Chapter 15 Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008

Introduction:

- LLP Act, 2008 received President's assent on 7th Jan 2009 and was enacted on Jan 9, 2009.
- It comprises 81 sections and 4 schedules.

Schedules:

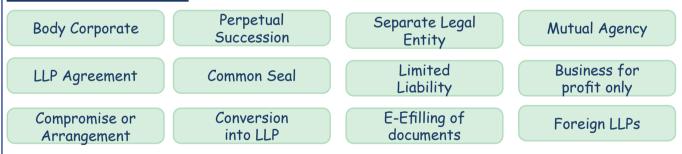
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First	Rights of partner and LLP in the absence of formal agreement	
	Converting a firm into LLP	
Third	Converting a private company into LLP	
Fourth	ourth Converting an unlisted company into LLP	

Need and benefits:

- This act was introduced as an alternative corporate structure to meet evolving economic needs.
- It fills void between traditional unlimited liability partnerships & structured limited liability cos.
- It offers limited liability benefits while allowing flexible, partnership-like internal structuring based on mutual agreements.
- While the LLP itself will be liable to the full extent of its assets, the liability of the partners will be limited to the extent of their capital contribution.

Characteristics of an LLP



Special characteristics worth understanding in detail:

Mutual Agency	All partners are agents of LLP alone. No one partner can bind other partner	
	by his act	
Limited Liability	Limited Liability The liability of partners will be limited to their agreed contribution in L	
	Such contribution may be of tangible or intangible nature or both	

Definitions:

1. Address [(Sec 2(1)(a)]: "Address" in relation to a partner of LLP, means:

- (i) If he is an individual, his usual residential address; and
- (ii) If it is a body corporate, the address of its registered office.

2. <u>Body Corporate [(Section 2(1)(d)]</u>:

Means:	Includes: Excludes:
A company	LLP registered under this Act Corporation Sole.
	LLP incorporated outside India and Co-operative Society
	Company incorporated outside · Any other body corporate
	India. notified by CG

- 3. <u>Business [Sec 2(1)(e)]</u> includes every trade, profession, service and occupation except any activity which CG may, by notification, exclude.
- Financial Year [Sec 2(1)(1)]: means period from 1st April of a year to 31st March of following year. However, in the case of a LLP incorporated after 30th September of a year, FY may end on 31st March of next following year.

Example: LLP incorporated on 15/10/24 - FY will be 15/10/24 - 31/04/26

- 5. <u>Foreign LLP [section 2(1)(m)]</u>: It means an LLP formed, incorporated or registered outside India which establishes a place of business within India.
- 6. <u>LLP Agreement [Section 2(1)(o)]</u>: means any written agreement between the partners of the LLP or between the LLP and its partners which determines the mutual rights and duties of the partners and their rights and duties in relation to that LLP.
- 7. <u>Small LLP [Sec 2(1)(ta)]</u>: means an LLP
 - (i) Having contribution <= 25 lakhs or higher amt. as may be prescribed not > Rs. 5 crores and
 - (ii) Turnover as per "Statement of Accounts and solvency" <= 40 lakhs or such higher amt. as may be prescribed not > Rs. 50 crores or
 - (iii) meets such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

Section 4: Non-Applicability of Indian Partnership Act, 1932

Save as otherwise provided, Indian Partnership Act, 1932 shall not apply to LLP's.

Section 5: Partners:

Individual or body corporate may become partners in LLP but exclude an individual if:

- (i) He has been declared of having unsound mind by competent court.
- (ii) He is an undischarged insolvent.
- (iii) He has applied to be adjudicated as an insolvent and his application is pending.

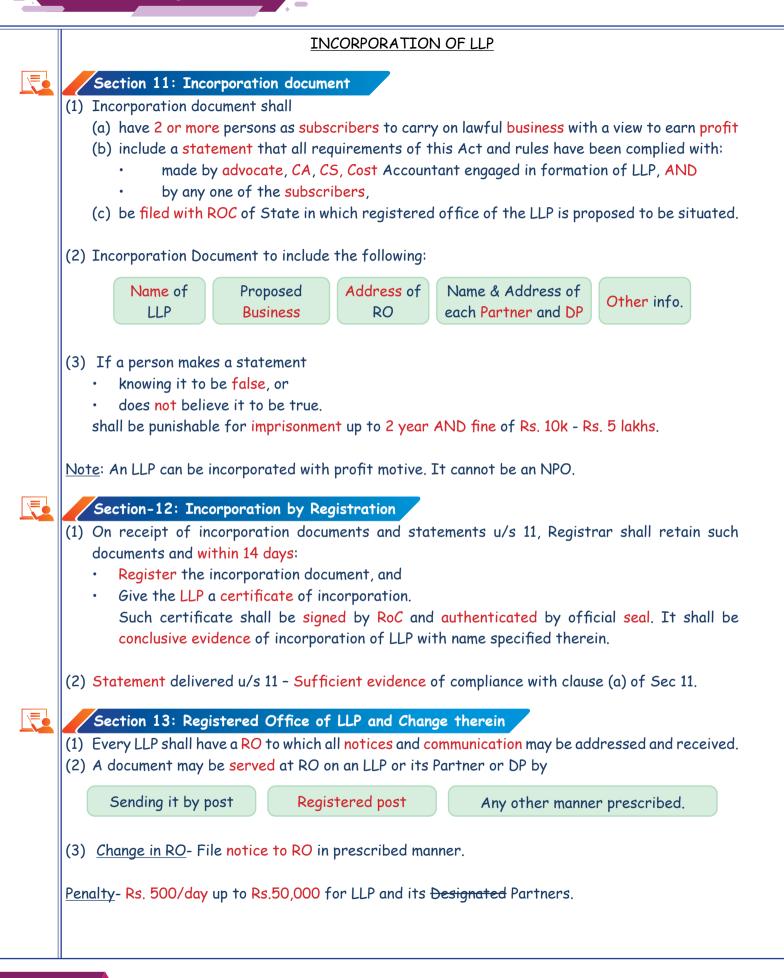
Concept clarity check :

- 1. HUF is not a BC and hence cannot become partner in LLP.
- 2. Can one LLP become partner in another LLP? Yes. Because LLPs are BC and BC can become partner. Similarly, foreign LLPs, foreign companies, etc. can also become partner in LLP.

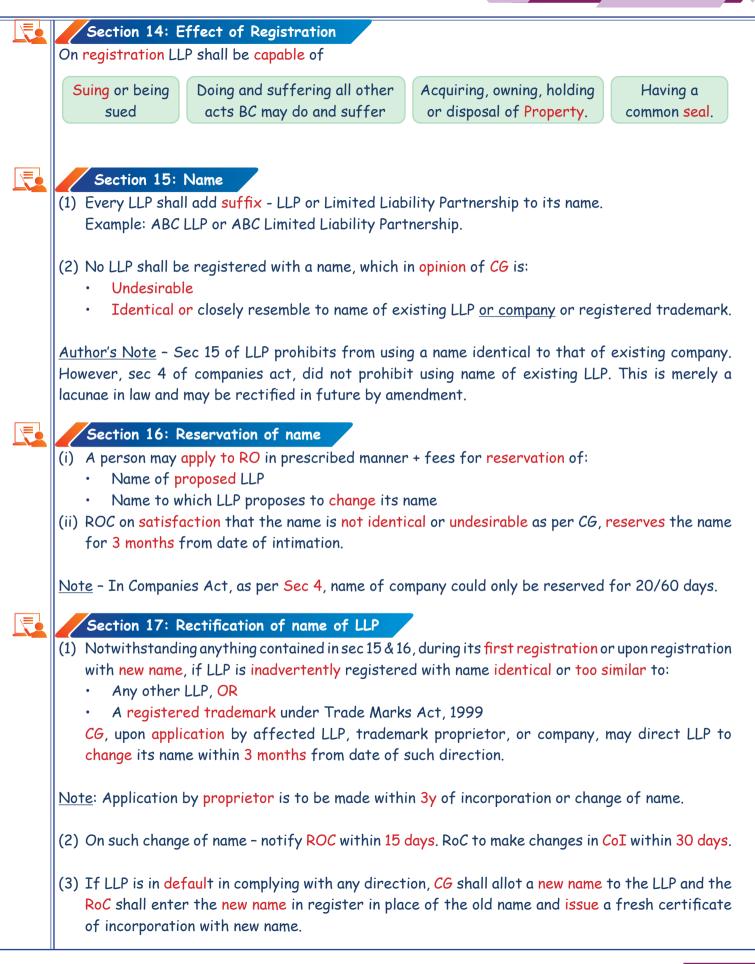
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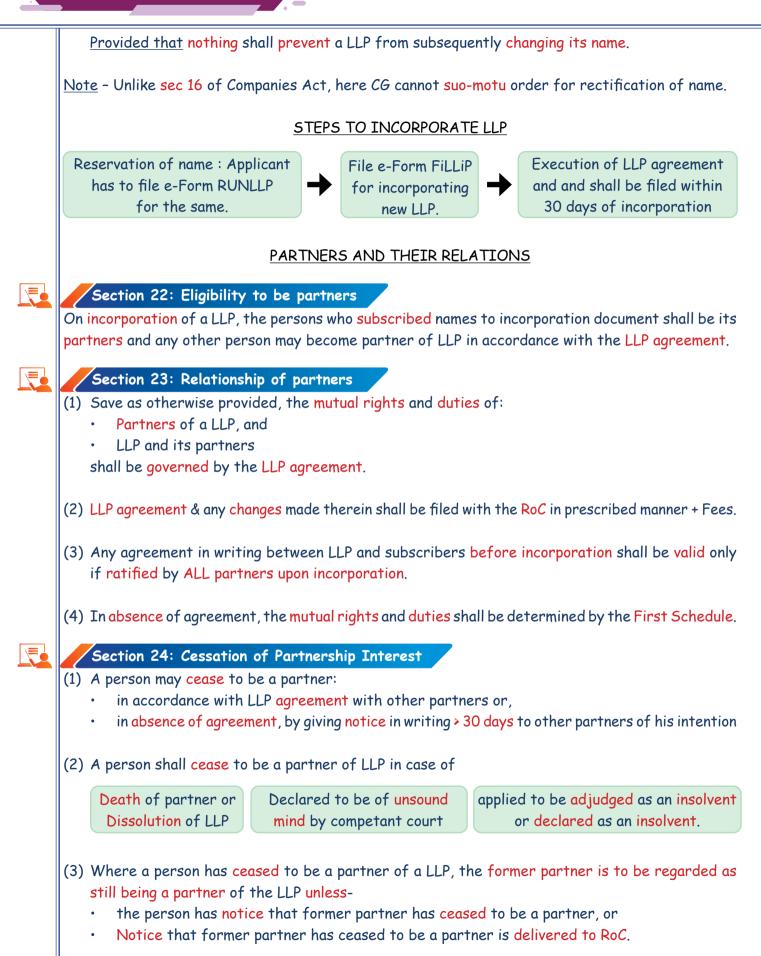
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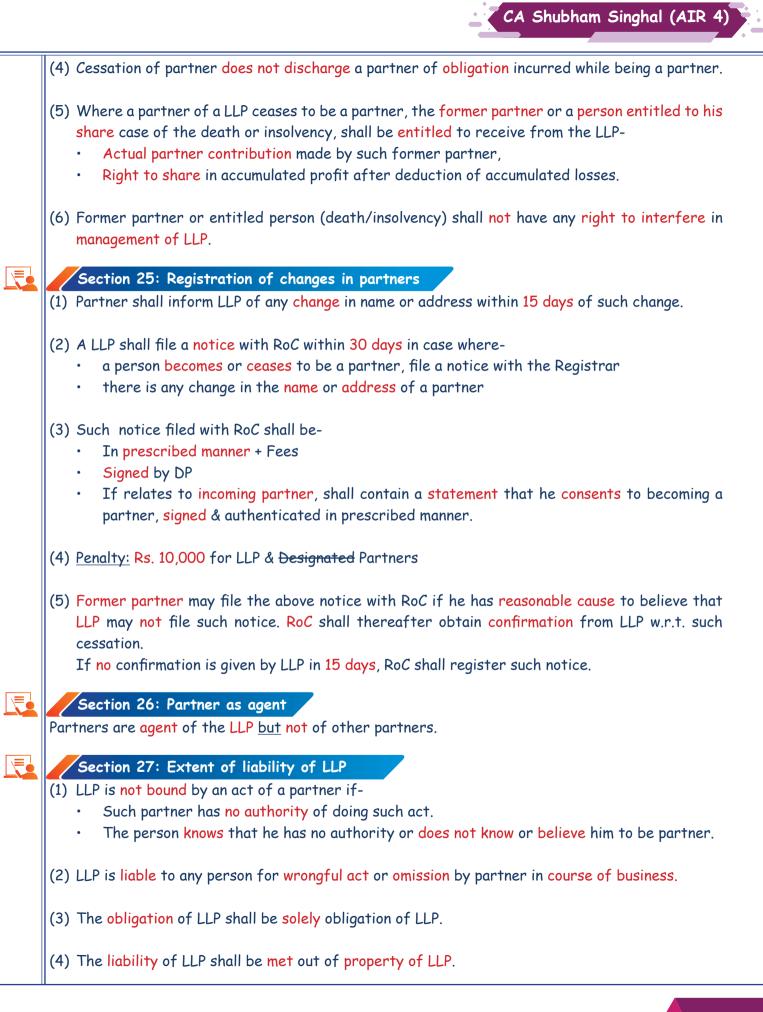
Section 6: Minimum number of Partners:
 Minimum- 2 Partners; Maximum- No Limit.
Provided that- If no. of partners is reduced below 2 and LLP carries on business for > 6 months,
such partner shall be personally liable for obligations incurred by LLP after 6 months.
Section 7: Designated Partner (DP):
(1) At least 2 <u>individuals or BC</u> as DP and at least 1 DP shall be resident of India.
Resident in India means a person who has stayed in India for >= 120 days during the FY.
What if all partners are BC?
If all partners are BC or if one or more partners are individual and BC - 2 individual partners or
nominees of BC shall act as DP.
Failure to appoint 2 DP: Rs. 10,000 + Rs.100/day max. up to Rs. 1 lakh for LLP and Rs. 50,000 for
every partner.
(2) If incorporation document:
 specifies who are to be DP - such person shall be DP on incorporation, or
• state that each of the partner from time to time will be DP - Every partner shall be DP.
A person may become or cease to be DP in accordance with LLP Agreement.
(3) Every partner appointed as DP shall give prior consent to LLP. Thereafter, LLP shall file particulars of such DP with ROC within 30 days of his appointment in prescribed manner.
Failure to file with ROC: Liable for <mark>Rs. 5,000 + Rs.100/day</mark> max. up to Rs. 50,000 (LLP) & Rs.25,000 (DP).
(4) Every DP of LLP shall obtain Designated Partner Identification Number (DPIN) from CG.
<u>Note</u> - Director Identification Number (DIN) and DPIN can be used interchangeably.
Section 8: Liabilities of a DP:
Unless otherwise provided, DP shall be
(i) responsible for doing all acts of LLP including filing of documents, returns, statements etc.
(ii) liable to all penalties imposed on LLP.
Section 9: Changes in DP in case of vacancy
(1) LLP may appoint DP within 30 days of vacancy due to any reason.
(2) If at any time there is no DP or only 1 DP, each partner shall be deemed as DP.
Contravention: Rs. 10,000 + Rs.100/day max. up to Rs. 1 lakh for LLP and Rs. 50,000 for every
partner.











	 Section 28: Extent of liability of partner (1) He is not personally liable, directly or indirectly for obligation solely by reason of being partner. (2) A partner shall be personally liable for his own wrongful act or omission but not for wrongful
	act or omission of other partner. Section 29: Holding out
	 (1) Where <u>any person</u> who by words spoken or written or by conduct, represents himself <u>or knowingly represents himself as partner of LLP</u>, such person is liable to any person who has on the faith such representation given credit to LLP (whether or not the person representing himself to be a partner know that such representation led to the person giving LLP the credit)
	However, the LLP receiving such credit shall also be liable to extent of credit received.(2) Where after a partner's death the business is continued in the same LLP name shall not by itself
	 make his LR or his estate liable for any act of the LLP done after his death. Section 30: Unlimited liability in case of fraud Unlimited liability in case of fraud: where act is carried out by LLP or any of its partner with an intent to defraud any creditor or any other person the liability of LLP & responsible partners shall be unlimited for all debts & other liabilities.
	However, where such act is done by partner, Liability of LLP = Liability of partner, unless partner has acted without authority.
	 (2) Every person who was knowingly involved shall be punishable with Imprisonment up to 5 years and Fine of Rs.5,000 to Rs.5 Lakhs.
	(3) Where an LLP or partners or employee has conducted business in fraudulent manner- Liable to compensate to any person who suffered losses or damages. However, LLP shall not be liable if the above person acted without knowledge of LLP.
	 Section 31: Whistle blowing (1) Court/Tribunal may reduce or waive penalty against any partner or employee if it is satisfied that he has provided useful information during investigation of such LLP; or when information given by him leads to LLP or any partner or employee being convicted. (2) No partner or employee may be
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CONTRIBUTIONS		
 Section 32: Form of contribution (1) Partner contribution may consist of tangible (movable/immovable) or intangible property or other benefits including money, promissory notes, and agreements to contribute cash or property, etc. (2) The monetary value of partner's contribution shall be accounted and disclosed in the accounts 		
 Section 33: Obligation to contribute (1) The obligation to contribute shall be a (2) A creditor may enforce partners to co relying on such original obligation as per 	as per LLP agreement. ntribute as per original obligation if he extends credit by	
FINAN	ICIAL DISCLOSURES	
 Proper Books of account (BOA) shall b system at RO for prescribed period of (2) <u>Statement of Account and Solvency</u> (months from end of FY signed by all D 	f account, other records and audit, etc. he maintained on cash or accrual basis as per double entry f time. (SAS): Every LLP shall prepare such statement within 6 OP's and filed with RoC in prescribed manner. ay be prescribed. CG may exempt certain LLP from audit.	
(4) Penalty for contravention:		
Nature of contravention	Penalty	
Non-compliance of filing with RoC	LLP: Rs. 100/day up to 1 Lakh Every DP: Rs. 100/day up to 50,000	
 Non-compliance of Maintenance of BOA Maintenance of SAS Audit of BOA 	LLP- 25,000 to 5 Lakhs Every DP- Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 1 Lakh	
Section 34(A): Accounting and audit CG in consultation with NFRA to prescrib ICAI)	ing standards be accounting & auditing standards (as recommended by	
Section 35: Annual Return (1) Every LLP shall file an annual return du <u>Example</u> : Closure of FY- 31st March, t	uly authenticated with RoC within <mark>60d</mark> of <mark>closure</mark> of <mark>FY</mark> . Then due date of filing - 31st 30th May.	
(2) Penalty: Rs.100/day max. up to Rs. 1 la	kh for LLP and Rs. 50,000 for every DP.	

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	Section 36: Inspection of document by registrar		
	Incorporation doc. Name of partner & changes SAS Annual Return		
	shall be available for inspection to any person as per prescribed rules.		
	Section 37: Penalty for false statement If in any return, statement or other document any person makes a statement • which is false in any material particular, knowing it to be false; or • which omits any material fact knowing it to be material will be punishable with imprisonment up to 2 years <u>AND</u> fine 1 lakh to 5 lakhs.		
	 Section 38: Power of registrar to obtain information (1) RoC may require any person (including any present or former partner or DP or employee) of LLP to answer any question or supply any details or particulars in writing within a reasonable period. (2) Failure to provide above info RoC shall have power to summon that person to appear in person. (3) Contravention: Fine Rs. 2,000 to 25,000. 		
	Section 39: Compounding of offences For this section, RD means Regional Director or officer not below rank of RD authorised by CG		
	(1) RD may compound any offence which is punishable with fine only by collecting a sum which may extend up to max. fine for such offence but not less than min. fine for such offence.		
	(2) Compounding shall not apply to offence committed within 3 years from the date on which similar offence was compounded. <u>Note</u> : Second or subsequent offence after 3 years shall be deemed to be first offence.		
	 (3) <u>Procedure for compounding:</u> Application to be made to RoC who shall forward it, together with his comments thereon, to RD. Where any offence is compounded (whether before or after institution of prosecution), intimate RoC within 7 days from date on which offence is so compounded. 		
	 (4) <u>Consequences of compounding:</u> Where compounded before institution of prosecution - No prosecution shall be instituted Where compounding is made after institution of prosecution - RoC to intimate such compounding to court where prosecution is pending & thereafter offender shall be discharged. 		
	(5) While dealing with proposal of compounding, RD may direct DP, partner or employees to file such return, account or other doc. as may be specified in the order.		
	Failure to comply with above order - Max amount of fine - Twice the amount provided in corresponding section in which punishment for such offence is provided.		

ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER OF PARTNERSHIP RIGHT

Section 42: Partners transferable interest

(1) Rights of a partner to:

- a share of profits & losses and
- receive distributions as per LLP agreement

are transferable either wholly or in part.

(2) Transfer of any such rights does not by itself:

- cause disassociation of partner or dissolution or winding up of LLP.
- entitle transferee to participate in management or access information w.r.t. LLP transactions

CONVERSION INTO LLP

Sec	Conversion	As per provision of:
55	Firm to LLP	Second Schedule
56	Private company to LLP	Third Schedule
57	Unlisted public co. to LLP	Fourth Schedule

Section 58: Registration and effect of conversion

(1) <u>Registration</u>:

- · On satisfying that firm, private co. or unlisted public co. has complied with schedules,
- RoC shall register documents & issue certificate of registration.
- LLP shall be effectively incorporated from the date mention in the certificate of registration.

(2) LLP shall, within 15 days of date of registration, inform Registrar of Firms or RoC about such conversion & particulars of LLP in prescribed manner.

(3) Upon such conversion, LLP and partners of such LLP shall be bound as per respective schedule.

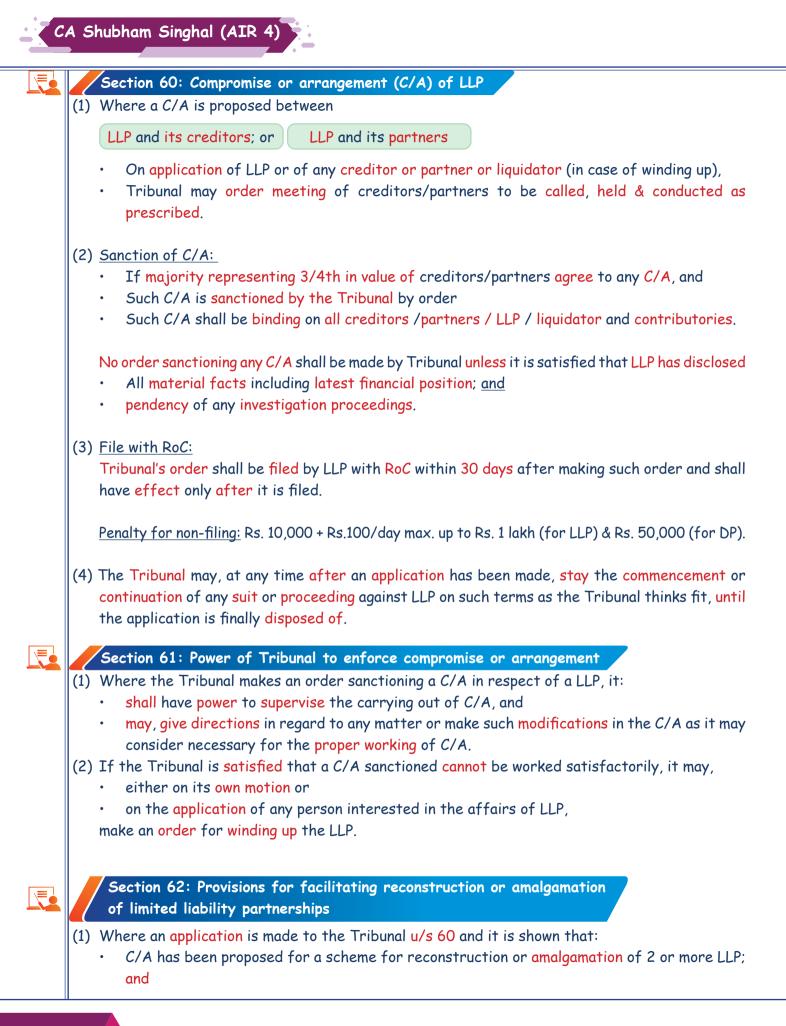
Effect of Registration:

Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, from date of registration:

- There shall be LLP by name specified in certificate of registration registered under this Act;
- All tangible (movable/immovable) & intangible property, all assets, interests, rights, privileges, liabilities & whole undertaking of firm/co. shall be transferred to and shall vest in the LLP; and
- firm or co., shall be deemed to be dissolved & removed from records of Registrar.

Section 59: Foreign LLPs

CG may prescribe rules in this behalf (similar to Companies Act 2013).



• Under the scheme, whole or any part of undertaking, property or liabilities (UPL) of any LLP
concerned is transferred to another LLP
Tribunal may, either by order sanctioning the C/A or by a subsequent order, make provisions for all or any of the following matters, namely:
a. transfer to the transferee LLP of whole or any part of the UPL of any transferor LLP;
b. continuation by/against transferee LLP of any legal proceedings pending by/against
transferor;
c. dissolution, without winding up, of any transferor LLP;
d. provision for person dissenting from C/A;
e. such incidental, consequential and supplemental matters as are necessary.
No such C/A proposed amalgamation shall be sanctioned by Tribunal unless the Tribunal has received a report from RoC and Official Liquidator that affairs of LLP have not been conducted
in a manner prejudicial to interests of its partners or to public interest.
(2) Where an order provides for transfer of any property or liabilities, then, by virtue of the
order, it shall be freed from any charge (only if the order so directs)
(3) File certified copy of NCLT order with ROC - Within 30 days
(4) <u>Penalty</u> : Rs. 10,000 + Rs.100/day max. up to Rs. 1 lakh (LLP) and Rs. 50,000 (DP)
Note: Compliance of Sec 62 is in addition to compliance with provision of section 60.
Section 63: Winding up and dissolution
The winding up of LLP may be either voluntary or by Tribunal and LLP, so wound up may be dissolved.
Section 64: Circumstances in which LLP may be wound up by Tribunal
LLP may be wound up by Tribunal where:
LLP decides that LLP be wound up by Tribunal;
 For > 6 months, number of partners of LLP is reduced below two;
• LLP has acted against interests of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State or public order;
 LLP has made default in filing with the RoC, the SAS AND AR for any 5 consecutive FY or
 Tribunal is of the opinion that it is just and equitable that the LLP be wound up.
Section 66: Business Transactions of Partner with LLP
Partner may lend money & transact business with LLP & has same rights and obligation as non-partner.
Section 67: Application of the Provisions of the Companies Act
(1) CG may, by notification direct that provisions of Companies Act shall apply to LLP with such exception, modification & adaptation as may be specified.
(2) A copy of every notification proposed - Lay before Parliament and get it approved.

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Section 69: Payment of Additional Fee

Any document or return to be registered or filed with RoC is not filed within prescribed time, it may be registered or filed after that time, on payment of such additional fee as may be prescribed.



Section 70: Enhanced Punishment

The LLP or any partner or DP shall, for second or subsequent offence, be punishable with

- imprisonment as provided, but
- with a fine which shall be twice the amount of fine for such offence.

DIFFERENCES WITH OTHER FORMS OF ORGANISATIONS

<u>LLP vs Partnership Firm</u>

Basis	LLP	Partnership Firm
Regulating Act	LLP Act, 2008.	Indian Partnership Act, 1932.
Body corporate Yes N		Not a body corporate
Separate legal entity	Yes	No
Registration	Mandatory	Voluntary
Perpetual succession	Members may join or leave but its existence continues forever.	It has no perpetual succession.
Suffix	Limited liability Partnership (LLP)	No guidelines
Liability	Limited to agreed contribution	Liability of partner - Unlimited.
Mutual agency	Partner can bind the LLP by his own acts but no other partners.	Each partner can bind firm as well as other partners by his own acts.
Designated partners	>= 2 DP & >= 1 resident in India.	No such provision
Common seal	It may have its common seal	no such concept in partnership
Legal compliances	DPs are responsible for all the compliances and penalties	All partners are responsible for all the compliances and penalties
Annual filing	File SAS and Annual Return.	No such requirement
Foreign partnership	Foreign nationals can be partner	Cannot be a partner.
Minor as partner	Not allowed (even for benefit)	Yes. Can be admitted to benefits.

LLP and Limited Liability company

Basis	LLP	Limited Company
Regulating Act	The LLP Act, 2008	The Companies Act, 2013.
Contributors are called	Partners	Members
Internal governance	Governed by LLP agreement	Regulated by statute i.e. Co. Act
Suffix	Limited Liab partnership or LLP	Private Limited or Limited
Numbers of partners/ members	Min. 2; Max – No limit	Pvt co.: Min. 2; Max. 200 Public co: Min. 7; Max. No limit
Liability	To extent of agreed contribution	Limited to unpaid amount of shares
Management	Managed by DPs	Managed by BoD
Min. no. of directors/DP	Minimum 2 DP	Pvt. Co 2 ; Public co. 3 directors

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