7th Edition



INCOME TAX LAW & PRACTICE

ASSESSMENT YEAR 2025-26

Prof. Preeti Rani Mittal Dr. Anshika Bansal



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Income Tax

Law & Practice

(Assessment Year 2025-26)

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LAW AND PRACTICE (Assessment Year 2025-26)

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Preface



PREFACE TO SEVENTH EDITION

We are pleased to present the seventh edition of Income Tax Law and Practice, thoroughly revised and updated as per the Finance Act, 2024 for the Assessment Year 2025–26. This edition has been carefully prepared to make the subject of income tax more understandable, practical, and relevant for students.

The book begins with a clear explanation of basic income tax concepts, including definitions and the structure of taxation in India. It then moves into detailed chapters on the five heads of income—salary, house property, business or profession, capital gains, and income from other sources—explaining how each type of income is computed and taxed under the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Special attention has been given to topics such as exempt incomes, clubbing of income, set-off and carry forward of losses, and deductions available under Chapter VI-A. The book also includes dedicated chapters on the assessment of individuals, HUFs, and firms including LLPs, along with detailed coverage of rebates and relief, return filing, TDS, and the procedure of assessment.

This edition includes updated content on two key areas: a newly added chapter that explains the structure and functioning of Income Tax Authorities, and an appendix that presents recent case laws to help readers understand how tax laws are interpreted in real court decisions. These updates aim to bridge the gap between theory and application.

Throughout the book, illustrations and unsolved problems are arranged according to sub-topics, helping students to apply theoretical knowledge to practical questions. Updated examples based on the latest tax slabs under both the new and old regimes have also been included for better understanding.

To support easy learning, the book provides notes, hints, and summaries within each chapter. A comprehensive Table of Contents, List of Tables, and List of Figures further improve the user experience.

At the beginning of the book, a section on Silent Features of 2025 has been included to highlight all important amendments brought by the Finance Act, 2025 in a summarized and easy-to-locate format, enabling students to stay updated with the latest changes in law.

This book is designed primarily for students of B.Com., B.Com. (Hons.), BBA, BCA, M.Com., MBA, and CA (Intermediate). It aims to serve as a complete academic resource for students and teachers alike.

vi Preface

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our parents and family members for their constant support and encouragement. A special mention goes to our dear Dipesh Mittal and Pranika Bansal, whose love and inspiration have been truly motivating. We are deeply grateful to Mr. Vikas Mittal and Mr. Ayush Bansal for their invaluable help in editing the content of *Income Tax Law*. Their contributions have been instrumental in refining this edition.

We also express our sincere appreciation to our publisher, Sultan Chand & Sons, for their dedicated efforts in presenting this edition so professionally. We firmly believe that there is always room for improvement, and we warmly welcome suggestions and feedback for making this book even better in future editions.

Prof. Preeti Rani Mittal Dr. Anshika Bansal

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Snapshot of the Book

								Objecti	ve Type Q	Questions	
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22.	Assessment Procedure	38	2	7	2	7	5	5	6	6	2
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	Total	938	108	41	387	168	209	269	184	186	300

Salient Features of Finance Act, 2025



SALIENT FEATURES OF FINANCE ACT 2025

The Finance Act, 2025 brings several important changes to the Income Tax Act to provide tax relief, reduce compliance burden, and support investment and savings. Major updates include revision of tax slabs under the new tax regime, increase in rebate limit, relief in surcharge, changes in TDS rules, tax benefits for start-ups and NPS Vatsalya, and simplification of rules related to house property and ULIP taxation. The major amendments introduced through the Finance Act, 2025 are listed below.

New Tax Regime

The new tax regime was introduced in Budget 2020 and made the default tax system from Assessment Year 2024–25. However, from Assessment Year 2026–27, a revised version of this regime under Section 115BAC(1A) is now applicable. It covers Individuals, Hindu Undivided Family, Association of Persons, Body of Individuals, and Artificial Juridical Persons. This regime offers lower tax rates but disallows most deductions such as Section 80C, HRA, and LTA. In the Finance Act, 2025, the Government has made changes in the income slabs under new regime to provide relief to taxpayers. The revised tax rates under the new regime are given below:

Income Tax Slab Rates for A.Y 2026-27

S. No.	Total income	Rate of tax
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Upto ₹ 4,00,000	Nil
2.	From ₹ 4,00,001 to ₹ 8,00,000	5 per cent
3.	From ₹ 8,00,001 to ₹ 12,00,000	10 per cent
4.	From ₹ 12,00,001 to ₹ 16,00,000	15 per cent
5.	From ₹ 16,00,001 to ₹ 20,00,000	20 per cent
6.	From ₹ 20,00,001 to ₹ 24,00,000	25 per cent
7.	Above ₹ 24,00,000	30 per cent

Old Tax Regime

For the Assessment Year 2026-27, if a taxpayer wishes to be taxed under the old tax regime, they must opt for it under Section 115BAC(6). This regime allows the taxpayer to claim various

exemptions and deductions such as Section 80C, HRA, LTA, etc., which are not available in the new regime. The tax slab rates under the old regime depend on the age and residential status of the individual. In the case of resident individuals, different basic exemption limits apply based on age: below 60 years, senior citizens (60 to less than 80 years), and super senior citizens (80 years and above). For non-resident individuals, the slab rates remain the same regardless of age.

Resident Individuals below the Age of 60 Years: For an individual, other than those mentioned below:

S. No.	Total income	Rate of tax
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Upto ₹ 2,50,000	Nil
2.	₹ 2,50,001 – ₹ 5,00,000	5%
3.	₹ 5,00,001 – ₹ 10,00,000	20%
4.	Above ₹ 10,00,000	30%

Income Tax Slab Rates for A.Y 2026-27

For Resident Senior Citizen: For an individual resident senior citizen, who is 60 years or more at any time during the previous year but less than 80 years on the last day of the previous year:

1.	Upto ₹ 3,00,000	Nil
2.	₹ 3,00,001 – ₹ 5,00,000	5%
3.	₹ 5,00,001 – ₹ 10,00,000	20%
4.	Above ₹ 10,00,000	30%

Income Tax Slab Rates for A.Y 2026-27

For Resident Super Senior Citizen: For an individual resident super senior citizen, who is 80 years or more at any time during the previous year:

1.	Upto ₹ 5,00,000	Nil
2.	₹ 5,00,001 – ₹ 10,00,000	20%
3.	Above ₹ 10,00,000	30%

Income Tax Slab Rates for A.Y 2026-27

For Hindu Undivided Family, AOP, BOI, Artificial Judicial Person: For Hindu Undivided Family, Association of Persons or Body of Individuals, whether incorporated or not, or Artificial Juridical Person referred to in Section 2(31)(vii) of the Act:

S. No.	Total income	Rate of tax
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Upto ₹ 2,50,000	Nil
2.	₹ 2,50,001 – ₹ 5,00,000	5%
3.	₹ 5,00,001 - ₹ 10,00,000	20%
4	Above ₹ 10 00 000	30%

Income Tax Slab Rates for A.Y 2026-27

Replacement of "Previous Year" and "Assessment Year" with "Tax Year"

The Income-tax Act, 2025 replaces the earlier dual concept of "Previous Year" and "Assessment Year" with a single term – "Tax Year" to simplify the tax structure. As per Section 3(1) of the Act, the Tax Year means the financial year starting from 1st April and ending on 31st March of the same year. For new businesses or sources of income, Section 3(2) provides that the Tax Year begins from the date of setup or income generation and ends on the same financial year-end.

Rebate Enhanced under Section 87A for New Tax Regime

The Finance Act, 2025 has brought a major relief to individual taxpayers by enhancing the rebate limit under Section 87A. This rebate is available only to resident individuals whose total income is chargeable under Section 115BAC(1A), *i.e.*, the new concessional tax regime.

From the Assessment Year 2026-27, a rebate of up to $\stackrel{?}{\stackrel{\checkmark}}$ 60,000 will be allowed if the total income of the individual does not exceed $\stackrel{?}{\stackrel{\checkmark}}$ 12,00,000. Earlier, this rebate was limited to $\stackrel{?}{\stackrel{\checkmark}}$ 25,000 for income up to $\stackrel{?}{\stackrel{\checkmark}}$ 7,00,000. This change ensures that individuals earning up to $\stackrel{?}{\stackrel{\checkmark}}$ 12 lakh can claim full or partial tax relief under the new regime.

However, it is important to note that this rebate is not applicable on income taxed at special rates, such as short-term capital gains under Section 111A, or long-term capital gains under Sections 112 and 112A.

Surcharge Relief in Budget 2025

The Finance Act, 2025 has made significant changes to the surcharge on income-tax, especially for those opting for the new tax regime under Section 115BAC(1A). The aim is to reduce the tax burden on high-income individuals and promote simplicity in tax computation.

The maximum surcharge rate under the new regime is now restricted to 25%, and the earlier surcharge of 37% on income exceeding ₹ 5 crore (excluding capital gains/dividends) has been removed. Incomes such as capital gains under Sections 111A, 112, and 112A, and dividends are also given relief, as the surcharge on such income cannot exceed 15%.

Surcharge Rates under the Income-tax Act, 2025

Total Income (₹)	Surcharge Rate	Applicability
Above ₹ 50 lakh – up to ₹ 1 crore	10%	Applicable to all assessees
Above ₹ 1 crore – up to ₹ 2 crore	15%	Applicable to all assessees
Above ₹ 2 crore – up to ₹ 5 crore	25%	37% surcharge removed for
(excluding special incomes)		those under Section 115BAC(1A)
Above ₹ 5 crore (excluding	25%	Applicable only under new regime
special incomes)	(instead of 37%)	[Section 115BAC(1A)]
Any amount (on capital gains/	15% (Maximum)	Even if income exceeds ₹ 5 crore, sur-
dividends)		charge on such income capped at 15%

No Tax on Export Purchases by Non-Residents

The Finance Act, 2025 clarifies that non-residents who purchase goods from India only for export will not be treated as having a business connection or significant economic presence (SEP) under Section 9. This means such export-related purchases will not be taxed in India, ensuring consistency and avoiding confusion from earlier provisions. This change will apply from Assessment Year 2026-27 onwards.

Increase in Income Limits for Perquisite Exemption

Under Section 17(2), certain benefits provided by the employer are not treated as perquisites if the employee's salary does not exceed $\stackrel{?}{\stackrel{\checkmark}{}} 50,000$, and foreign medical travel expenses are also exempt if gross total income is below $\stackrel{?}{\stackrel{\checkmark}{}} 2,00,000$. Since these income limits no longer reflect current economic conditions, the Finance Act, 2025 allow the government to revise these limits through rules, keeping in view the rising cost of living.

Simplification of Annual Value for Self-Occupied Property

Under the current Section 23(2) of the Income Tax Act, the annual value of a self-occupied house property is considered nil, if the house is used by the owner for residential purposes or if the owner is unable to occupy it due to employment, business, or profession at another location. As per Section 23(4), this benefit is available for a maximum of two-house properties, as specified by the assessee.

The Finance Act, 2025 has now simplified this rule. As per the amendment, if a person is living in their own house or is unable to live in it due to any reason (not just job or business), the annual value will still be considered nil. This change gives more flexibility and removes the need to explain the reason for non-occupation.

However, the earlier limit of two-house properties still applies. So, this nil annual value benefit can be claimed only for two houses.

Capital Gains Treatment for Investment Funds Securities

The Finance Act, 2025 provides that securities held by investment funds (under Section 115UB) in accordance with SEBI regulations will be treated as capital assets. Therefore, income from their transfer will be taxed as capital gains, not as business income.

Uniform Tax Rate on Long-Term Capital Gains for Non-Residents

Under Section 115AD, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and specified funds were taxed at 10% on long-term capital gains (LTCG) from securities not covered under Section 112A.

The Finance Act (No. 2), 2024 increased the LTCG tax rate to 12.5% for all assessees but retained the 10% rate for FIIs and specified funds for non-112A securities. To remove this difference, the Finance Act, 2025 now provides that LTCG from all such securities (excluding Section 112A and 115AB units) will be taxed at 12.5%, bringing uniformity across taxpayers.

Tax Deduction for Contributions to NPS Vatsalya

[Section 80CCD and Section 10(12BA)]

The NPS Vatsalya Scheme, launched on 18 September 2024, allows parents or guardians to open a National Pension Scheme (NPS) account for their minor children. The account is managed by the guardian until the child turns 18, after which it is transferred to the child's name and continues as an NPS Tier-1 account.

To encourage savings for minors, the Finance Act, 2025 proposes the following tax benefits:

- Under Section 80CCD(1B), parents/guardians can claim a deduction up to ₹ 50,000 for contributions made to a minor's NPS Vatsalya account.
- The withdrawal of such amounts (or returns on them) will be taxable in the year of withdrawal, except in the case of death of the minor, where such amount will be exempt.
 - A new clause Section 10(12BA) is introduced to exempt partial withdrawals made for specific purposes like education, medical treatment, or disability (over 75%) of the minor, up to 25% of contributions, as per PFRDA regulations.

Clarity on Taxation of ULIP Maturity Proceeds

Under Section 10(10D), the maturity amount received from a life insurance policy, including any bonus, is exempt from income tax if the annual premium does not exceed 10% of the actual capital sum assured. To limit this exemption to small and genuine cases, the Finance Act, 2021 introduced a condition that for ULIPs issued on or after 1st February 2021, the exemption will not apply if the annual premium exceeds ₹ 2,50,000.

However, there was confusion regarding the tax treatment of such non-exempt ULIPs. To bring clarity, the Finance Act, 2025 proposes that ULIPs not eligible for exemption under Section 10(10D) will be treated as capital assets under Section 2(14). The profit from their redemption will be taxed under capital gains as per Section 45(1B). Additionally, these ULIPs will be included in the definition of equity-oriented funds under Section 112A, making them eligible for equity capital gains tax treatment.

Measures to Promote Investment and Employment in IFSC

An International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) is set up to provide world-class financial services to non-residents and certain residents in foreign currencies. To strengthen India's position as a global financial hub, the government has already offered various tax benefits to units in IFSC. To further encourage investment and generate employment, the Finance Act, 2025 has proposed important amendments, which are listed below.

- Extension of Sunset Dates for IFSC Tax Benefits: The Finance Act, 2025 has extended the sunset date to 31st March, 2030 for various tax concessions related to IFSC under Section 80LA(2)(d), 10(4D), 10(4F), 10(4H), and 47(viiad). These changes will apply from 1st April, 2025.
- Exemption for IFSC Life Insurance Policies: As per the amendment to Section 10(10D) of the Income-tax Act, with effect from 1st April 2025, any amount received under a life insurance policy issued by an Insurance Office located in the International Financial Services Centre shall be fully exempt from tax.
- Exemption to Ship Leasing Units in IFSC [Sections 10(4H) & 10(34B)]: As per the amendment to Section 10(4H), capital gains from the transfer of equity shares of domestic companies engaged in ship leasing by non-residents or IFSC units will now be exempt. Similarly, under Section 10(34B), dividends paid by an IFSC unit engaged in ship leasing to another IFSC unit will also be exempt.
- Deemed Dividend Exclusion for IFSC Treasury Centres: Section 2(22)(e) treats certain loans to shareholders as deemed dividends. To avoid this for IFSC treasury centres, the Finance Act, 2025 provides that loans or advances between group entities will not be treated as dividends if one entity is a finance unit in IFSC and the parent entity is listed abroad (excluding notified countries).

Extension of Tax Benefit Timeline for Start-ups (Section 80-IAC)

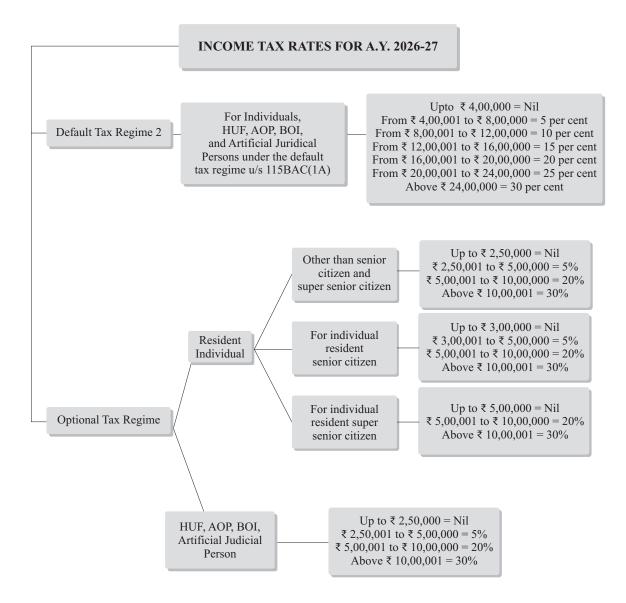
Under Section 80-IAC, eligible start-ups can claim 100% tax deduction on profits for any 3 consecutive years out of 10, if certain conditions are met, including incorporation between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2025. The Finance Act, 2025 extends this timeline by 5 years. Now, start-ups incorporated up to 31st March 2030 can avail this benefit.

Changes in TDS Deduction Rules

TDS provisions have various thresholds of amount of payment or amount of income, beyond which tax is required be deducted. It is proposed to rationalize these thresholds as below:

Revised TDS Threshold Limits

Section	Nature of Income	Current Threshold	Proposed Threshold
193	Interest on securities	Nil	₹ 10,000
194A	194A – Interest other than	(i) ₹ 50,000 for senior	₹ 1,00,000 (senior citizens)
	Interest on securities)	citizen;	₹ 50,000 in case of others
		(ii) ₹ 40,000 in case of	when payer is bank, co-
		others when payer is	operative society and post
		bank, cooperative	office ₹ 10,000 (others –
		society and post office	non-bank)
		(iii) ₹ 5,000 in other cases	
194	Dividend (individual		
	shareholder)	₹ 5,000	₹ 10,000
194K	Mutual fund units/income	₹ 5,000	₹ 10,000
194B	Winnings from lottery,	Aggregate of amounts	₹ 10,000 in respect of a
	puzzles, etc.	exceeding ₹ 10,000	single transaction
		during the financial year	
194BB	Winnings from horse race		
194D	Insurance commission	₹ 15,000	₹ 20,000
194G	Commission/prize on		
	lottery tickets	₹ 15,000	₹ 20,000
194H	Commission or brokerage	₹ 15,000	₹ 20,000
194-I	Rent	₹ 2,40,000/year	₹ 50,000 per month
194J	Professional/technical		
	services	₹ 30,000	₹ 50,000
194LA	Enhanced compensation	₹ 2,50,000	₹ 5,00,000



Income Tax for Non-resident: Taxable Income & Deduction



The Indian Income Tax Act of 1961 also applies to anyone generating income outside their own country besides residents. The income tax regulations and benefits available to them differ significantly from those available to resident Indians.

WHO IS A NON-RESIDENT?

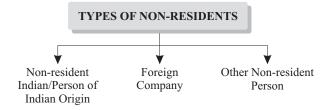
"Non-resident" is a person who has not been residing in India for a specified period of time. The Residential Status of an individual in a given year determines whether the individual is Resident or Non-resident for the year.

HOW TO DETERMINE RESIDENTIAL STATUS OF NON-RESIDENT?

Residential status of an individual is determined on the basis of the number of days an individual has physically stayed in India. Residential status has nothing to do with the nationality or domicile of an individual. It may also happen that an Indian, who is citizen of India, may be a non-resident for Income Tax purposes in a particular year and an American citizen may be resident in India for Income Tax purposes in a particular year.

TYPES OF NON-RESIDENTS

Under Income Tax Act 1961, non-resident is broadly classified under the following three heads:



DO NON-RESIDENT HAVE TO PAY TAXES IN INDIA FOR INCOME EARNED ABROAD?

The answer is YES. After determination of residential status, the next step is to identify income taxable in India as per person residential status.

For Resident Individuals: All income is taxable in India *i.e.*, income earned whether in India or outside India is taxable in India.

For Non-resident Indians: Only income earned or accrued in India or deemed to be so is taxable in India. Therefore, income from any country besides India is not taxable in India.

WHAT IS INCOME EARNED OR ACCRUED IN INDIA?

India follows "source rule" basis of taxation, *i.e.*, all the income which accrue or arises from or through a source in India is taxable in India. Therefore, identifying the source of Income is of utmost importance. If it is established that the income has its source in India, whether direct or indirect, such income would become taxable in India. List of such incomes are:

- Any salary received in India
- Any salary received for services rendered in India
- Rental income (if any) received from a property situated in India
- Capital gain (if any) arising on account of transfer of property or asset in India
- Any income from deposits in India such as interest on fixed deposits
- Any interest received on savings bank account, etc.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS RELATED TO INVESTMENT INCOME OF NON-RESIDENT

As a Non-resident person can avail of a special provision related to investment income. A Non-resident is taxed at 20% when he invests in certain assets in India. All the more, he/she is not required to file an income tax return if his/her income comprises only special investment income and TDS on the same has been deducted.

WHAT ARE THE INVESTMENTS THAT QUALIFY FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT?

The income derived from the following assets in India acquired in foreign currency shall qualify for special treatment:

- Shares in Indian Companies (Public or Private company)
- Debentures, only issued by a publicly-listed Indian company (not private)
- Deposits with banks and public companies
- Any security of the Central Government
- No deduction under Section 80 will be allowed while calculating investment income.

DEDUCTIONS AVAILABLE TO NON-RESIDENT

Of the total deductions available to a resident individual, few are not available to non-resident individuals. A brief list of deductions available or not to Non-residents is shown below:

Section	Deductions Allowed	Deductions Not Allowed
80C	 LIC premium Tuition Fees Principal repayment of home loans Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) Equity Linked Tax Saving Scheme (ELSS) 	• Investment in Public Provident Fund (PPF) (Not allowed opening a new PPF account. However, PPF account opened while you are a resident is allowed to be maintained.)

Section	Deductions Allowed	Deductions Not Allowed
	Investment in National Saving Certificate (NSC)	Post Office 5year Deposit schemeSenior citizen savings scheme <i>etc</i>.
80D	Medical Insurance	NA
80E	Interest paid on Education loan	NA
80DD	Deduction for maintenance including medical treatment of dependent handi- capped as defined under section	NA
80G	• Payments made in the form of eligible Donations	NA
80DDB	Deduction for medical treatment of dependent handicapped (as certified by a prescribed specialist	NA
80TTA/ 80TTB	Interest on Savings Bank Account	NA
80U	Deduction allowed to a tax payer who himself suffers from disability	NA

NON-RESIDENT IS TAXED AT WHICH INCOME TAX SLAB RATE

Tax Slabs of Non-resident for Assessment Year 2025-26

Unlike residents for who tax rates are classified on the basis of age, no such classification is available for Non-residents. Hence, for Non-Residents whether aged

- Below 60 Years
- · Above 60-80 Years, and
- Above 80 Years
- All are taxed uniformly

The tax slab rates for Non-resident Individuals are:

Income	Tax Rate
Up to ₹ 2,50,000	Nil
₹ 2,50,000 to ₹ 5,00,000	5%
₹ 5,00,000 to ₹ 10,00,000	20%
Above ₹ 10,00,000	30%

Benefits of Basic Exemption Limit

• As a Non-resident, you still get the benefit of the basic exemption limit of ₹ 2,50,000 from your total income. However, if total income of Non-resident in India consists of only short-term capital gains or long-term capital gains, then the benefit of the basic exemption limit is not available in respect of such gains.

When is a Non-residents Required to File his Income Tax Return?

Non-residents are required to file a return of income if they have taxable income in India. In the following situations an NRI is required to file Income Tax Return in India:

- If Non-Residents Gross Total Income before allowing any deductions under section 80 is more than ₹ 2,50,000.
- If Non-residents are seeking a refund from the department.
- If Non-residents want to have the benefit of carrying forward of losses.

About the Book

- Covers Latest Amendments: Updated as per the Finance Act, 2024, with all important changes relevant for A.Y. 2025–26.
- Easy-to-Understand Format: Concepts are presented in a clear, structured, and student-friendly manner for better understanding.
- Rich in Illustrations and Practical Problems: Includes numerous solved examples and unsolved questions, arranged topic-wise to build application skills.
- Helpful Tax Planning Tips: Practical hints provided at suitable places to guide students on effective tax planning methods.
- Covers Court Rulings in Detail: Important and recent case laws are included in the appendix, showing how
 courts interpret tax provisions.
- Exam-Oriented Content: Designed to meet the needs of students appearing in university and professional exams, with relevant questions and formats.
- Comparison of Old vs. New Tax Regime: The impact of both regimes is highlighted throughout the book, helping students clearly understand the differences and choose the right approach.

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- Auditing and Corporate Governance
- Fundamentals of Income Tax: Problems and Solutions

Prof. Mittal, was awarded 'Tejaswini Women of India National Award for Best Teaching'. She was conferred 'Saraswatibai Dadasahab Phalke' Iconic International Women Award for her contribution to Education in March 2021. She has also been a co-guide for Ph.D. students. She is associated with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Public Service Commission, Uttarakhand, C.C.S. University, S.D.S. University, H.G.U. and H.N.B. Garhwal University, etc. Her areas of interest include Taxation, Human Resource Management, Accounting, Corporate Governance, etc. Apart from being a passionate reader and writer, she is also an acclaimed speaker.

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