

The Financial Kaleid Scope



From The Editor's Desk

Dear Reader,

Taxes are an integral component in our country, with them accounting for a major portion of the income earned by the government, income which is utilised to provide certain basic provisions to citizens. Individuals who earn more than a certain amount are expected to pay taxes, as per the existing tax slabs. While these taxes can be harsh on the bank balance of a taxpayer, the government also provides certain provisions wherein one can save tax. Tax deductions can help one reduce the taxable income, lowering their overall tax liability and thereby helping them save on taxes. The deduction one is eligible for depends on a number of factors, with different limits set for different purposes.

Tax deduction helps in reducing your taxable income. It decreases your overall tax liabilities and helps you save tax. However, depending on the type of tax deduction you claim, the amount of deduction varies. You can claim tax deduction for amounts spent in tuition fees, medical expenses and charitable contributions. Also, you can invest in various schemes such as life insurance plans, retirement savings schemes, and national savings schemes etc. to get tax deductions. The government of India offers tax exemptions for various expenses incurred in different activities to encourage individuals and commercial institutions take part in activities having social benefits.

A number of day-to-day expenditures qualify for deductions, with information about them being crucial to help us save money. Tax deduction can be claimed on money spent for education, medical expenses, charitable contributions, investments in insurance, retirement schemes, etc. These deductions have been put in place to encourage members of the society to participate in certain useful activities, helping everyone involved in the process. In this issue of Kaleidoscope, we will glance through various investment avenues available under Section 80C and 80D of "The Income-tax Act, 1961" & provide insight of investments in National Pension System (NPS) in our 'Get Started' section of this issue.

Best Regards, NSDL

Click & Find: Income Tax deductions under Section 80C & 80D

Background

Section 80C of the Income Tax Act provides provisions for tax deductions on a number of payments, with both individuals and Hindu Undivided Families eligible for these deductions. Eligible taxpayers can claim deductions to the tune of ₹1.5 lakh per year under Section 80C, with this amount being a combination of deductions available under Sections 80C & 80CCC.

Some of the popular investments which are eligible for this tax deduction are mentioned below:

- Payment made towards Life Insurance policies (for self, spouse or children).
- Payment made towards a superannuation/provident fund.
- Tuition fees paid to educate a maximum of two children.
- Payments made towards construction or purchase of a residential property.
- Payments issued towards a fixed deposit with a minimum tenure of 5 years.

This section provides for a number of additional deductions like investment in mutual funds, senior citizens saving schemes etc.

Subsections under Section 80C:

Section 80C has an exhaustive list of deductions an individual is eligible for, which have led to the creation of suitable sub-sections to provide clarity to taxpayers.

Section 80 CCC

Section 80 CCC of the Income Tax Act provides deduction to an Individual for any amount paid or deposited in any annuity plan of LIC or any other insurer. The plan must be for receiving pension from a fund referred to in Section 10(23AAB). If the annuity is surrendered before the date of its maturity, the surrender value is taxable in the year of receipt.

Section 80 CCD: Deduction for Contribution to Pension Account

- ✓ Employee's contribution Section 80CCD(1): Allowed to an Individual who makes deposits to his/her Pension account. Maximum deduction allowed is 10% of salary (in case of taxpayer being an employee) or 10% of gross total income (in case of tax payer being self-employed) or ₹1,00,000 whichever is less. The limit of ₹1,00,000 has been increased to ₹1,50,000 starting financial year 2015-16 (assessment year 2016-17).
- ✓ **Deduction for self-contribution to NPS** Section 80CCD(1B): A new section 80CCD(1B) has been introduced for additional deduction for amount deposited by a taxpayer to their NPS account . Contributions to Atal Pension Yojana are also eligible. Deduction is allowed on contribution up to ₹50,000.
- ✓ **Employer's contribution** Section 80CCD(2): Deduction is allowed for employer's contribution to employee's pension account up to 10% of the salary of the employee. There is no monetary ceiling on this deduction.

Tax Deductions under Section 80D

Section 80D of the Income Tax Act permits deductions on amounts spent by an individual towards the premium of a health insurance policy. This includes payment made on behalf of a spouse, children, parents or self to a Central Government health plan. An amount of ₹25,000 can be claimed as deduction when paid towards the insurance for spouse, dependent children or self, while this amount is ₹30,000 if the person is over the age of 60 years. Both individuals and Hindu Undivided Families are eligible for this deduction, subject to the payment being made in modes other than cash.

Subsections under Section 80D:

Section 80D is further subdivided into two sub-sections, offering clarity on the benefits available to taxpayers.

Section 80DD

Section 80DD provides provisions for tax deductions in two cases, with the permitted deduction being ₹75,000 for normal disability and ₹1.25 lakh if it is a severe disability. This deduction can be claimed in case of the following expenditures.

- ✓ On payments made towards the treatment of dependents with disability.
- Amount paid as premium to purchase or maintain an insurance policy for such dependent.

Section 80DDB

Section 80DDB can be utilised by HUFs and resident individuals and provides provisions for deductions on the expense incurred by an individual/family towards medical treatment of certain diseases. The permitted deduction is limited to ₹40,000, which can be increased to ₹60,000 if the treatment is for a senior citizen and ₹80,000 in case of very senior citizen [w.e.f. assessment year 2016-17]). With effect from assessment year 2016-17, the taxpayer shall be required to obtain a prescription from a specialist doctor (not necessarily from a doctor working in a Government hospital) for availing this deduction.

Get Started – Subscribing to National Pension System

To receive a steady pension, Hon'ble Finance Minister Mr. Arun Jaitley in Budget 2015-16 introduced an additional income tax deduction of ₹50,000 for contribution to the National Pension Scheme (NPS) under Section 80CCD. This extra deduction of ₹50,000 on NPS will increase the total deduction allowed under Section 80C and 80CCD of Income Tax Act to ₹2 lakh.

You get these deductions under Section 80CCD of Income Tax Act. Whether you are a salaried employee or self-employed, or even if your employer is paying towards your NPS fund, any contributions made towards National Pension Scheme by a resident or non-resident Indian is tax deductible based on certain conditions. This deduction is not available for HUFs or Hindu Undivided Families. You can enroll in NPS at any time if you are a citizen of India and at least 18 years of age; no entry is, however, allowed after 60 years of age. You should take advantage of compounding of your wealth by starting right away. The earlier you start, the greater will be opportunity for the growth of your pension wealth.

- ✓ You can open an NPS account with authorized branches of service providers called 'Points of Presence' (POPs), appointed by PFRDA. To enroll in the NPS, you have to submit the registration form to the Point of Presence Service Providers (POP-SPs) of your choice. You have the option to shift from one branch to another branch of a POP at your convenience. The registration form is available at any of the POP-SPs or can be downloaded from NSDL website www.npscra.nsdl.co.in and PFRDA web site www.pfrda.org.in.
- ✓ After your account is opened, CRA shall send you a "Welcome Kit" containing your **Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN)** and other details relating to your account. Your PRAN will be the primary means of identifying your account.
- ✓ After the "Welcome Kit" is delivered, you would be receiving a mailer which will contain an Internet Password (IPIN) and a Telephone Password (TPIN). The IPIN can be used to access your account on the CRA Website (www.cra-nsdl.com). The IPIN can be reset online using 'One Time Password' (OTP). The TPIN can be used to access your account through the toll free helpline (1-800-222080). The 'Interactive Voice Response' (IVR) service not only helps you to access your account details, but also allows you to reset the TPIN and request Transaction Statement to your registered email ID.

You are required to make your first contribution along with the application form for opening the account to any POP - SP. You are required to make contributions subject to the following conditions:

- Minimum amount per contribution ₹500
- Minimum contribution per year ₹6,000
- Minimum number of contributions One per financial year

Over and above the mandated limit of a minimum of 1 contribution, you may decide on the frequency of the contributions across the year as per your convenience.

Under NPS, how your money is invested will depend upon your own choice. NPS offers you a number of fund managers and multiple investment options to choose from. In case you do not want to exercise a choice, your money will be invested as per the "Auto Choice" option, where money will get invested in various type of schemes as per your age. We would be explaining the different types of power of choices that a subscriber can make in this issue which would guide you to invest wisely.

Tax Benefit:

- (i) The limit on deduction on account of contribution by employee to NPS, which was capped at ₹1 lakh last year, has been removed and now the tax deduction can be claimed up to 10% of salary subject to ceiling of ₹1.50 lakh.
- (ii) An additional deduction for the investment up to ₹50,000 in NPS has been introduced under sub-section 80CCD(1B). This is over and above the limit of deduction available under sec 80CCD(1). This is an exclusive tax deduction available only for investment in NPS and not available for any other investment.

Investments which qualifies for deduction u/s. 80C

Under this section, you can invest a maximum of ₹1.50 lakh and if you are in the highest tax bracket of 30%, you save a tax of ₹46,350. The various investment options under this section include:

Public Provident Fund (PPF): Interest earned is fully exempt from tax without any limit. Annual contributions qualify for tax rebate under Section 80C of income tax. Contributions to PPF accounts of the spouse and children are also eligible for tax deduction. The highest amount that can be deposited is ₹1,50,000. Tax bracket for PPF is EEE (i.e. Exempt,Exempt,Exempt). So contribution is exempted under 80C, Interest earned is tax exempted and withdrawal is also tax exempted.

Life Insurance Premiums: Any amount that you pay towards Life Insurance premium for yourself, your spouse or your children can also be included in Section 80C deduction. Please note that life insurance premium paid by you for your parents (father / mother / both) or your in-laws is not eligible for deduction under Section 80C. If you are paying premium for more than one insurance policy, all the premiums can be included. Life Insurance Policy issued by all Insurance companies recognized by IRDA enjoys these tax benefits.

Equity Linked Savings Scheme (ELSS): There are some mutual fund (MF) schemes specially created for offering you tax savings, and these are called Equity Linked Savings Scheme (ELSS). The investments that you make in ELSS are eligible for deduction under Section 80C. ELSS of mutual funds are diversified equity funds that have a lock-in period of three years and provide tax benefit. Since a major portion of the corpus is invested in equities / equity stock markets, the earning potential is higher (though at a higher risk) as

Investments which qualifies for deduction u/s. 80C (contd)

compared to other tax saving investments. Investors can invest up to ₹1,50,000 in an ELSS fund and deduct the investment from their taxable income u/s 80C of Income Tax Act, thereby effectively reducing their tax liability. Long-term capital gains and dividends received on these investments are tax-free in the hands of the investor as per the current tax laws.

Provident Fund (PF) & Voluntary Provident Fund (VPF): PF is automatically deducted from your salary. Both you and your employer contribute to it. While employer's contribution is exempt from tax, your contribution (i.e., employee's contribution) is counted towards section 80C investments. You also have the option to contribute additional amounts through voluntary contributions (VPF).

Home Loan Principal Repayment: The Equated Monthly Installment (EMI) that you pay every month to repay your home loan consists of two components – Principal and Interest. The principal component of the EMI qualifies for deduction under Section 80C. Even the interest component can save you significant income tax – but that would be under Section 24 of the Income Tax Act.

Stamp Duty and Registration Charges for a home: The amount you pay as stamp duty when you buy a house, and the amount you pay for the registration of the documents of the house can be claimed as deduction under Section 80C in the year of purchase of the house.

National Savings Certificate (NSC): National Savings Certificates popularly known as NSC is a saving bond, primarily used for small saving and income tax saving investment in India, part of the Postal savings system of Indian Postal Service (India Post). These can be purchased from a post office by an adult in his own name or in the name of a minor, a trust, two adults jointly. These are issued for five and ten year maturity and can be pledged to banks for availing loans. The interest accrued every year is liable to tax (i.e., to be included in your taxable income) but the interest is also deemed to be reinvested and thus eligible for Section 80C deduction.

Pension Funds – Section 80CCC: Sec 80CCC stipulates that an investment in pension funds is eligible for deduction from your income. Section 80CCC investment limit is clubbed with the limit of Section 80C – it means that the total deduction available for 80CCC and 80C is ₹1.50 Lakh. This also means that your investment in pension funds upto ₹1.50 Lakh can be claimed as deduction u/s 80CCC. However, as mentioned earlier, the total deduction u/s 80C and 80CCC cannot exceed ₹1.50 Lakh.

5-Year bank Fixed Deposits (FDs): Tax-saving Fixed Deposits (FDs) of scheduled banks with tenure of 5 years are also entitled for Section 80C deduction.

Senior Citizen Savings Scheme 2004 (SCSS): A recent addition to section 80C list, Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) is the most lucrative scheme among all the small savings schemes but is meant only for senior citizens. An individual who has attained the age of 60 years or above on the date of opening of a/c or an individual who attained the age of 55 years or more and who has retired under VRS/SPL. VRS, can open an account individually or jointly with spouse. A retired personnel of Defence Services (excluding Civil Defence Employees) can subscribe to the scheme irrespective of the age limit subject to fulfilment of specificed conditions. Account can be closed after expiry of 5 years from the date of opening of account and account can be extended for next 3 years. Premature closure is permissible after one year subject to certain conditions. Deposits qualify for deduction u/s 80-C of Income Tax Act on the deposits made in new accounts opened on or after 8th December 2007.

Please note that the interest is payable quarterly instead of compounded quarterly. Thus, unclaimed interest on these deposits won't earn any further interest. Interest income is chargeable to tax.

5-Year Post Office Time Deposit (POTD) scheme: POTDs are similar to bank fixed deposits. Deposits in 5 year time deposit qualify for deduction under section 80-C of Income Tax Act on the deposits made in new accounts opened on or after 8th December 2007. The Interest is entirely taxable.

NABARD rural bonds: The Finance Act, 2007 inserted clause (xxii) in sub-section (2) of section 80C of the Income-tax Act to provide that deposits made in bonds issued by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf, shall be eligible for deduction under the said section. There are two types of Bonds issued by NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development): NABARD Rural Bonds and Bhavishya Nirman Bonds (BNB). Out of these two, only NABARD Rural Bonds qualify under section 80C.

Unit Linked Insurance Plan: ULIP stands for Unit linked Saving Schemes. ULIPs cover Life insurance with benefits of equity investments. They have attracted the attention of investors and tax-savers not only because they help us save tax but they also perform well to give decent returns in the long-term. You are required to make your first contribution along with the application form for opening the account to any POP - SP. You are required to make contributions subject to the following conditions:

Tuition Fees: Any sum paid as tuition fees to any university/college/educational institution in India for full time education. Nowadays most of income tax payee have to incur quite high payments towards the education fees of their children. The expenditure incurred on education fees is eligible for a deduction under Income Tax Act, So, if you are incurring expenditure towards education fee of your children, please check whether these are eligible for deduction under the IT Act.

Sukanya Samriddhi Account: Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme is a small deposit scheme for girl child, as part of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign, which would currently fetch yearly interest rate of 9.1 per cent and provide income tax deduction Under section 80C of the Income Tax Act,1961. Interest on such account is taxable as Income from Other Sources.

Note: Although NSDL has provided information pertaining to different types of tax saving instruments, it is always recommended to consult a Chartered Accountant expert/advisor for any of your tax related queries.

Understanding Financial lingo (NPS)

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

An autonomous body set up by the Government of India to develop and regulate the pension market in India.

Central Recordkeeping Agency (CRA)

The recordkeeping, administration and customer service functions for all subscribers of the NPS are being handled by NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited, which is acting as the Central Record-keeper for the NPS.

Pension Funds (PFs)/Pension Fund Managers (PFMs)

The Pension Funds (PFs) appointed by PFRDA would manage your retirement savings under the NPS.

Trustee Bank

The Trustee Bank appointed under NPS shall facilitate fund transfers across various entities of the NPS system viz. PFMs, ASPs, Subscribers, etc.

NPS Trust

The NPS trust has been set up and constituted for taking care of the assets and funds under the NPS in the interest of the beneficiaries (subscribers).

Point of Presence (POP)

Points of Presence (POPs) are the first points of interaction of the NPS subscriber with the NPS architecture. The authorized branches of a POP, called Point of Presence Service Providers (POP-SPs), will act as collection points and extend a number of customer services to NPS subscribers.

Annuity Service Providers (ASPs)

ASPs would be responsible for delivering a regular monthly pension to you after your exit from the NPS.

Annuity

An annuity is a financial instrument which provides for a regular payment of a certain amount of money on monthly/quarterly/annual basis for the choosen period for a given purchase price or pension wealth. In simple terms it is a financial instrument which offers monthly/quarterly/annual pension at a specified rate for the period you choose.

Blog

Investment in Tax exempted Investment products

By Shubham S. Rane, M.D. College of Arts, Science & Commerce

Income earned from investment in securities is the subject to tax deduction under Income tax act. Many investors are bothered by the tax burden over returns or earnings. Selection of proper tax sheltered avenues or inclusion of tax exempted investment product in your portfolio will help you to decrease your tax burden. Individual's circumstance will determine how one can take advantage of Tax sheltered investing. We need to identify our current financial priorities, like retirement, education, financial security or combination. Think about current cash flow, capability & willingness to invest and also need to consider current tax situation & plan according down the road. In India, most important & popular tax sheltered schemes are ELSS, PPF/EPF (Public/Employees Provident Fund), NSC (National Saving Certificate), LIC (Life Insurance Companies policy) etc.



EPF or PPF is the safest investment avenue being guaranteed by the central government. Usually the rate of return is fractionally above the bank rates. The term is 15 years and plus in block of five years & this investment entitled for tax deduction under Section 80C under Income Tax Act 1962. Other is Equity Linked Saving Scheme (ELSS) is a mutual fund product is tax free under existing law. On the other hand, if an investor is interested for investment in direct market securities (Shares) for more than one year, then it is considered as long term investment and income under this investment is fully exempted from tax liability.

As we can see, most of the tax sheltered investment products are long term in nature which are not only protecting our current earning but also securing future (depends on individual's choice of product) with accumulated lump sum of savings. Hence Investment in tax exempted/sheltered avenues helps you to build a better future as a smart investor.

Your Questions Our Answers

1. Can a demat account holder view / download Form 26AS through IDeAS facility of NSDL?

Demat account holders of NSDL can view / download Form 26AS through IDeAS facility of NSDL. The Users of SPEED-e/IDeAS facility will be able to view / download their tax credit statement by using their login credentials viz., User ID and password used for accessing the SPEED-e/IDeAS facility. Thus, Clients would not be required to separately log-in to TRACES website for viewing / downloading their tax credit statement. Clients have to click on the hyperlink "View/Download Tax Credit Statements" under SPEED-e/IDeAS facility after log-in to access TRACES website.



2. What is Electronic Verification Code (EVC)?

Online filing of Income Tax Return is paperless, only if the person has a digital signature. Taxpayers who did not have a digital signature had to post a physical copy of the ITR V form to the Central Processing Centre (CPC) in Bengaluru, within 120 days of filing tax returns online. To make life simpler, Central Board of Direct Taxes has introduced Electronic Verification Code (EVC) for verifying the Income Tax Returns (ITRs) that are filed electronically. If you e-verify your Income Tax Return using EVC, no need to mail (post) ITR V physical copy to CPC Bangalore.

Electronic Verification Code (EVC) is a 10 digits alpha numeric code and can be generated easily online. For NSDL demat account holders, it is now possible to generate the EVC using your demat account, if your mobile number or email ID is registered in your demat account. The option to generate EVC through demat account number is made available on the Income Tax Department website post login.

3. What is Tax Deducted at Source (TDS)?

For quick and efficient collection of taxes, the Income-tax Law has incorporated a system of deduction of tax at the point of generation of income. This system is called as "Tax Deducted at Source", commonly known as TDS. Under this system tax is deducted at the origin of the income. Tax is deducted by the payer and is remitted to the Government by the payer on behalf of the payee.

The provisions of deduction of tax at source are applicable to several payments such as salary, interest, commission, brokerage, professional fees, royalty, contract payments, etc. In respect of payments to which the TDS provisions apply, the payer has to deduct tax at source on the payments made by him and he has to deposit the tax deducted by him to the credit of the Government.

4. How can I know the quantum of tax deducted from my income by the payer?

To know the quantum of the tax deducted by the payer, you can ask the payer to furnish you a TDS certificate in respect of tax deducted by him. You can also check Form 26AS from your e-filing account at https://incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in. You can also use the "View Your Tax Credit" facility available at www.incometaxindia.gov.in.

5. What to do if the TDS credit is not reflected in Form 26AS?

Non-reflection of TDS credit in Form 26AS can be due to several reasons like non-filing of TDS statement by the payer, quoting incorrect PAN of the deductee in the TDS statement filed by the payer. Thus, in case of non-reflection of TDS credit in Form 26AS, the payee has to contact the payer for ascertaining the correct reasons for non-reflection of the TDS credit in Form 26AS.

6. What is Form 16 / 16A?

It is the certificate of deduction of tax at source by any person in accordance with Chapter XVII-B of IT Act. Form 16 is issued on deduction of tax by the employer on behalf of the employee under section 192 of IT Act, 1961. Form 16A is issued if the deduction of tax is under any other provision of Chapter XVII-B of IT Act. These certificates provide details of TDS / TCS for various transactions between deductor and deductee. It is mandatory to issue these certificates to Tax Payers u/s 203 of IT Act, 1961.

News Articles

One Participant became operational in NSDL during January 2017

In January 2017, following Participant became operational in NSDL:

Sr. No.	Participant Name	
1	Narayan Capital Services Private Limited (DP ID IN304174)	Delhi

The above additions take the total number of operational Participants to 268 and the total number of DPM set-ups to 352.

Subscription to SPEED-e

During January 2017, one more Participant has subscribed to the SPEED-e facility viz.,

IIFL Wealth Management Limited (DP ID IN304158)

Clients of the above mentioned Participant can now avail the facility of submitting various instructions through SPEED-e facility.

This takes the total number of Participants who have subscribed to **SPEED-e** to 186.

Investor Education initiatives undertaken by NSDL

Investor Awareness Programmes:

In order to reach out to investors that are spread across the country and to apprise them about the facilities available in NSDL depository system and the awareness on stock markets, NSDL conducts various Investor Awareness Programmes jointly with it's Depository Participants (DPs) & with Institutions like SEBI, NSE etc. NSDL also conducts various training programmes for its Depository Participants (DPs) on Depository related services. During January 2017, NSDL conducted 16 Investor Awareness Programmes with Participants, College Institutions, SEBI, NSE etc. These programmes were attended by around 1,700 investors, details as mentioned below:

Sr. No.	o. Particulars		
1	Joint Awareness Programmes with DPs	No. of Programmes	
	Karvy Stock Broking Limited	2	
	Sharekhan Limited	2	
	Acumen Capital Market (India) Limited	1	
	CSE Capital Markets Private Limited	1	
	Guiness Securities Limited	1	
	ICICI Securities Limited	1	
	Patel Wealth Advisors Pvt. Ltd.	1	
	Swastika Investmart Limited	1	
	Total Programmes	10	
2	Joint Awareness Programmes with other Institutions	No. of Programmes	
	Geojit BNP Paribas Financial Services Limited, Eenadu newspaper and NSE	2	
	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	1	
	Total Programmes	3	
3	Participation at Events	No. of Programmes	
	"10th Annual Banking Conclave" organized by Mint	1	
	"Outlook Money Digital Dialogues" organized by Outlook Money	1	
	Investor Fair in association with NSE	1	
	Total Programmes	3	

Read and Win!

Can an NSDL demat account holder generate EVC using his/her demat account?

Send your replies providing your contact details (Name, address and contact no.) with the subject 'Knowledge Wins Contest - February 2017' to info@nsdl.co.in

- This Contest is only open to Indian Citizens. (NSDL employees are not allowed to participate in this contest.)
- NSDL reserves the right, at any time, to verify the validity of entries and entrants and to disqualify any entry not submitted in accordance with these Terms or which tampers with the entry process.
- All prize drawings will made on a strictly random basis and the decision made by NSDL will be final



Lucky 25 Winners will Win Free Goodies



Your suggestions for newsletter are valuable to us. Send in your suggestions mentioning your contact details (contact name, address & contact number) with the subject "Suggestions for the newsletter" to info@nsdl.co.in

NSDL Offices

Head Office	Branch Offices		
<u>Mumbai</u>	Ahmedabad	<u>Chennai</u>	
Trade World, A wing, 4th & 5th Floors, Kamala Mills Compound, Lower Parel,	Unit No. 407, 4th floor, 3rd Eye One Commercial complex Co-op. Soc. Ltd., C. G. Road, Near Panchvati Circle, Ahmedabad - 380006 Tel.: (079) - 26461376 Fax: (079 - 26461375)	6A, 6th Floor, Kences Towers, #1 Ramkrishna Street, North Usman Road, T. Nagar, Chennai - 600 017. Tel.: (044) 2814 3917 / 11 Fax: (044) 2814 4593	
Mumbai - 400 013.		New Delhi	
Tel.: (022) 2499 4200 Fax: (022) 2497 6351	Unit 2E, 2nd Floor, The Millenium, 235/2A, A.J.C Bose Road, Kolkata - 700 020. Tel.: (033) 2281 4662 / (033) 2290 4246	Unit No. 601, 603, 604, 6th Floor, Tower-A, Naurang House, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 Tel.: (011) 23353814 / 15 Fax: (011) 23353816	

Officer-In Charge National Securities Depository Ltd. Trade World, A Wing, 4th floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013. Tel.: (022) 2499 4200 Fax: (022) 2497 6351 Officer-In Charge National Securities Depository Ltd. Trade World, 4th floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013. Tel.: (022) 2499 4200 Fax: (022) 2497 6351	Investor Relationship Cell	NSDL Certification Program
Trade World, A Wing, 4th floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013. Tel.: (022) 2499 4200 Fax: (022) 2497 6351 Trade World, 4th floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013. Tel.: (022) 2499 4200 Fax: (022) 2497 6351	Officer-In Charge	Officer-In Charge
Email: relations@nsdl.co.in Email: trainingdept@nsdl.co.in	Trade World, A Wing, 4th floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013.	Trade World, 4th floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013. Tel.: (022) 2499 4200 Fax: (022) 2497 6351

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