

India

Transfer Pricing Country Profile

July 2021

		SUMMARY	REFERENCE
The Arm's Length Principle			
1	Does your domestic legislation or regulation make reference to the Arm's Length Principle?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Indian legislation does not directly refer to the "arm's length principle". However, Indian legislation refers to determination of "arm's length price" which is determined on the basis of arm's length principle.	S 92C of Income-tax Act , 1961 For Income-tax Rules , 1962
2	What is the role of the OECD Transfer Pricing Guidelines under your domestic legislation?	OECD Transfer Pricing Guidelines (and the UN TP Manual) are useful references for carrying out transfer pricing studies by taxpayers and audits by Indian transfer pricing officers (TPO). Indian transfer pricing law does not explicitly recognise the direct applicability of the OECD TPG (or the UN TP Manual). However, India has framed its own rules and guidance on transfer pricing, which are broadly in line with the OECD TPG as well as the UN TP Manual.	
3	Does your domestic legislation or regulation provide a definition of related parties? If so, please provide the definition contained under your domestic law or regulation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Indian law contains a detailed and exhaustive definition of what constitute related parties. S 92A of the Income-tax Act 1961, defines an associated enterprise, in relation to another enterprise, as an enterprise that participates directly or indirectly, or through one or more intermediaries, in the management or control or capital of the other enterprise. It also includes situations where two enterprises have common control, capital or management through another enterprise. Besides this, the definition envisages a number of other relationships which may result in making two parties related parties or "associated enterprises".	S 92A of Income-tax Act , 1961

Transfer Pricing Methods

4	<p>Does your domestic legislation provide for transfer pricing methods to be used in respect of transactions between related parties?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If affirmative, please check those provided for in your legislation:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">CUP</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Resale Price</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Cost Plus</th> <th style="text-align: center;">TNMM</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Profit Split</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Other (<i>If so, please describe</i>)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Other Method is prescribed in rule 10AB of Income-tax Rules, 1962. The “Other Method” can be any method which takes into account the price which has been charged or paid, or would have been charged or paid, for the same or similar uncontrolled transaction with or between unrelated parties under similar circumstances, considering all the relevant facts.</p>	CUP	Resale Price	Cost Plus	TNMM	Profit Split	Other (<i>If so, please describe</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Rule 10B and 10AB of Income-tax Rules, 1962</p>					
CUP	Resale Price	Cost Plus	TNMM	Profit Split	Other (<i>If so, please describe</i>)										
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
5	<p>Which criterion is used in your jurisdiction for the application of transfer pricing methods?</p>	<p>Please check all that apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hierarchy of methods</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Most appropriate method</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>if so, please explain</i>)</p> <p>India does not prescribe a hierarchy of methods. The transfer pricing method to be used is the “Most Appropriate Method” which is arrived at after considering the nature and class of international transaction, the FAR of the related parties that are parties to the transaction, the availability and reliability of comparable data, the extent to which reliable and accurate adjustments can be made to account for differences between the international transaction between related parties and uncontrolled comparable transactions, and the nature, extent and reliability of assumptions required to be made in the application of a method.</p>	<p>Rule 10C of Income-tax Rules, 1962</p>												
6	<p>If your domestic legislation or regulations contain specific guidance on commodity transactions, indicate which of the following approaches is followed.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> For controlled transactions involving commodities, the guidance contained in paragraphs 2.18-2.22 of the TPG is followed.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Domestic legislation mandates the use of a specific method for controlled transactions involving commodities (<i>if so, please explain</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>if so, please explain</i>)</p>													

		India's domestic legislation does not contain specific guidance on pricing of commodity transactions for transfer pricing purposes.	
Comparability Analysis			
7	Does your jurisdiction follow (or largely follow) the guidance on comparability analysis outlined in Chapter III of the TPG?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		Indian Tax administration largely follows the said guidance (and the relevant guidance under UN TP Manual) in practice.	
8	Is there a preference in your jurisdiction for domestic comparables over foreign comparables?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
		India does not have an explicit preference for domestic comparables over foreign comparables written into the law. Depending upon the selection of the tested party, appropriate (domestic or foreign) comparables are selected.	
9	Does your tax administration use secret comparables for transfer pricing assessment purposes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
		India typically relies on publicly available data and publicly available information in arriving at comparability data. However, India allows the transfer pricing officers to seek third party information on financials from certain companies whose financials may not be publicly available for a particular year. Wherever such information is used by the Indian tax administration, the taxpayer is given an opportunity to contest the choice of such comparables on merits.	
10	[Updated January 2023] Does your legislation allow or require the use of an arm's length range and/or statistical measure for determining arm's length remuneration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Rule 10CA of Income-tax Rules, 1962
		<p>India has introduced the range concept in its transfer pricing regulations. The range concept is applicable when the following two conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The most appropriate method is a method other than the "profit split method" and "other method", and B. The dataset consists of six or more comparables. <p>In cases where the range concept is applicable and the price of the controlled transaction is not within the prescribed arm's length range (i.e., beginning from</p>	

		<p>the thirty-fifth percentile of the dataset and ending in the sixty-fifth percentile of the dataset), the median of the dataset is prescribed to be used for determining the arm's length price. Wherever the range concept is not applicable, the arithmetical mean of all the values included in the dataset is prescribed to be used for computing the arm's length price.</p> <p>Detailed method for considering the arm's length range has been prescribed in rule 10CA of Income-tax Rules, 1962.</p>	
11	<p>Are comparability adjustments required under your domestic legislation or regulations?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>India permits comparability adjustments. They may be carried out if such adjustments can be made reliably and accurately to the financials of the comparables.</p>	<p>Rule 10B(1) (a) –(e), Rule 10B(3) Income-tax Rules, 1962</p>
Intangible Property			
12	<p>Does your domestic legislation or regulations contain guidance specific to the pricing of controlled transactions involving intangibles?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>India does not have specific guidance on pricing of controlled transactions involving intangibles. Indian transfer pricing officers typically rely on generally accepted valuation methods in this regard.</p>	
13	<p>Does your domestic legislation or regulation provide for transfer pricing rules or special measures regarding hard-to-value intangibles (HTVI)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>India does not have such rules or special measures regarding HTVI.</p>	<p>HTVI Implementation Questionnaire</p>
14	<p>Are there any other rules outside transfer pricing rules that are relevant for the tax treatment of transactions involving intangibles?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
Intra-Group Services			
15		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	

	Does your domestic legislation or regulations provide guidance specific to intra-group services transactions?	India does not have specific guidance in this regard and stipulates the adoption of the Most Appropriate Method considering all relevant facts and circumstances of the case. Taxpayers are expected to maintain documentation evidencing the intra-group services transaction.	
16	Do you have any simplified approach for low value-adding intra-group services?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Rule 10 TC(x) and rule 10TD(2A)(11) Income-tax Rules , 1962
		India has introduced a safe harbour rule for receipt of low-value adding intra-group service by an Indian taxpayer from its associated enterprise. The rule stipulates that payment of mark-up not exceeding 5% on the relevant cost incurred by such service provider shall be covered under the safe harbour, provided that the entire value of international transaction, including the mark-up, does not exceed a sum of INR 100 million during the given financial year. Further, the rule mandates that the method of cost pooling, the exclusion of shareholder costs and duplicate costs from the cost pool and the reasonableness of the allocation keys used for allocation of costs to the Indian taxpayer by the overseas associated enterprise shall be certified by an accountant.	
17	Are there any other rules outside transfer pricing rules that are relevant for the tax treatment of transactions involving services?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Financial Transactions			
18	[NEW] Does your domestic legislation or regulations provide guidance specific to financial transactions?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
		India does not have any specific guidance for financial transactions, and stipulates the adoption of the Most Appropriate Method considering all relevant facts and circumstances of the case.	
19	[NEW] Are there any other rules outside transfer pricing rules that are relevant for the tax treatment of financial transactions?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	S 94B of Income-tax Act , 1961
		In order to limit base erosion involving interest deductions, India has introduced provisions in its domestic legislation disallowing deduction of excess interest paid in respect of any debt issued by non-resident associated enterprise of the borrower	

		in certain cases. The excess interest has been defined as, “an amount of total interest paid or payable in excess of thirty per cent of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation of the borrower in the previous year or interest paid or payable to associated enterprises for that previous year, whichever is less.” The quantum of excess interest disallowed for deduction is allowed to be carried forward for upto eight assessment years immediately succeeding the assessment year for which the excess interest expenditure was first computed . The minimum threshold amount of interest payment for this Section to get triggered is INR 10 million. The detailed provisions are in S 94B of Income-tax Act, 1961.	
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Cost Contribution Agreements

20	Does your jurisdiction have legislation or regulations on cost contribution agreements?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
		Cost contribution arrangements are evaluated based on the facts and circumstances of each case. Taxpayers are expected to maintain accurate records of costs to which contribution is being made together with the justification of appropriateness of cost allocation keys.	

Transfer Pricing Documentation

21	Does your legislation or regulations require the taxpayer to prepare transfer pricing documentation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If affirmative, please check all that apply:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Master file consistent with Annex I to Chapter V of the TPG <input type="checkbox"/> Local file consistent with Annex II to Chapter V of the TPG <input type="checkbox"/> Country-by-country report consistent with Annex III to Chapter V of the TPG <input type="checkbox"/> Specific transfer pricing returns (separate or annexed to the tax return) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): <p>In India, rule 10D of the Income-tax Rules, 1962 prescribes the list of documents that are to be maintained as part of the Local file. Audit report relating to international transactions and specified domestic transactions is filed in Form No. 3CEB in accordance with rule 10E of the Income-tax Rules, 1962.</p>	<p>S 92D, S 92E and S 286 of Income-tax Act, 1961</p> <p>Rules 10D, 10E, 10DA and 10DB of Income-tax Rules, 1962</p> <p>Form 3CEB -</p> <p>Form 3CEAA -</p> <p>Form 3CEAB -</p> <p>Form 3CEAC -</p> <p>Form 3CEAD -</p> <p>Form 3CEAE -</p>
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22	<p>[Updated January 2023] Please briefly explain the relevant requirements related to filing of transfer pricing documentation (i.e. timing for preparation or submission, languages, etc.)</p>	<p>Transfer pricing documentation, as stipulated in S 92D read with rule 10D (for local file) and rule 10DA (for master file), must be maintained by every taxpayer that has entered into an “international transaction” (as defined in S 92B) with an associated enterprise (as defined in S 92A) and meets the monetary thresholds prescribed under the respective rules.</p> <p>The Master File, as per rule 10DA, is required to be filed by the last date for filing the return of income, i.e., 30 November of the year following the completed financial year. S 286 read with rule 10DB provides for preparation and filing of CbC report. The CbC report is required to be filed within 12 months from the end of the reporting accounting year. For Local File, the audit report relating to international transactions and specified domestic transactions is required to be filed in Form No. 3CEB, in accordance with rule 10E of the Income-tax Rules, 1962, by 31 October of the year following the completed financial year. The documentation prepared in accordance with rule 10D (also part of the Local File) of the Income-tax Rules, 1962, is required to be filed only if specifically requested by the tax authorities.</p>	<p>S92D, S286 Indian Income-tax Act, 1961</p> <p>Rule 10D, Rule 10DA, Rule 10DB Income-tax Rules, 1962</p>
23	<p>Does your legislation provide for specific transfer pricing penalties and/or compliance incentives regarding transfer pricing documentation?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>There is no specific incentive for compliance. Penalties for non-compliance exist.</p> <p>For non-maintenance of documents under S92D (essentially local file) in relation to international transaction(s), a penalty equal to 2% of the value of each international transaction can be levied.</p> <p>For non-maintenance of master file (where applicable), penalty of INR five hundred thousand is imposed.</p> <p>For non-furnishing of CbCR (where applicable), penalty of INR five thousand for each day of delay (up to one month) and of INR fifteen thousand per day for delay beyond one month, may be imposed. If the taxpayer fails to furnish the CbCR even after penalty has been imposed by way of an order, further penalty of INR fifty thousand per day for further delay may be imposed</p>	<p>S 271 AA, S 271 BA, S 271 G, S 271 GB Income-tax Act, 1961</p>

		<p>Further, for inaccurate information in CbCR, taxpayer may be liable to a penalty of INR five hundred thousand.</p> <p>None of the above penalties is automatic. Before imposition of any penalty, due statutory process has to be followed and the taxpayer has to be given an opportunity of being heard. If there are reasonable causes which prevented a taxpayer from complying with a provision, penalty may not be imposed.</p>	
24	<p>If your legislation provides for exemption from transfer pricing documentation obligations, please explain.</p>	<p>Rule 10D of Income-tax Rules sets the threshold for maintenance of transfer pricing documentation. TP documentation (broadly corresponding to local file) need not be maintained if the aggregate value, as recorded in books of account, of international transactions entered into by the taxpayer does not exceed INR 1 crore.</p> <p>For maintenance of master file, rule 10DA provides a dual monetary threshold. Master file needs to be maintained in all cases where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the consolidated group revenue exceeds INR 500 crore (INR 5 billion), and; b) the aggregate value of international transactions, as per books of account, during an accounting year <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. exceeds INR 50 crore (INR 500 million), or; ii. in respect of purchase, sale, transfer, lease or use of intangible property, such aggregate value exceeds INR 10 crore (INR 100 million) <p>For CbCR, the threshold has been laid down in Rule 10DB. CbCR would be required to be filed where the group revenue is in excess of INR 5500 crores (INR 55 billion). However, with effect from 1-4-2021, CbCR would be required to be filed where the group revenue is in excess of INR 6400 crores (INR 64 billion).</p> <p>Also, the local filing of the CbC report by a constituent entity, resident in India, of an International group shall be as per the provisions of Section 286(4).</p>	<p>Rules 10D, 10DA and 10DB Income-tax Rules, 1962</p> <p>S286 Income-tax Act, 1961</p>
Administrative Approaches to Avoiding and Resolving Disputes			
25	<p>Which mechanisms are available in your jurisdiction to prevent and/or resolve transfer pricing disputes?</p>	<p>Please check those that apply:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rulings</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced engagement programs</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advance Pricing Agreements (APA)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unilateral APAs</p>	<p>S92CC, S 92CD, S 144C of Income-tax Act, 1961 and Rules 10F to 10T of Income-tax Rules 1962 and rule 44GA in relation to Advance Pricing Agreements</p> <p>Rule 44G in relation to Mutual Agreement Procedure</p>

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bilateral APAs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multilateral APAs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mutual Agreement Procedures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): Dispute Resolution Panel	S 144C of Income-tax Act 1961 in relation to Dispute Resolution Panel India's MAP Profile
		<p>The Indian APA programme was started in FY 2012-13. The duration of an APA can be up to five consecutive financial years. The rollback provisions were introduced in 2014. Rollback of an APA is allowed for a period of up to four consecutive financial years preceding the first financial year of the APA period.</p> <p>For MAPs, detailed rules are laid down in rule 44G of Income-tax Rules, 1962. India has also published a detailed MAP guidance on 7th August 2020.</p>	
Safe Harbours and Other Simplification Measures			
26	Does your jurisdiction have rules on safe harbours in respect of certain industries, types of taxpayers, or types of transactions?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	S92CB of Income-tax Act , 1961 Rules 10TA to 10TG Income-tax Rules 1962 in relation to Safe Harbour rules
		Indian safe harbour rules apply for specified international transactions in relation to specified taxpayers. For each category of specified international transaction, the circumstances under which safe harbour shall apply are specified in detail in rule 10TD of Income-tax Rules 1962.	
27	Does your jurisdiction have any other simplification measures not listed in this questionnaire? If so, please provide a brief explanation.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Other Legislative Aspects or Administrative Procedures			
28	Does your jurisdiction allow/require taxpayers to make year-end adjustments?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		Taxpayers are free to make year-end adjustments to bring the value of international transactions in line with arm's length results. These adjustments (together with the international transactions in relation to which they have been made) may be examined if the case is taken up for transfer pricing audit.	

29	Does your jurisdiction make secondary adjustments?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	S 92CE of Income-tax Act , 1961 Rule 10CB of Income-tax Rules , 1962
Attribution of Profits to Permanent Establishments			
30	[NEW] Does your jurisdiction follow the Authorised OECD Approaches for the attribution of profits to PEs (AOA)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No India does not follow the Authorised OECD Approaches for the attribution of profits to PEs (AOA).	
31	[NEW] Does your jurisdiction follow also another approach?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No India does not follow the Authorised OECD Approaches for the attribution of profits to PEs (AOA). Instead, the attribution of profits to PEs is done in accordance with rule 10 of its Income-tax Rules, 1962, read with the relevant Double Taxation Agreement.	
Other Relevant Information			
32	Other legislative aspects or administrative procedures regarding transfer pricing	Indian legislation has the provision of a Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP). Any taxpayer that faces a transfer pricing adjustment has the option of approaching a 3 member panel of senior tax officials before the finalisation of tax demand pertaining to the transfer pricing adjustment. The decision of DRP is binding on the tax administration. However, the taxpayer has the right to appeal against the decision of the DRP.	S144C of Income-tax Act 1961
33	Other relevant information (e.g. <i>whether your jurisdiction is preparing new transfer pricing regulations, or other relevant aspects not addressed in this questionnaire</i>)	All the relevant sections and rules mentioned in this profile can be accessed at the websites mentioned in the “References” column.	Income-tax Act Income-tax Rules

For more information, please visit: <https://oe.cd/transfer-pricing-country-profiles>