

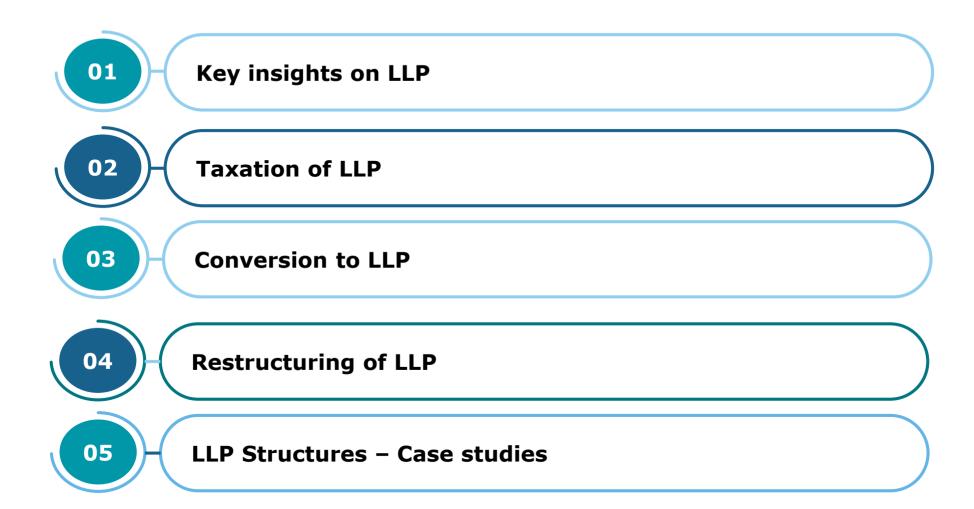
# Taxation & Structuring of LLP

WIRC – CPE Virtual Study Circle Meeting Shripal Lakdawala 13 March 2021

# Glossary

Terms	Abbreviations
FMV	Fair Market Value
FY	Financial Year
GAAR	General anti-avoidance Rules
INR	Indian Rupee
ITA	Income Tax Act, 1961
CA	Companies Act
RD	Regional Director
RoC	Registrar of Companies
NCLT	National Company Law Tribunal
NCLAT	National Company Law Appellate Tribunal
LLP	Limited Liability Partnership
u/s.	Under section
mn	Million

### Contents





# **Features of LLP**

Governing	Flexibility	Partners	Risk reward	Key Benefit
Law Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 Charter document LLP Deed	Perpetual successionCost effectiveSeparate Legal entityLesser compliance vis-à-vis a Company	<text></text>	Partner in terms with LLP deed are entitled for returns in form of remuneration, profit share and interest on capital contribution	<text><text></text></text>

# Why LLP ?

- LLP can be formed either by:
  - ✓ Registering new LLP; or
  - ✓ Converting an existing partnership firm or an existing private or unlisted company
- Who can be a Partner in LLP?
  - ✓ Individual
  - ✓ Body Corporate
  - ✓ Foreign Company
  - ✓ LLP (including LLP incorporated outside India)
- Provisions of deemed dividend and presumptive taxation under the ITA are not applicable to an LLP
- Indian Accounting Standards ('Ind AS') does not apply to LLPs. (However, this can be treated as an advantage available to LLP structure only if the operations of the LLP are significantly large)
- RBI had also approved for FDI in LLPs in 2011 and further, in 2017, liberalized FDI regulations relating to LLP
- Recently, RBI has liberalized ECB norms which now allows LLPs to borrow funds through ECB

#### **Certain Limitations**

- ✓ IPO and listing on stock exchange
- ✓ Difficulty in providing for Drag Along Rights, Tag Along Rights, etc.
- ✓ ESOPs cannot be implemented
- ✓ Partner's interest in the LLP though transferable is not tradable like shares



### Taxation of LLP Status of LLP

### Definition

As per section 2:

- Definition of a "partner" shall include a partner of a LLP
- Definition of a "**firm**" shall include a LLP
- Definition of "partnership" shall include a LLP

### **Residential Status**

As per section 6(2):

- A firm is said to be resident in India in any previous year in every case except where during that year the control and management of its affairs is situated wholly outside India
- The term 'control and management' is not defined under ITA. Basis various judicial precedents, the term 'control and management' contemplates controlling and directing power i.e., "<u>head and</u> <u>brain</u>" of the entity / organization

The determination of what constitutes control and management, and who exercises it and from where, is dependent on various factors. The day-to-day control and management functions may be relevant, but the most relevant factor is the place where the controlling and directing power for such functions is situated

**Remuneration to partners** 

### In the hands of LLP

Payments (as mentioned below) shall **not be deducted** in computing income chargeable under the head 'Profits and gains of business or profession' if:

- Salary, bonus, commission or remuneration is paid to any partner who is **not a working partner**
- Remuneration paid to a working partner which is not in accordance with the partnership deed
- Any payment of remuneration to working partner which relates to any period falling prior to the date of the deed
- Remuneration to a working partner **exceeding** the aggregate amount computed as under:

Book Profit	Quantum of deduction
on the first Rs. 3,00,000 or in case of a loss	INR 150k or @ 90% of the book- profit, whichever is more
on the balance	@ 60%

#### In the hands of partners

Any salary, bonus, commission or remuneration, by whatever name called, due to, or received by, a partner of a firm from such firm shall be taxable under the head **`Profits and** gains of business or profession'

*Note: The aforesaid shall be adjusted to the extent not deductible in the hands of LLP* 

**Return for partners** 

### **Interest on Capital**

### In the hands of LLP

Payment of interest (as mentioned below) shall **not be deducted** in computing income chargeable under the head 'Profits and gains of business or profession' if:

- not in accordance with the deed;
- relates to any period falling prior to the date of the deed;
- interest exceeds the amount calculated @12% p.a. simple interest.

### In the hands of partners

Interest, due to, or received by, a partner of a firm shall be taxable under the head **'Profits and gains of business or profession**'.

*Note:* The aforesaid shall be adjusted to the extent not deductible in the hands of LLP

#### **Profit share**

### In the hands of LLP

• Taxed at applicable rates

#### In the hands of partners

- Share of partner in total income of the firm is exempt
- Taxability in home country of partner to be analyzed in case of foreign partner

### Taxation of LLP Capital Gains

Capital Gallis

#### On transfer of capital asset to LLP

- Profits or gains arising from the transfer of a capital asset by a person to an LLP in which he is or becomes a partner or member, shall be **chargeable to tax**:
  - as his income of the previous year in which such transfer takes place and;
  - for the purpose of section 48, the full value of consideration received or accruing as a result of the transfer of the capital asset shall be deemed to be the amount recorded in the books of account of the firm.

**Capital contribution** 

### **Modes and Valuation**

Modes of capital contribution:

- ✓ Cash / in kind
- ✓ Tangible / intangible property
- Movable / Immovable property
- Promissory notes / contracts for services performed or to be performed

Contribution in kind to be valued by CA, Cost Accountant or approved valuer

#### **Tax Implications**

#### In the hands of partner

- Profit / loss on contribution of `capital asset' by partner in LLP – Chargeable as `Capital Gains' (discussed in earlier slide)
- Computation of capital gain:
  - ✓ Consideration Amount recorded in books of LLP
  - ✓ Assets to be recorded by LLP at value assigned by approved valuer under LLP Act and Rules

#### For LLP

- Capital contribution by partner in LLP
  - Subject to 56(2)(x)?

### Taxation of LLP Capital Gains

On distribution of capital asset on dissolution of LLP

- Profits or gains arising from the transfer of a capital asset by way of distribution of capital assets on the dissolution of an LLP, shall be chargeable to tax:
  - as the income of the firm, of the previous year in which the said transfer takes place and;
  - for the purposes of section 48, the FMV of the asset on the date of such transfer shall be deemed to be the full value of the consideration received or accruing as a result of the transfer.

Ensuing slide captures proposed amendment in Budget 2021

**Capital Gains** 

Taxation	Existing	Proposed in Budget 2021
Distribution of capital assets by firm to its partners (section 45(4))	Gains arising on distribution of capital asset on dissolution of the firm or otherwise, to its partner is taxable in the hands of the firm	<ul> <li>Provision replaced to cover the following: <ol> <li>Dissolution and reconstitution of the firm;</li> <li>Gains arising on the transfer of the asset to be taxable in the hands of firm</li> </ol> </li> <li>Computation mechanism to be as follows: <ol> <li>FMV is deemed as full value of consideration</li> <li>Cost of acquisition is the cost of asset in the hands of the firm/if introduced by partner the FMV at which it was initially taxed (without considering increase in capital account on account of revaluation and self generated goodwill)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
Distribution of <b>money /any</b> <b>other assets</b> by firm to partners (section 45(4A))	Basis judicial precedents gains arising on cash distribution not taxable at present in the hands of firm	<ul> <li>New provision introduced to also cover distribution of cash/other asset (not characterized as capital asset) on dissolution/reconstitution of firm.</li> <li>Gains made by partner to be taxable in the hands of the firm</li> <li>Computation mechanism to be as follows: <ul> <li>Money + FMV of asset is deemed to be the consideration</li> <li>Balance in capital account to be treated as cost (without considering increase in capital account on account of revaluation and self generated goodwill)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Mode of computation (Section 48)		The amount included in the total income of firm u/s 45(4A), which is attributable to the capital asset being transferred, calculated in the prescribed manner

**Capital Gains** 

### **Illustrative 1**

#### Assumptions

Distribution of capital asset/assets/cash by the firm

Particulars	INR
FMV of capital asset distributed	200
Total Distribution	200
Other details	
Cost of assets acquired/Cost of asset	40
introduced by Partner	

### **Taxation implications under proposed section 45(4)**

Upon Distribution of capital assets to partner

Particulars	Capital gains
FMV of capital asset distributed	200
Less: Cost of acquisition	40
Capital gains taxable in the hands of Firm	160

Finance Bill proposes to bring in significant amendments to tax distributions from partnership firms to exiting partners. Such distributions have been a subject matter of litigation and the proposed provisions seek to plug room for litigation on taxability of such distributions.

**Capital Gains** 

### **Illustrative 2**

#### Assumptions

Distribution of capital asset/assets/cash by the firm

Particulars	INR
FMV of other assets distributed	100
Cash distributed	50
Total Distribution	150
Balance in the capital account	100

### Taxation implications under proposed section 45(4A)

Upon Distribution of other assets/cash to partner

Particulars	Capital gains
FMV of other assets distributed	100
Cash distributed	50
Deemed consideration	150
Less: Cost of acquisition	100
Capital gains taxable in the hands of Firm	50

**Capital Gains** 

### **Illustrative 3**

#### Assumptions

#### Distribution of capital assets/assets/cash by the firm

Particulars	INR
FMV of assets distributed	100
Cash distributed	50
Total distribution	150
Balance in Capital account	120
(Includes INR 20 on account of self generated	
goodwill)	

### Taxation implications under proposed section 45(4A)

### Upon Distribution of other assets/cash to partner

Particulars	INR
FMV of assets distributed	100
Cash distributed	50
Deemed consideration	150
Less: Cost of acquisition	100
Capital gains taxable in the hands of Firm	50

For the purpose of computing cost of acquisition, Balance in capital account on account of revaluation of assets or goodwill recognition would be ignored

**Tax rates and filings** 

### **Tax rates**

• Tax rate card – 30%

Income up to I	NR10 mn	Income above INR10 mn	
Surcharge rate	ETR	Surcharge rate	ETR
Nil	31.20%	12%	34.94%
A NAT			

AMT

Location of	ATI* up to I	NR10 mn	ATI* above I	NR10 mn
LLP	Surcharge rate	ETR	Surcharge rate	ETR
Other than in IFSC -18.5%	Nil	19.24%	12%	21.55%
In IFSC - 9%	Nil	9.36%	12%	10.48%

\*ATI - Adjusted total income would mean total income as increased by deductions, claimed, if any under:

- Chapter VI-A from Section 80H to 80RRB except for section 80P;
- Section 10AA; and
- Section 35AD reduced by depreciation allowed u/s 32)

#### **Return filing**

- The due date for furnishing return of income for LLP is:
  - **31 July** If accounts are not required to be audited
  - 30 September If accounts are required to be audited under LLP Act
  - 30 November If Transfer pricing is applicable

Losses and Recovery of Tax

#### **Cary forward and set off of losses**

- In case of a change in the constitution of a firm, the losses proportionate to the share of the retired / deceased partner as exceeds his share of profits shall not be entitled to be carried forward and set off in future
- Further, where the **business is** succeeded by another person otherwise than by inheritance, no losses shall be entitled to be carried forward to any person other than the person incurring the losses

#### **Recovery of Tax**

Where any tax, interest or penalty due from a LLP in respect of any income of any previous year, cannot be recovered

- every person who was a partner of the LLP at any time during the relevant previous year, shall be jointly and severally liable for the payment of such tax
- <u>unless</u> he proves that the non-recovery cannot be attributed to any gross neglect, misfeasance or breach of duty on his part in relation to the affairs of the LLP.

### Taxation of LLP Assessment of LLP

#### Assessment as "firm"

LLP is assessed as a "firm" if:

- The partnership is evidenced by an **instrument**; and
- ✓ The individual shares of the partners are specified in that instrument

In case of non-compliance with aforesaid:

- No deduction by way of any payment of interest, salary, bonus, commission or remuneration made by such firm to any partner shall be allowed in computing the income chargeable under the head "Profits and gains of business or profession"
- ✓ Correspondingly, such payment shall not be chargeable to income-tax u/s 28(v) of ITA

#### Joint and several liability

- In case any tax, penalty or other sum payable by LLP for the relevant previous year is due, then
  - ✓ every person being a partner of a firm and
  - ✓ the legal representative of deceased partner during the previous year

shall be **jointly and severally liable** along with the firm in respect of such sum.

In case of any change in the constitution of the firm – the firm is required to furnish a certified copy of the revised instrument of partnership along with the return of income for the relevant assessment year

#### Change in constitution / succession

- At the time of making an assessment, if it is found that a change has occurred in the constitution of a LLP, the assessment shall be made on the LLP as constituted at the time of making the assessment
- Where a LLP carrying on business or profession is succeeded by another LLP (otherwise than as mentioned above), separate assessments shall be made on predecessor LLP and successor LLP
- Where any business or profession carried on by a LLP has been **discontinued** or where a LLP is **dissolved**, the Assessing Officer shall <u>make an assessment of the</u> <u>total income of LLP as if no such</u> <u>discontinuance or dissolution had</u> <u>taken place.</u>

**Transfer of partner's rights** 

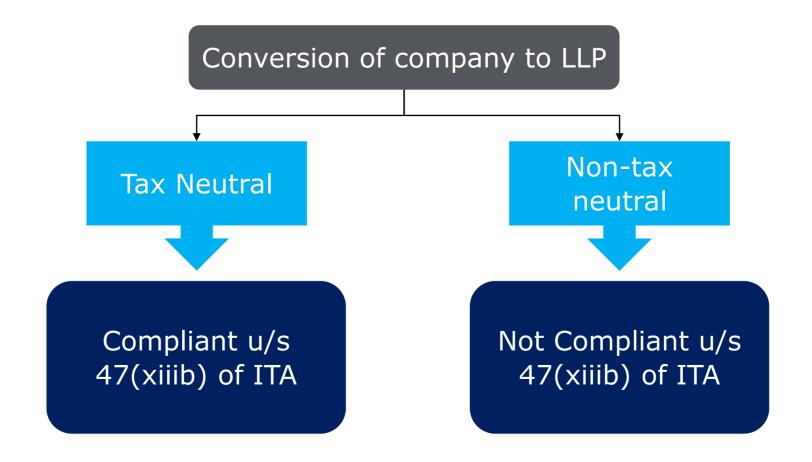
### Assignment / transfer of partner's interest (Section 42 of LLP Act)

- The right to **share profits and losses** and to **receive distribution** in accordance with LLP agreement -
  - Are transferrable either wholly or in part
- This transfer of partner's right does not cause disassociation of partner / dissolution / winding up
- Assignee / Transferee does not become partner Share of profit not exempt

Since partner's interest is separately assignable it can be regarded as **capital asset u/s 2(14)** of ITA, and accordingly **subjected to capital gains in the hands of partner transferring such interest** 

- Cost of acquisition of such right Can it be Capital contribution ? Can we place reliance on BC Shrinivas Shetty 21 CTR (SC) 138
- Will 56(2)(X) be applicable on such assignment / transfer ?

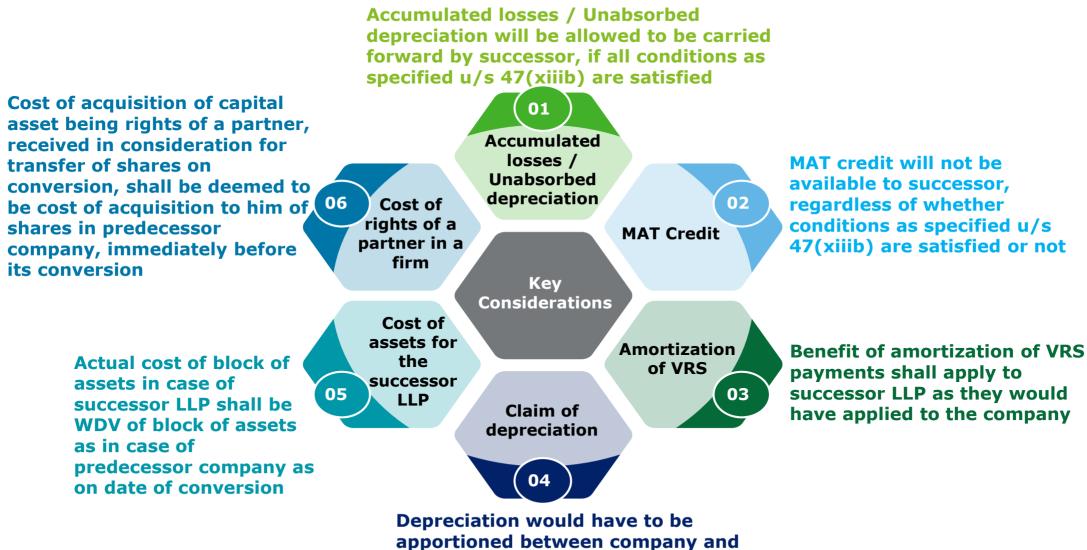




**Conversion of Company\* to LLP - Conditions** 

Tax Neutral conversion Cumulative conditions u/s 47(xiiib)							
Eligibility Criteria	1	Total sales, turnover or gross receipts of the company does not exceed INR 6 million in any of the 3 preceding previous years					
Conditions at conversion stage	2	All the assets and liabilities of the company are transferred to LLP					
	3	All the shareholders of the company become the partners of the LLP and their capital contribution and profit sharing ratio in the LLP are in the same proportion as their shareholding in the company on the date of conversion					
	4	The <b>shareholders</b> of the company <b>do not receive any consideration</b> other than by way of share in profit and capital contribution in the LLP					
	5	The <b>total value of the assets</b> as appearing in the books of account of the company in any of the 3 preceding previous year in which the conversion takes place <b>does not exceed INR 5 crore</b>					
Conditions after	6	The aggregate of the <b>profit sharing ratio</b> of the shareholders of the company in the LLP shall <b>not be less than 50%</b> at any time during the <b>period of 5 years</b> from the date of conversion					
conversion	7	No amount is paid to any partner out of balance of accumulated profit of the company on the date of conversion for a period of 3 years from the date of conversion					

**Conversion of Company to LLP – Key considerations** 



LLP on the basis of number of days of usage in the year of conversion

**Conversion of Company to LLP – Violation of conditions** 

### Violation of Conditions (two fold)

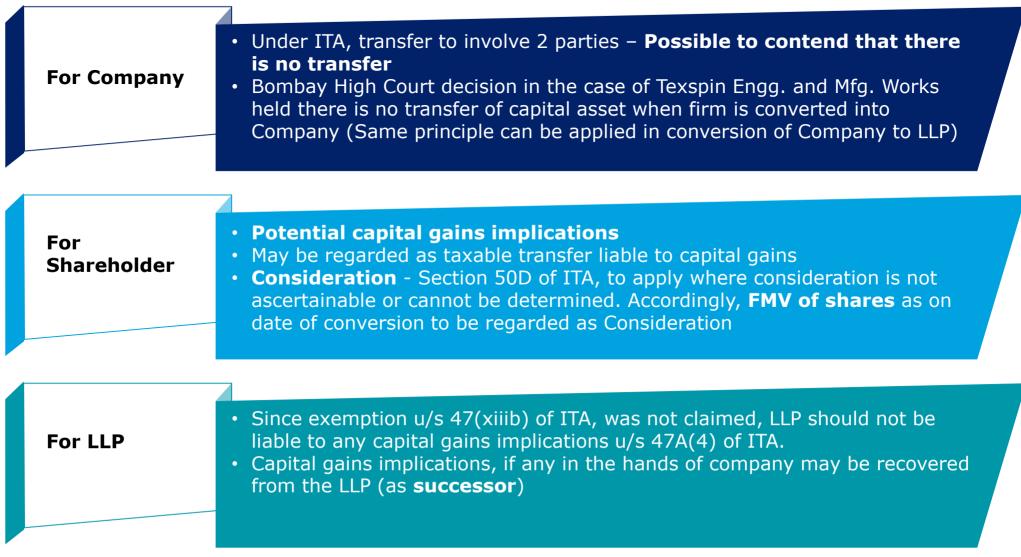
- I. Required to be fulfilled **at the time of conversion** if not fulfilled at the time of conversion itself non compliant conversion (discussed in next slide)
- II. Required to be fulfilled till specified period after conversion
  - <u>If violated in year of conversion</u> non-compliant conversion Aravali Polymers LLP 47 taxmann.com 335 (Kolkata - ITAT)
  - If violated later on within specified period section 47A(4) to apply

### Tax implication on violation

Section 47A(4) of ITA -

- Profit & gains not charged as capital gains in hands of company taxable in hands of converted LLP
   in year in which condition is violated;
- Profit & gains not charged to tax in hands of shareholder of company taxable in their hands in year in which condition is violated

**Conversion of Company to LLP – Non Complaint** 



**Conversion of Company to LLP – Non Complaint (Relevant Case laws)** 

#### **For Company**

Mumbai Tribunal, in the case of **Celerity Power LLP**, held that pursuant to the conversion, assets and liabilities are transferred at book value, accordingly **no gain/income will be subject to tax**. The Tribunal had not dealt with the taxability of shareholders of the company

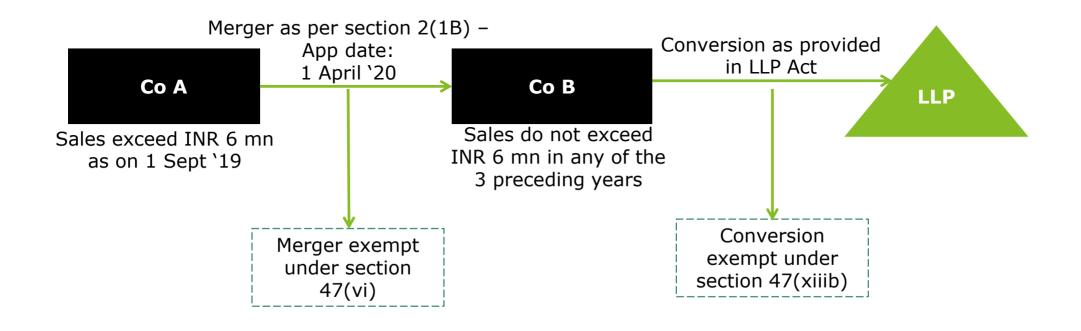
#### **For Shareholders**

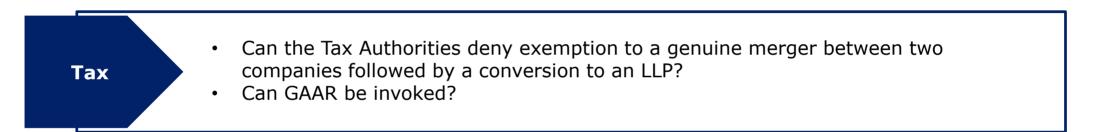
Recently, the Authority of Advance Ruling ('AAR') ruling in the case of **Domino** held that a shareholder is taxable on conversion of a company into an LLP on the basis of the following:

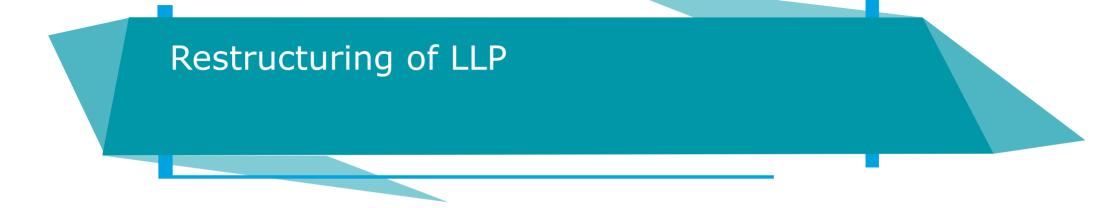
- Conversion of a company into an LLP is a taxable transfer u/s.2(47) of ITA.
- Existence of a party and a counterparty is not mandatory.
- Non-compliance of specific conditions for availing exemption on the conversion of a company into an LLP creates a presumption that such conversions are otherwise taxable.

Impact of GAAR, which has come to force from 1 April 2017, also needs to be considered

# **Case study**

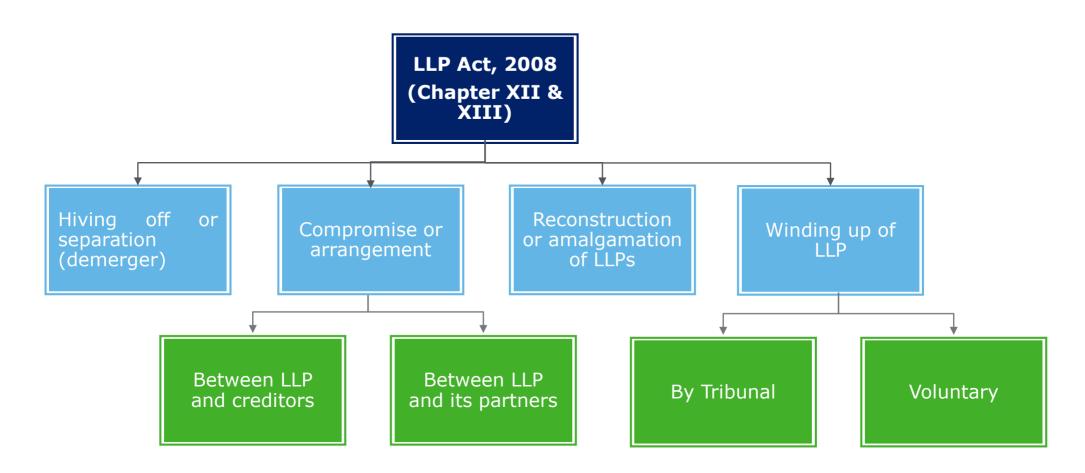






# **Restructuring of LLP**

**Provisions under the Governing Law** 

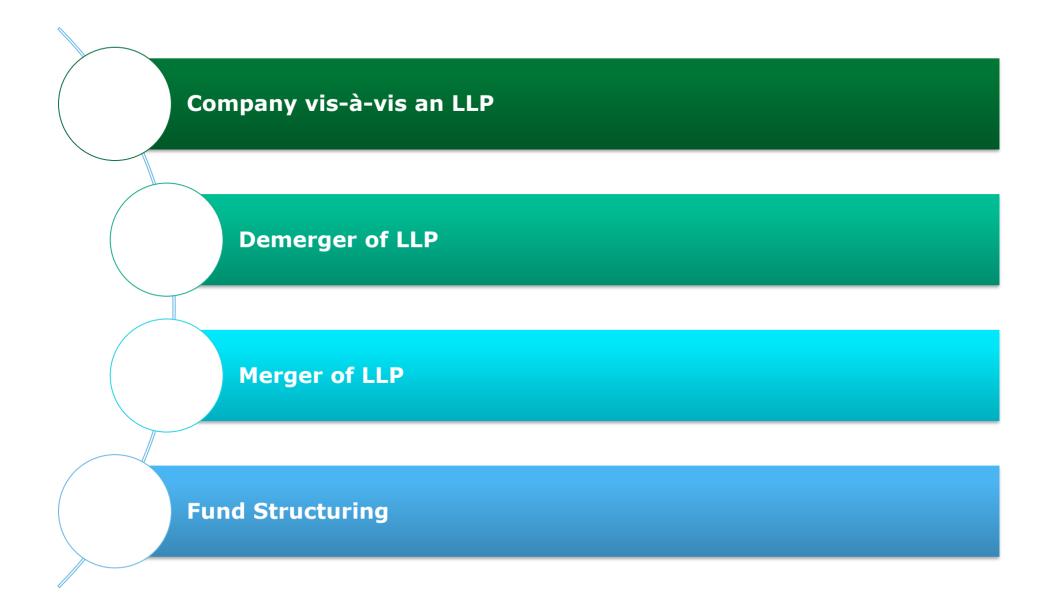


ITA contains no specific provisions with respect to the above reorganizations



# **LLP structures**

Contents



# **LLP structures**

Company vis-à-vis an LLP ...(1/4)

### Modes of repatriation of cash

#### Company

### I. Dividend Payment

Taxed in the hands of shareholders as per their applicable tax rates.

(Detailed evaluation on next slide)

### II. Buy-back

- Statutory threshold limits on quantum of buyback (up to a maximum of 25%)
- Distributions made are taxable @ effective tax rate of 23.296%

### **III.Capital reduction**

- No statutory thresholds and no buy back equivalent tax on the distributions. However, capital reduction is a court process and hence may be time consuming;
- Dividend tax to the extent of accumulated profits, balance proceeds will be subjected to tax as capital gains

#### LLP

- I. Remuneration to partners & Interest on partners capital contribution
  - Tax deductible expense (subject to limits), in the hands of LLP and taxed in the hands of partners (Discussed in detail in earlier slides)

### **II. Profit share**

 Taxed in the hands of LLP @ 34.94% and exempt in the hands of partners (Discussed in detail in earlier slides)

### LLP structures Company vis-à-vis an LLP ...(2/4)

Particulars	LLP	Company				
		25%* (Turnover based)	30% * (not opting for 115BAA/115BAB)	22%* (Sec 115BAA)	15%* (Sec 115BAB)	
able income	100	100	100	100	100	
ss: Tax liability	34.94	29.12	34.94	25.17	17.16	
rofit after tax Profit available or distribution)	65.06	70.88	65.06	74.83	82.84	
tal tax outflow m entity rspective	34.94	29.12	34.94	25.17	17.16 ⁄	
otal tax outflow om investors erspective	Nil	Based on t	Based on the constitution, legal status and residential status of the investor			

### Evaluation on distribution / repatriation of surplus funds by way of dividend

Accordingly, considering the new tax regime, LLP structure evaluation needs to be factored considering the tax block in which the company falls

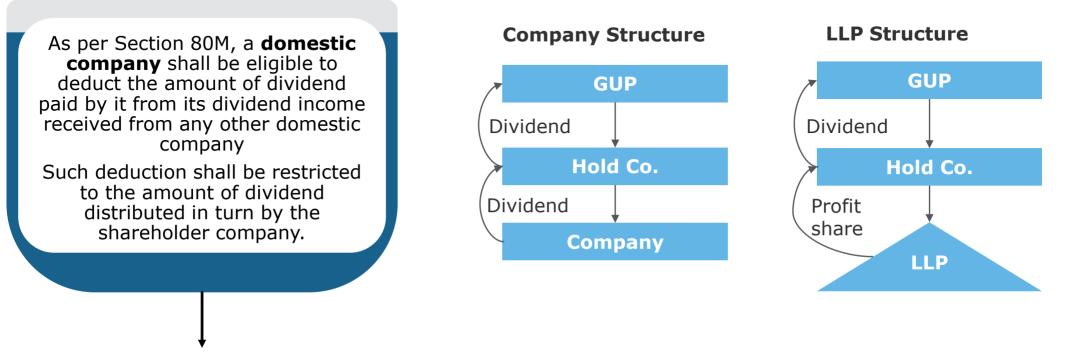
# **LLP structures**

Company vis-à-vis an LLP ...(3/4)

Particulars	LLP	Company
Foreign investments	LLPs are permitted to be engaged in activities that are eligible for 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under automatic route, without any FDI-linked performance conditions	subject to limits under the exchange
Ease of setting up	Relatively high 🕜	Relatively low
Compliance burden	Relatively low	Relatively high
Restrictions under CA, 2013/ LLP Act, 2008	Not applicable	<ul> <li>Issue of and repatriation of capital</li> <li>In relation to dealings with directors, promoters, etc.</li> <li>In relation to inter corporate loans, related party transaction</li> <li>CSR spend requirement - applicable based on fulfilment of certain conditions</li> </ul>
Liability of partners/ shareholders	Limited to capital contribution (unlimited liability in relation statutory dues etc.)	Limited to capital contribution
Deemed gift provisions on partnership interest / shares	Not applicable	Applicable

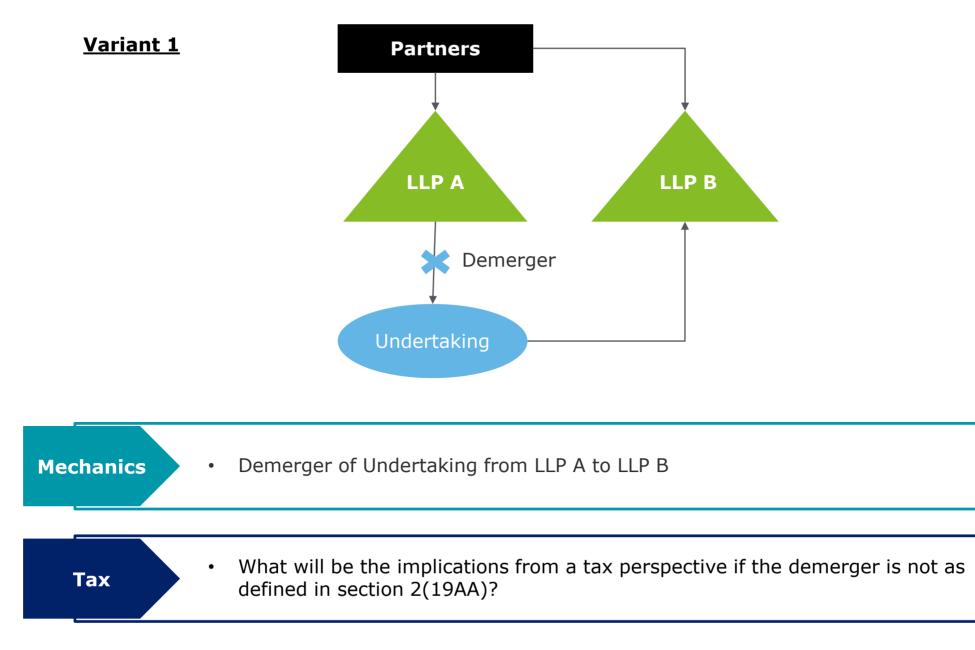
# LLP structures

Company vis-à-vis an LLP ...(4/4)

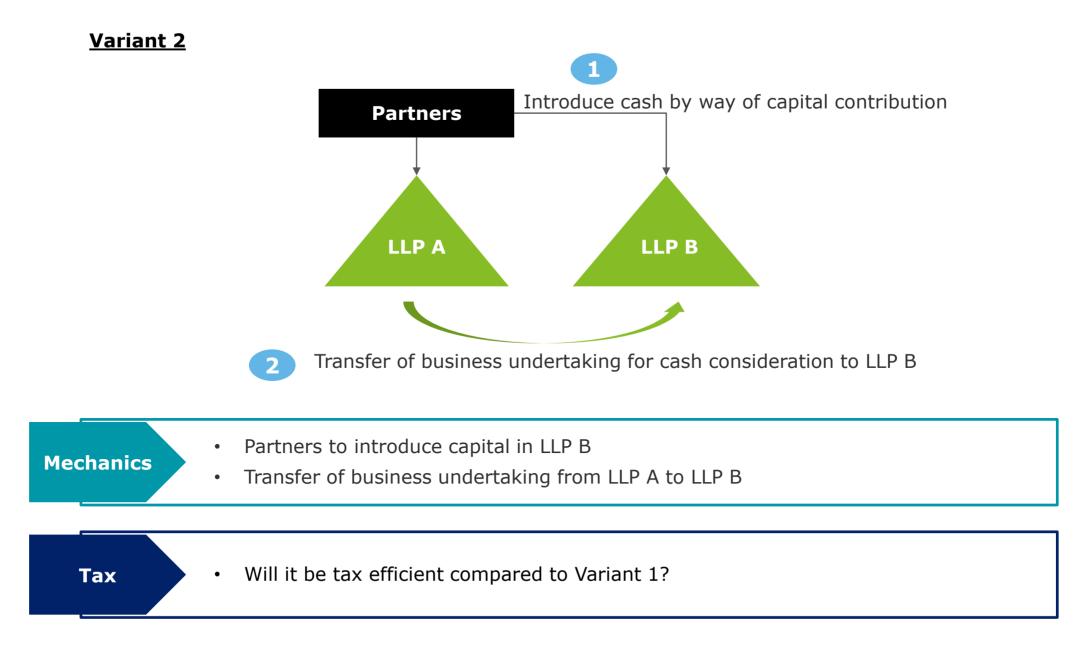


Particulars	<b>Company Structure</b>	LLP Structure	
Dividend / Profit share received by the Hold Co. (A)	100	100 J	
Dividend paid by the Hold Co.	70	70 as	ŝSι
Deduction under section 80M of ITA in the hands of Hold Co. (B)	70	Nil	
Dividend / profit share income taxable in the hands of the Hold Co. (A-B)	30	Nil	-

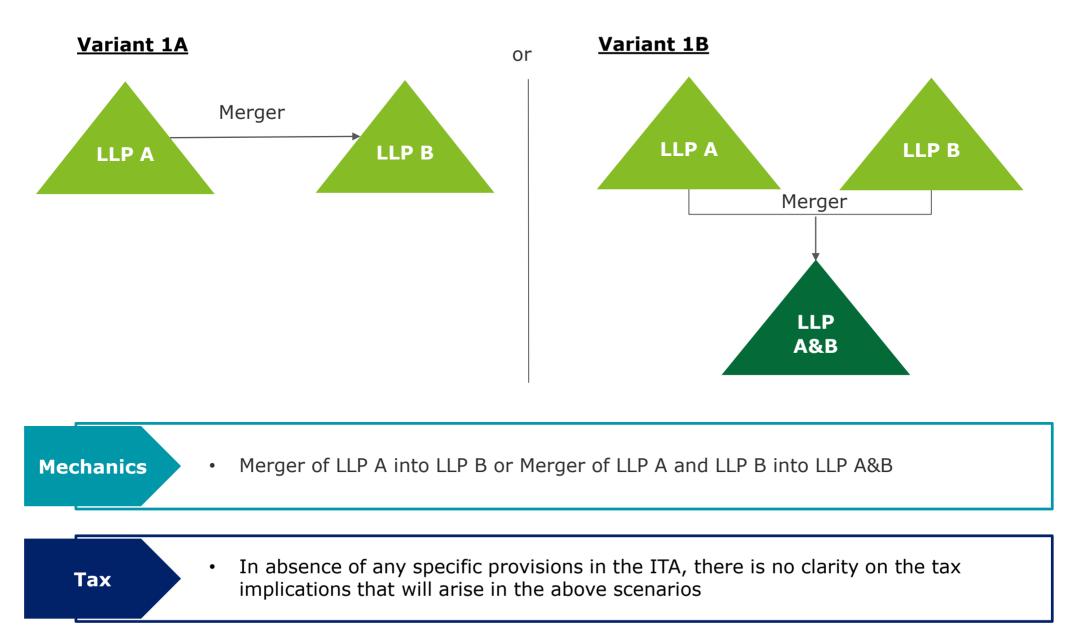
# LLP structures Demerger of LLP...(1/2)



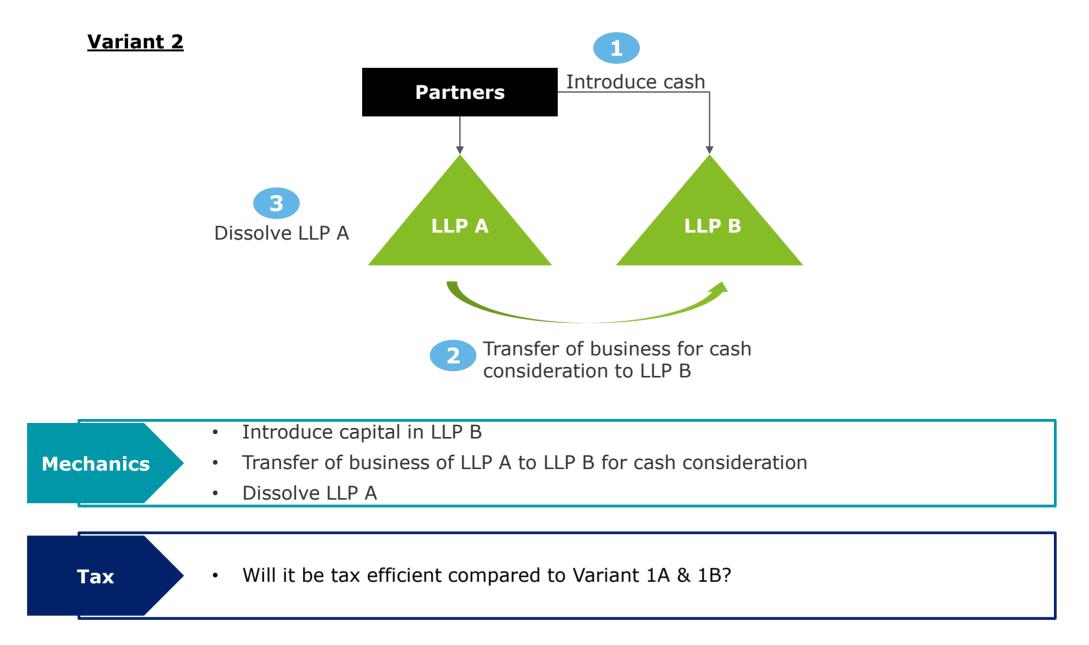
### LLP structures Demerger of LLP...(2/2)



# LLP structures Merger of LLP...(1/3)



# LLP structures Merger of LLP...(2/3)



### LLP structures Merger of LLP...(3/3)

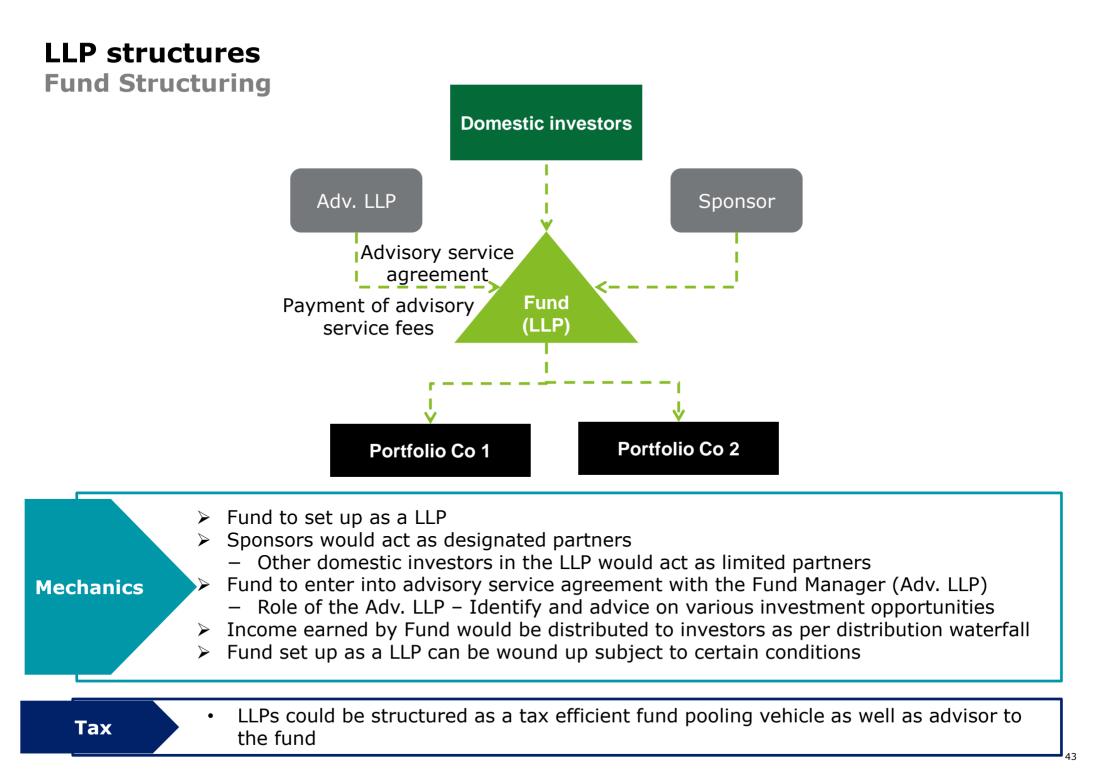


#### **Chennai NCLAT ruling in December 2019**

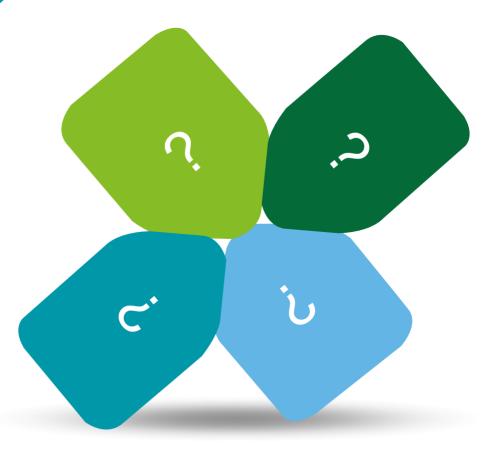
In case of - M/s Real Image LLP to be merged with Qube Cinemas Private Limited

- **NCLT order:** NCLT sanctioned the merger invoking legal principle casus omissus\* on following grounds -
  - ✓ All statutory requirements needed u/s. 230 to 232 of CA, 2013 were complied with
  - Provisions of the erstwhile CA, 1956 (u/s. 394(4)(b)) permitted a LLP to be merged into a company. Since merger of a foreign LLP into an Indian company is permitted under section 234 of the CA, 2013 it would not be appropriate to assume that an Indian LLP cannot be merged into an Indian company
- Appeal to NCLAT: RD and RoC filed an appeal before NCLAT against the order of NCLT contending that for a LLP to be merged into a company, the LLP has to first register as a company under the method prescribed u/s. 366 of the CA, 2013 (this section enables entities such as LLPs to be registered as companies). Thereafter, such registered companies can be merged into other companies following the procedure prescribed under section 230 to 232 of the CA, 2013
- NCLAT order: NCLAT found merit in the arguments proposed by the appellants that the CA, 2013 provided for registering LLPs into companies first and thereafter provided for merger of such registered companies with other companies
  - ✓ Relying on the Supreme Court's decision in the case of Union of India Vs Rajiv Kumar (2003), the NCLAT noted that the principle of casus omissus cannot be applied by courts except in the case of clear necessity and when reason for it cannot be found in the four corners of the statute itself

<sup>\*</sup> casus omissus - A case omitted; an event or contingency for which no provision is made; particularly a case not provided for by the statute on the general subject, and which is therefore left to be governed by the common law







# Thank you!!