



President's Communique

CA S. Venkataramani

Warm Greetings from the National President for the Golden Jubilee Year Celebrations!

Dear Members and Colleagues,

As we enter the month of July, one of the busiest periods in the professional calendar, every tax practitioner is called upon not only to meet statutory deadlines but also to uphold the trust reposed in our profession. The season reminds us that compliance is not merely about filing returns—it is about strengthening the credibility of India's tax system. Be that as it may, it is now time to introspect about the contribution of every member of the Federation to this Institution. Having completed six months of our Golden Jubilee year, this is an appropriate occasion for each one of us to reflect upon our individual contribution towards the growth of the Federation. The Aims and Objectives of the Federation is not a distant dream but a destination. In this journey, I wish to suggest that every member of the Federation inculcates the spirit of professional expertise and contribute to the Federation. I hasten to add that every member must showcase the Federation's activities to every stakeholder.

India is redefining its brand identity by transforming the human capital into a power house of innovation, entrepreneurship and global expansion. India, today is increasingly being recognised not merely as a large economy but as a trusted global destination for investment, manufacturing, innovation and digital governance. Tax professionals have an important role in supporting this transformation. The job of a professional is his/her intrinsic ability to transform localized knowledge into scalable ventures while strengthening the roots of the Federation. This thought is not a mere possibility but an achievable reality. To achieve this objective, every member of the Federation needs to contribute to the activities of the Federation.

Income Tax and Goods and Services Tax Laws:

The statutory due dates for filing of appeals before the GST Appellate Tribunal, Income Tax Return Filing, Tax Audits, GST compliances, and advisory responsibilities place considerable demands upon every tax professional. Yet, these demanding months also reaffirm the indispensable role that tax practitioners play in strengthening voluntary compliance, facilitating ease of doing business, and supporting the Nation's fiscal framework.

This year assumes even greater significance with the implementation of the Income-tax Act, 2025, which has ushered in a new era in direct tax legislation. The legislation aims to simplify the structure of tax law, improve readability, reduce duplication, and facilitate easier compliance.

While simplification has been one of its principal objectives, every new enactment inevitably presents interpretational challenges during its initial years of implementation. The transition from the earlier enactment will also require careful appreciation of savings provisions, continuity of judicial precedents, and practical implementation issues. As professionals, we must carefully study the provisions, understand the legislative intent, and guide taxpayers with clarity and confidence.

The current return filing season also reminds us that timely and accurate compliance is the foundation of an efficient tax administration. The Income-tax Department has further strengthened technology-driven administration through greater integration of information systems, enhanced data analytics, pre-filled return utilities, and improved taxpayer services. These developments require tax practitioners to continuously upgrade their professional knowledge while exercising sound judgement in reconciling financial information and statutory disclosures.

On the indirect tax front, the Goods and Services Tax has completed nearly nine years since its introduction. During this journey, GST has evolved considerably through legislative amendments, judicial pronouncements, technological enhancements, and administrative clarifications. The recent extension of the time limit for filing appeals before the GST Appellate Tribunal has provided much-needed relief to taxpayers and professionals alike, enabling litigants to pursue statutory remedies more effectively.

Simultaneously, GSTN continues to introduce system-based improvements, including changes in e-Way Bill reporting requirements and portal functionalities, with the objective of enhancing transparency and reducing compliance gaps. While these reforms improve the efficiency of tax administration, they also require businesses and professionals to remain vigilant and prepared for evolving compliance standards.

Equally important are the numerous judicial pronouncements delivered by various High Courts and Tribunals over the past few weeks. Decisions protecting bona fide taxpayers from denial of Input Tax Credit solely on account of retrospective cancellation of suppliers' registrations, reiterating principles of natural justice in assessment proceedings, and clarifying procedural safeguards under GST reinforce the importance of constitutional fairness in tax administration. Such judgments continue to strengthen the confidence of taxpayers in the judicial process while reminding authorities that procedural fairness remains an integral part of tax governance.

Role of Tax Professionals:

The role of the tax professionals has therefore expanded significantly. Today, we are no longer merely return preparers or compliance facilitators. We serve as advisors, strategists, educators, mediators, and officers of justice within the taxation ecosystem. Clients increasingly seek comprehensive guidance encompassing tax planning, litigation management, regulatory compliance, business restructuring, succession planning, international taxation, and technology-driven advisory services.

Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, and automation are rapidly transforming professional practice. Research that once consumed several hours can now be completed within minutes. Drafting tools have become more sophisticated, and routine compliance activities are increasingly automated. While these technologies undoubtedly enhance productivity, they cannot replace

professional wisdom, ethical judgement, analytical ability, or practical experience. Technology should complement our professional capabilities rather than substitute them.

Activities of the Federation:

The Federation has consistently recognised the importance of continuous professional education. Through National Tax Conferences, Residential Refresher Courses, webinars, certificate programmes, study circles, research publications, and regional seminars, AIFTP continues to provide valuable learning opportunities to members across the country. I encourage every member—particularly our younger professionals—to actively participate in these initiatives. The strength of our Federation lies in the collective pursuit of knowledge.

Our Journal remains one of the Federation's most respected intellectual contributions to the profession. For decades, it has served as an authentic source of legal analysis, case law reporting, legislative developments, and scholarly discussion. I sincerely invite members from every zone to contribute articles, research papers, practical experiences, and case law digests. Active participation from members ensures that our publication continues to remain relevant, informative, and academically enriching.

The Federation has also consistently represented the concerns of taxpayers and professionals before various Government authorities. Constructive representations have always been one of our defining strengths. As tax laws continue to evolve, meaningful dialogue between the profession and the administration becomes increasingly important. Our objective has never been confrontation but constructive engagement aimed at improving tax administration while protecting the legitimate interests of taxpayers.

Professional Ethics of the Members of the Federation:

Professional ethics deserve special emphasis. Public confidence in our profession depends not only upon our technical competence but also upon our integrity, independence, confidentiality, and commitment to justice. In an environment driven by increasing digitalisation and regulatory scrutiny, ethical conduct remains our greatest professional asset. Every opinion we render, every return we certify, and every representation we make reflects upon the credibility of our profession as a whole. The Federation derives its strength from the active participation of its members. I encourage every member to take part in the academic, professional, and organisational activities conducted by the Federation and its affiliated associations. Together, we can continue to build an institution that remains relevant, progressive, inclusive, and respected.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to our National Office Bearers, Members of the National Executive Committee, Zone Chairmen, Managing Committee Members, Committee Chairmen, Office Bearers of all Zones, and every dedicated member who continues to devote valuable time and effort towards strengthening our Federation. Your selfless contribution ensures that AIFTP continues to be recognised as one of India's most respected professional organisations.

As we move forward, let us continue to uphold the ideals upon which our Federation was founded—professional excellence, ethical practice, knowledge sharing, and service to society. Let us mentor the next generation of professionals, contribute to meaningful tax reforms, and uphold the rule of law in every aspect of our professional lives.

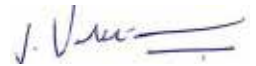
Together, we shall continue to strengthen our profession and contribute to a transparent, equitable, and efficient tax system that supports India's continued economic growth. I am sure that every member of the Federation will act with purpose in realizing the dream of India – Viksith Bharat.

Conclusion:

As I complete the first six months of my tenure as the National President of our Federation during this historic Golden Jubilee Year, I look back with a deep sense of gratitude. Together, we have organised meaningful academic programmes, strengthened our institutional initiatives, and continued to uphold the values that have guided AIFTP for five decades. While much has been accomplished, I believe there is still much more that we can achieve together. As we embark upon the second half of this memorable year, I look forward to working closely with every member of the Federation in further strengthening our academic excellence, expanding member engagement, and enhancing the stature of our Institution. It will be my greatest satisfaction if, at the end of my tenure, I can look back with the confidence that we have collectively left the Federation stronger.

I wish all our members and their families good health, happiness, and continued professional success.

With warm regards and best wishes,



CA S. Venkataramani

National President

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