INCOME TAX COLLECTION MECHANISM IN INDIA AND ITS IMPACT

The various income tax collection mechanisms in India and its contribution towards total gross direct tax receipts are

- Self-assessment
- Regular assessment
- Advance tax
- TDS/TCS

Self-assessment

In India, self-assessment is a process where taxpayers are responsible for assessing their own income, determining the tax liability, and filing the income tax return accordingly. The income tax return includes details of the income earned, deductions claimed, and the tax payable. Taxpayers need to accurately report their income and comply with the provisions of the Income Tax Act.

Regular assessment

Regular assessment of income tax in India is a vital process conducted by the Income Tax Department to ensure compliance with tax regulations. This assessment involves the scrutiny of an individual or entity's financial records, income sources, and deductions to determine the accurate amount of taxable income. Taxpayers are required to file their income tax returns annually, and the assessment is a subsequent examination carried out by tax authorities. It plays a crucial role in maintaining fiscal transparency, preventing tax evasion, and ensuring that taxpayers fulfil their obligations in accordance with the Income Tax Act of India. The assessment process may involve communication between taxpayers and tax officials, and it aims to promote fairness and accuracy in the taxation system.

Advance tax

Advance tax is a mechanism through which taxpayers are required to pay their income tax liability in instalments before the end of the financial year. This is applicable to individuals, including salaried employees, professionals, and businesses, whose tax liability exceeds a specified limit.

Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) and Tax Collected at Source (TCS)

TDS is a system where tax is deducted at the source of income itself, rather than at a later stage. It is applicable to various types of income, such as salaries, interest, rent, commission, and payments to contractors and professionals. The person responsible for making the payment deducts a certain percentage of the amount payable as tax before making the payment to the payee. The deducted amount is then deposited with the government on behalf of the payee. TDS rates vary depending on the nature of the income.

The TDS system serves several purposes, including ensuring a regular source of revenue for the government, reducing tax evasion, and making the tax collection process more efficient. It also acts as a tool for the government to track high-value transactions and monitor financial activities.

TCS, on the other hand, involves the collection of tax by the seller from the buyer at the time of sale. It is primarily applicable to transactions involving the sale of specified goods such as alcoholic liquor, scrap, forest produce, minerals, and motor vehicles. The seller collects the tax from the buyer and deposits it with the government.

TCS helps in widening the tax base and ensures that taxes are collected at an early stage of the transaction. It is also a mechanism to track and regulate certain types of transactions to prevent tax evasion.

Both TDS and TCS play crucial roles in the Indian tax system, contributing to the overall efficiency and effectiveness of tax collection. Compliance with these provisions is essential for individuals and entities to avoid penalties and legal consequences. The rates and rules governing TDS and TCS are subject to periodic amendments by the government, and it is important for taxpayers to stay updated on any changes in the regulations

Financial Year	TDS	Adv. Tax	Self- Assessment. Tax	Regular Assessment Tax	Other Receipts ^{\$}	Total Gross Direct Tax Receipts [#]
2013-14	2,48,547	2,92,522	44,123	72,528	63,884	7,21,604
2014-15	2,59,106	3,26,525	52,050	80,189	81,589	7,99,459
2015-16	2,87,412	3,52,899	54,860	63,814	1,05,384	8,64,369
2016-17	3,43,134	4,06,769	68, <mark>1</mark> 60	74,138	1,20,200	10,12,401
2017-18*	4,12,768	4,61,967	1,01,873	98,785	79,043	11,54,693
2018-19*	4,87,667	5,30,284	99,716	1,03,774	77,356	12,98,797
2019-20*	4,80,383	4,67,315	85,099	67,620	1,33,842	12,34,258
2020-21*	4,70,276	5,17,769	84,734	42,297	91,815	12,06,891
2021-22*	6,34,243	7,09,364	1, 1 4,506	60,829	1,17,139	16,36,081
2022-23*	7,28,296	7,85,254	1,92,456	75,954	1,86,040	19,68,000

Table:1 Pre-Assessment and Post-Assessment Collections (in Crs)

Source: Income tax website

Table: 2 Direct Tax Collection (in Crs)

Financial Year	Corporate Tax	Personal Income Tax@	Other Direct Taxes	Total
2012-13	3,56,326	2,01,840	823	5,58,989
2013-14	3,94,678	2,42,888	1,030	6,38,596
2014-15	4,28,925	2,65,772	1,095	6,95,792
2015-16	4,53,228	2,87,637	1,079	7,41,945
2016-17	4,84,924	3,49,503	15,286	8,49,713
2017-18*	5,71,202	4,20,084	11,452	10,02,738
2018-19*	6,63,572	4,73,179	967	11,37,718
2019-20*	5,56,876	4,92,717	1,088	10,50,681
2020-21*	4,57,719	4,87,560	1,897	9,47,176
2021-22*	7,12,037	6,96,604	3,781	14,12,422
2022-23 ^{pg}	10,04,118	9,60,764	5,478	19,68,000

Financial Year	Direct Taxes* (Rs. crore)	Indirect Taxes** (Rs. crore)	Total Taxes (Rs. crore)	Direct Tax As % Of Total Taxes
2013-14	6,38,596	4,95,347	11,33,943	56.32%
2014-15	6,95,792	5,43,215	12,39,007	56.16%
2015-16	7,41,945	7,11,885	14,54,180	51.03%
2016-17	8,49,713	8,61,515	17,11,228	49.65%
2017-18	10,02,738	9,15,256	19,17,994	52.28%
2018-19	11,37,718	9,37,322	20,75,040	54.83%
2019-20	10,50,681	9,53,513	20,04,194	52.42%
2020-21	9,47,176	10,74,809	20,21,985	46.84%
2021-22	14,12,422	12,89,662	27,02,084	52.27%
2022-23	19,68,000	17,92,000	37,60,000	52.34%

Table: 3 Contribution of Direct Taxes to Total Tax Revenue (in Crs)

Source: Income tax website

	Number of Income-Tax Returns Filed (Including Revised Return)											
s	PAN Category	FY 2013-	FY 2014-	FY 2015-	FY 2016-	FY 2017-	FY 2017-	FY 2018-	FY 2019-	FY 2020-	FY 2021-	FY 2022-
no	values in crs	14	15	16	17	18	18	19	20	21	22	23
1	INDIVIDUAL	3.50431	3.74089	4.29258	5.22050	6.45590	6.45590	6.32500	6.38989	6.94895	6.86475	7.33119
2	HUF	0.09555	0.09665	0.10425	0.11635	0.12885	0.12885	0.12144	0.11922	0.12629	0.12665	0.12744
3	FIRM	0.09606	0.09921	0.11108	0.11814	0.13938	0.13938	0.14097	0.13660	0.15272	0.15193	0.15738
4	COMPANY	0.07150	0.07535	0.07805	0.08040	0.09428	0.09428	0.09649	0.09339	0.10238	0.10593	0.10884
5	AOP(TRUST)	0.01837	0.01882	0.02758	0.02645	0.02920	0.02920	0.02922	0.02836	0.03105	0.02860	0.02870
6	OTHER AOP/BOI	0.01055	0.01110	0.01532	0.01680	0.02142	0.02142	0.02119	0.02096	0.02688	0.02548	0.02667
	LOCAL											
7	AUTHORITY	0.00028	0.00026	0.00034	0.00035	0.00040	0.00040	0.00037	0.00034	0.00045	0.00039	0.00038
8	AJP	0.00087	0.00088	0.00104	0.00109	0.00115	0.00115	0.00107	0.00096	0.00110	0.00093	0.00099
9	OTHERS	0.00000	0.00000	0.00001	0.00001	0.00002	0.00002	0.00003	0.00004	0.00005	0.00004	0.00005
	TOTAL	3.79750	4.04317	4.63024	5.58010	6.87061	6.87061	6.73578	6.78975	7.38986	7.30471	7.78164

Source: Income tax website

	NO OF TAX PAYER										
		AY 2013-	AY 2014-	AY 2015-	AY 2016-	AY 2017-	AY 2018-	AY 2019-	AY 2020-	AY 2-021-	AY 2022-
SR	PAN Category	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1	INDIVIDUAL	4.95766	5.38051	5.79701	6.55559	7.04455	8.04455	8.55618	7.79909	8.25050	8.90898
2	HUF	0.09600	0.09994	0.10552	0.11199	0.11357	0.11872	0.12206	0.12179	0.12707	0.12899
3	FIRM	0.10357	0.10835	0.11561	0.12505	0.13125	0.14254	0.14833	0.15003	0.15593	0.16316
4	COMPANY	0.07028	0.07468	0.07682	0.08106	0.08376	0.08869	0.09283	0.09611	0.10145	0.10773
5	AOP(TRUST)	0.02058	0.02171	0.02318	0.02531	0.02615	0.02846	0.03037	0.02934	0.03019	0.03050
6	OTHER AOP/BOI	0.01474	0.01666	0.01878	0.02144	0.02348	0.02671	0.03029	0.02941	0.03335	0.03550
	LOCAL										
7	AUTHORITY	0.00059	0.00071	0.00075	0.00084	0.00091	0.00102	0.00112	0.00108	0.00115	0.00122
8	AJP	0.00102	0.00106	0.00111	0.00117	0.00115	0.00121	0.00121	0.00116	0.00115	0.00120
9	OTHERS	0.00002	0.00003	0.00005	0.00007	0.00013	0.00026	0.00035	0.00033	0.00039	0.00040
	TOTAL	5.26445	5.70366	6.13883	6.92252	7.42496	8.45215	8.98274	8.22834	8.70119	9.37769

	NUMBER OF PERSON FILING INCOME TAX RETURN (RETURN FILERS)										
		FY 2013-	FY 2014-	FY 2015-	FY 2016-	FY 2017-	FY 2018-	FY 2019-	FY 2020-	FY 2021-	FY 2022-
SR	PAN Category	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1	INDIVIDUAL	3.04975	3.23723	3.61386	4.15938	5.09900	5.95448	6.11304	6.31710	6.54619	6.96909
2	HUF	0.08738	0.08918	0.09408	0.10078	0.11140	0.11664	0.11586	0.12015	0.12266	0.12464
3	FIRM	0.08811	0.09029	0.09840	0.10603	0.12083	0.13188	0.12984	0.14102	0.14516	0.15106
4	COMPANY	0.06360	0.06709	0.06927	0.07152	0.07997	0.08479	0.08405	0.09243	0.09713	0.10272
5	AOP(TRUST)	0.01606	0.01629	0.01796	0.01920	0.02233	0.02446	0.02419	0.02639	0.02711	0.02742
6	OTHER AOP/BOI	0.00886	0.00920	0.01108	0.01267	0.01605	0.01833	0.01844	0.02244	0.02402	0.02477
	LOCAL										
7	AUTHORITY	0.00023	0.00022	0.00025	0.00026	0.00030	0.00031	0.00029	0.00035	0.00036	0.00035
8	AJP	0.00074	0.00071	0.00078	0.00085	0.00091	0.00094	0.00086	0.00095	0.00088	0.00093
9	OTHERS	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000	0.00001	0.00002	0.00003	0.00003	0.00004	0.00004	0.00004
	TOTAL	3.31472	3.51022	3.90568	4.47069	5.45080	6.33186	6.48659	6.72086	6.96354	7.40103

Source: Income tax website

Table:	5	PAN	ALLO	TMENT	BASED	ON	STATUS
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TAXPAYERS STATUS	PAN ALLOTMENT UP TO 31/03/2019	PERCENTAGE	PAN ALLOTMENT UP TO 31/03/2023	PERCENTAGE
ASSOCIATION OF PERSONS	12,11,226	0.27	21,32,094	0.31505
BODY OF INDIVIDUALS	73,074	0.02	1,39,940	0.020678
COMPANY	17,41,192	0.39	23,58,814	0.348553
FIRM	44,32,922	0.99	57,74,497	0.853276
GOVERNMENT	28,205	0.01	72,508	0.010714
HINDU UNDIVIDED FAMILY	20,20,148	0.45	22,89,672	0.338336
ARTIFICIAL JURIDICAL PERSON	37,248	0.01	41,965	0.006201
LOCAL AUTHORITY	77,193	0.02	1,15,356	0.017046
INDIVIDUALS	43,52,48,341	97.65	66,26,72,504	97.92064
TRUST	8,47,834	0.19	11,47,100	0.169503
TOTAL	44,57,17,383	100.00	67,67,44,450	100

Source: RTI

Various latest measure taken by CBDT for effective implementation of tax collection mechanism

1. Using artificial intelligence/machine learning, big data, and data analytics to improve tax administration so that it is more business- and taxpayer-friendly, impartial, and efficient.

Introduction of the "AIS for Taxpayer" mobile application

e-Verification via CBDT Information technology is used by the scheme to motivate voluntary compliance.

Updated Online Tax Accounting System (OLTAS)

Using artificial intelligence/machine learning, big data, and data analytics to improve tax administration so that it is more business- and taxpayer-friendly, impartial, and efficient

INDIRECT TAXES

Comprehensive initiative by the Central Board for Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to leverage advanced analytics, big data, and artificial intelligence in managing indirect taxes. The threefold objectives of enhancing revenue, increasing the taxpayer base, and supporting data-driven tax policy indicate a holistic approach towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the tax system.

The inclusion of Reports, Interactive Dashboards, and Analytical Models as business outputs suggests a multi-faceted strategy to cater to different needs of officers involved in indirect tax operations. The incorporation of advanced analytical capabilities, such as data matching, network analysis, pattern recognition, predictive analytics, text mining, forecasting, and policy studies, showcases a commitment to employing cutting-edge technologies for better decision-making and enforcement.

The emphasis on a knowledge-driven data ecosystem aligns with contemporary best practices in data management and analytics. The focus on the "3 I's" - Information, Insights, and Intelligence - indicates a commitment to providing a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the data for effective decision-making and policy formulation.

Overall, Project ADVAIT appears to be a significant step forward in modernizing and optimizing indirect tax operations, reflecting the government's commitment to leveraging technology for improved governance and revenue management.

DIRECT TAXES

The Direct Taxes (CBDT) is leveraging technology, including data analytics, big data, and Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning, to enhance tax administration and compliance.

Let's break down the key points mentioned:

Identifying High-Risk Cases for Tax Evasion

CBDT is using data analytics and machine learning to identify cases with a high risk of tax evasion and a high likelihood of income addition.

These identified cases are subject to further scrutiny, indicating a targeted approach to tackling potential tax evasion.

Sending Reminders for Advance Tax Payments

The board is using these technologies to identify taxpayers who need reminders for advance tax payments.

This proactive approach aims to improve compliance by ensuring that taxpayers are aware of and meet their tax obligations on time.

Prompting Taxpayers about Mismatches in ITRs and Transactions

CBDT is using technology to notify specific taxpayers about apparent mismatches in their Income Tax Returns (ITRs) and transactions.

This allows taxpayers to revise their returns, promoting accuracy and reducing the likelihood of unintentional errors.

Big Data Techniques for Storage and Search:

Big data techniques are employed for the storage of vast amounts of information and effective search capabilities.

This ensures that income tax officers can access and retrieve relevant information efficiently.

Network Analysis for Visualizing Taxpayers' Relationships

Data analytics is used to visualize the relationships between taxpayers, helping to identify connections and potential patterns of tax evasion.

This includes flagging high-risk transactions that may require further investigation.

Segmentation of Taxpayers for Targeted Campaigns

Data analytics techniques are used to segment taxpayers based on risk profiles.

This segmentation allows for a targeted approach in campaigns to address tax evasion, focusing efforts on high-risk cases.

In summary, the CBDT's use of advanced technologies reflects a modern and data-driven approach to tax administration, aiming to improve efficiency, reduce evasion, and enhance overall compliance.

Introduction of the "AIS for Taxpayer" mobile application

The IT (Income Tax) Department has released an app for mobile phones called 'AIS for Taxpayer' that allows taxpayers to view their data from the Annual Information Statement (AIS) / Taxpayer Information Summary (TIS). The Income Tax Department provides a free mobile application called AIS for Taxpayer, which is available on Google Play and the App Store. The app's goal is to offer the taxpayer with a comprehensive perspective of the AIS/TIS by displaying information gathered from numerous sources relevant to the taxpayer.

The mobile app allows taxpayers to examine information that is available in AIS/TIS regarding TDS/TCS, interest, dividends, share transactions, tax payments, income tax refunds, and other information (such as GST data, foreign remittances, etc.). Additionally, the taxpayer is able to offer comments on the data that is shown in the app.

The taxpayer must register on the app with their PAN number, authenticate with an OTP issued to their cell phone number, and provide the email address they have registered on the e-filing portal in order to access this mobile app. After authentication, the taxpayer only has to create a 4-digit PIN in order to use the mobile app.

This is just another effort by the Income Tax Department to improve taxpayer services and make compliance easier.

e-Verification via CBDT Information technology is used by the scheme to motivate voluntary compliance.

Data on financial transactions related to 68,000 cases from FY 2019–20 that were selected for e-verification was collected on a pilot basis. Of the 68,000 cases in the aforementioned pilot study, about 35,000 cases had e-verification completed.

The Income Tax Department has implemented a number of progressive measures to promote voluntary tax compliance and enable an open, non-disruptive tax administration process. The e-Verification Scheme, 2021 (the "Scheme"), which was announced on December 13, 2021, is one such significant undertaking.

The Scheme seeks to disclose and validate financial transaction information with the taxpayer that appears to be either under-reported or unreported in the taxpayer's filed Income Tax Return (ITR) by means of efficient use of information technology.

The Department has been gathering financial transaction data from a variety of sources. A portion of it was previously disclosed to the taxpayer in the 26AS Statement. But in order to make the most of the information gathered from different sources, the Annual Information Statement (AIS) now presents the taxpayer with all of the information. If the Source has misreported any information, the taxpayer has the option to object through the AIS. The Department verifies the information with the Source, and if the Source certifies that there are no errors, the material is put through an e-Verification risk assessment.

Notices are sent online, and taxpayer responses are likewise filed electronically, making the entire e-Verification process digital. Upon conclusion of the investigation, an electronic verification report is generated without requiring a face-to-face meeting with the taxpayer.

Since the Scheme allows the taxpayer to substantiate the financial transaction, it is quite advantageous to them. Additionally, it aids in data cleaning and rectification, preventing the filing of lawsuits based on false information. Furthermore, because the taxpayer has access to the information related to the financial transactions, there is a chance to update or rectify revenue that may not have been properly recorded in the taxpayer's ITR. Stated differently, the e-Verification Scheme offers the taxpayer the option to update their income return in accordance with section 139(8A) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, so encouraging voluntary compliance when the taxpayer becomes aware of the dangers.

On a trial basis, e-Verification has been applied to roughly 68,000 financial transaction records related to FY 2019–20. The individual taxpayer was initially provided with transaction details via e-campaign. About 35,000 instances have had e-Verification finished by the authorized Directorate thus far, with the remaining cases awaiting verification.

It is discovered that many taxpayers have filed Updated ITRs since the Scheme gave them the chance to accept material that did not match the original ITR that they filed.

In order to enhance comprehension of the Scheme and its associated procedures, the FAQs for the one-Verification Scheme, 2021 can be accessed at www.incometaxindia.gov.

Online Tax Accounting System (OLTAS)

OLTAS is an online system that works with a network of bank branches to collect, account for, and report on direct tax revenues and payments from all types of taxpayers. Data on taxpayers is transferred straight from banks to the Tax Information Network (TIN). The National Securities Depository Ltd. established and maintains TIN to handle all the data and information on challenges between the tax authority and the banks.

History of OLTAS

Via the Commissioners of Income Tax, who are dispersed throughout the nation, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is in charge of managing a number of direct taxes. Under the income tax laws, the Commissioners of Income Tax are tasked with collecting and returning all forms of direct taxes, including income tax, corporation tax, tax deducted at source, etc.

The highest authority within the accounting department of the CBDT is the Principal Chief Controller of Accounts, or Pr. CCA. The Pr. CCA, CBDT has been tasked with handling the accounting of all direct tax revenues and refunds within the departmentalized structure.

Previously, State Bank of India branches or the Reserve Bank of India handled the manual collection of all direct taxes. Many more public sector bank branches were also included in the effort to raise the number of locations for tax collection. The direct tax accounting system has received particular attention in an effort to better serve taxpayers. However, the manual method of tax collecting and accounting was very difficult to use and had numerous problems.

Thus, the Online Tax Accounting System (OLTAS) was developed in June 2004 in order to solve concerns related to the manual process of collecting and accounting for direct taxes as well as taking into consideration the technological revolution that replaced electronic methods over manual procedure. To ensure the effective implementation of OLTAS, the following organizations collaborated:

The CBDT

The controller of accounts

The Indian Bank Association

The Reserve Bank of India

Comprehending OLTAS

OLTAS was launched with the following goals in mind:

Online direct tax accounting

Online direct tax collection

online reporting of direct tax payments and receipts

There are currently 32 public and private sector banks that have been authorized under OLTAS, which was implemented in three parts. The duty was first limited to data pertaining to tax information. But once the initiative went online in April 2005, the banks also had to match up the data and information that TIN got from the banks with the daily tax collection.

Salient feature of OLTAS

A. The introduction of a challan in single copy with the taxpayer's counterfoil torn off

According to OLTAS, the taxpayer is required to utilize a single, common challan for the following:

Challan No. ITNS 280 - For ordinary income tax and corporation taxes, use.

Challan No. ITNS 281- for TCS and TDS deposits

Challan No. ITNS 282 - For the purpose of paying direct taxes such as wealth tax, gift tax, estate duty, hotel receipts tax, securities transactions tax, and spending tax, use.

Challan No. ITNS 283 - Payment for Fringe Benefits Tax and Banking Cash Transaction Tax should be made using.

Challan No. ITNS 285 - for Equalization Levy Payment

Challan No. ITNS - 286 Payment under the 2016 Income Declaration Scheme is made through.

Challan No. ITNS 287 - for PMGKY payment

B. There are three ways to pay taxes: in person at any bank branch authorized by OLTAS; online via net banking; or with a debit card.

C. A unique serial number called the Challan Identification Number (CIN) and acknowledgement

When a taxpayer pays at a bank branch, the collecting bank rubber stamps the challan and its counterfoil with a distinct Challan Identification Number (CIN), at which point the taxpayer receives the tear-off section of the challan. The following details are contained in the CIN, a unique number:

RBI assigns a seven-digit BSR Code to the bank branch where taxes are deposited.

Date of Challan Presentation (DD/MM/YY)

Challan's five-digit serial number in that bank branch on that particular day

When a taxpayer pays by cash, the tear-off piece of the foil is sent to them right away; when they pay by check or demand draft, it is supplied to them once the check or demand draft is realized.

The complete challan's data will be captured by the collecting bank and electronically sent to the income-tax department. The Zonal Accounts Officers will get printed scrolls and a paper copy of the challans from the bank. The Department will utilize the data it receives from banks to credit taxes paid based on CIN.

The CIN serves as evidence of tax payment and must be included in the income tax return and, if necessary, in follow-up correspondence with the income tax department. The Challans can be locally offices accessed at income tax or online at the income tax website, http://www.incometaxindia.gov.in.

D. Taxpayers can see information about their taxes paid online.

Taxpayers may now get their tax information by visiting http://tin-nsdl.com.

Benefits of OLTAS

A previous quadruplicate challan has been replaced with a single copy streamlined challan.

Online tax payments are accessible from anywhere at any time.

An acknowledgment for taxes paid is simple to receive for taxpayers and is available as soon as the bank authorizes payment.

Furthermore, the payment is guaranteed to be correctly accounted for by the acknowledgement counterfoil with the Challan Identification Number (CIN) on a rubber stamp.

Online access to all tax payment data and information makes them easily verifiable.

Since the taxpayer only has access to the counterfoil, the taxpayer is no longer needed to include copies or acknowledgements of the challan with the return. It suffices to include the CIN data in the income tax returns in order to comply with the need to enclose proof of tax payment.

For all parties involved, OLTAS has simplified and expedited the tax payment, collection, and accounting processes. Better tracking is ensured, and the likelihood of a default is decreased.

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