April, 2025 has been paid without the production of a challan
15	Form 27EQ	Jan-Mar 2025	TCS Return in Form 27EQ for Jan-Mar 2025 Quarter
20	GSTR 3B	Apr-25	GSTR 3B Summary of Outward and Inward Supplies for the payment of Tax for April 2025
20	GSTR 5A	Apr-25	GSTR 5A Return for Non-Resident Taxable Person for the month of April 2025
21	PTAX	Apr-25	Monthly Employees Professional tax payment for April 2025 in WB
25	PMT-06	Apr-25	Payment of tax in PMT-06 by a registered person who has opted to file return under QRMP Scheme in PMT-06 – challan for April 2025
28	GSTR-11	Apr-25	Due date for filing GSTR-11- Statement for Inward supplies by persons having UIN for claiming GST Refund
30	Challan	Apr-25	Last date for furnishing of challan-cum-statement in respect of tax deducted under section 194-IA, 194-IB, 194M, 194S in the month of April 2025.
30	Form 11	FY 2024-25	Form 11 for FY 2024-25 for LLP's
30	Form FC-4	FY 24-25	Form FC-4 – Annual return for foreign companies (branch office/ liaison office)
30	PAS-6	Oct 2024-Mar 2025	Reconciliation of share capital in Form PAS-6 is mandatory for unlisted public companies
30	FC-4	FY 2024-25	Annual Return of the Foreign Companies
31	Form 24Q, 26Q & 27Q	Jan-Mar 2025	TDS Return in Form 24Q, 26Q, and 27Q for Jan-Mar 2025

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Siliguri Taxation Bar Association****Features:**

- Open for Lawyers, Advocates, CA, CS & CMA
- One time Admission Fee Rs 3,000/-
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- Regular Seminars, Study Circles & Conferences
- Updates on Income Tax, GST & other laws
- Networking with pool of other professionals



Visit our website for Admission form & more details
www.siliguritaxationbar.org

Get in touch with

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Staff - Mr Mritunjoy Dhar – 89183 95245

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- Open for members of STBA
- Term Insurance cover of Rs 5 Lacs & medical coverage of Rs 25,000.
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**Members are requested to remit their premium by:**

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- Cash against money receipt to Mr Mritunjoy Dhar – 89183 95245

For details connect with:

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Treasurer, CA Avijeet Ghoshal, # 96416 22679

**12th Meeting of the Executive Committee of STBA was held
on 26.04.2025 at GST Bhawan, Hakimpara, Siliguri**

**STBA Monthly Newsletter for April 2025 was released
on 26.04.2025 at GST Bhawan, Hakimpara, Siliguri**

