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The Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008

PART-A

The LLP Act, 2008 Applicability Contents: 81 sections and Non- Applicability Meaning and Concept of LLP From 31 March, 4 schedules of the Indian 2009 (Extends 1. New form of legal business entity First schedules mutual Partnership Act, 1932 whole of India) to LLPs. Non-rights & duties with limited liability partners, of 2. Alternative corporate business Second Schedule conversion of a firm into LLP. 3. Allows the partners the flexibility Third Schedule conversion of a Pvt. Co. into LLP, of organising their internal Fourth Schedulestructure conversion of unlisted 4. LLP itself will be liable for the public company into LLP. full extent of its assets 5. Liability of the partners will be limited

Entity [Sec. Designated Foreign LLP Financial LLP Business [Sec. Body Partner [S 2(1)(k)[Sec. 2(1) Year [Sec. agreement 2(1)(e)] Corporate (m)2(1)()] 2(1)(0)]: [Sec. 2(1)(0)] [Sec. 2(1)(d)] LLP formed, Any body Any partner 1st April to Written includes: corporate A company designated as incorporated 31st March. every trade, agreement includes a & Includes such pursuant or registered If LLP b/w partners profession. partnership to section 7. LLP, foreign outside incorporated of LLP service & firm for LLP, foreign India which after 30th between the occupation company specific establishes LLP and its September. Excludes: purposes. Not include a place of F.Y. may end partners. Any activity business corporation on 31st day notified by within India. sole; coof March CG. operative of next society & any following other notified that year. by CG.

Definitions

PARTNERS

Who may be (Sec. 5):

Any individual or body corporate may be a partner in a LLP. But not, person of unsound mind, undischarged insolvent or who has applied to be adjudicated as an insolvent.

Minimum partners (Section 6)

- 1. Two partners.
- 2. If LLP carries on business for more than 6 months with only one partner, he shall be liable personally for the obligations of the LLP incurred during that period.

Designated partners (S.7)

- At least two designated partners who are individuals and at least one of them shall be a resident in India.
- Resident in 4. India: a person who
 has stayed in India for a period of
 not less than 120 days during the
 immediately preceding one year.

Incorporation of LLP

- 1. Subscription of Names by two or more persons,
- 2. Filing of Documents with ROC with prescribed fees.
- 3. Compliance Statement made by advocate/CS/CA/CWA & by any one of subscribers.
- 4. Documents containing Name, Proposed business, Address of LLP; Name and address of each of to be partners & designated partners; Other prescribed information.
- 5. Issue of Incorporation Certificate by ROC within 14 days

Small LLP [S.2(ta)]

Contribution upto Rs.25L;

&

Turnover for immediately preceding F.Y. upto Rs.40 L

or

which fulfills prescribed terms and conditions.

Name

- 1. Use of words "limited liability partnership" or "LLP" as the last words of its name.
- No LLP registration by a name which, in the opinion of the CG is-(a) undesirable;

or

(b) identical or too nearly resembles to any other partnership firm or company registered mark. LLP or or a Trade mark

Change of Name

If name of registered LLP is identical or too nearly resembles to any other partnership firm or LLP or company or a registered trade mark, CG may direct such LLP to change its name within 3 months. (On Application)

Features/Characteristics

- 1. Body Corporate
- 2. Perpetual Succession
- 3. Separate legal entity
- 4. Mutual Agency
- 5. LLP Agreement
- 6. Artificial Legal person
- 7. Common Seal
- 8. Limited liability
- 9. Management of business
- Minimum and maximum number of partners
- 11. Business for profit only
- 12. Investigation
- 13. Compromise or Arrangement
- 14. Conversion into LLP
- 15. E-Filing of documents
- 16. Foreign LLPs

LLD New form of Alternative legal business Allow the corporate partners the entity with LLP itself will Liability of flexibility of business be liable for limited the partners organising the full extent vehicle liability will be limited their internal of its assets structure Advantages of LLP form- LLP form is a form of business model which: is organized and operates on the basis of an agreement provides flexibility without imposing detailed legal and procedural requirements. Easy to form All partners enjoy limited liability Flexible capital structure Easy to dissolve Effect of Registration (Section 14): Suing and being sued

doing and suffering such other acts and things as bodies corporate may lawfully do and suffer.

On rgisteration a LLP shall, by its name be capable of immovable or immovable, tangible or intangible;

having a common seal if it decides to have one; and

Change in name o LLP (Section 17):

Name Reservation

- The first step to incorporate Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) is reservation of name of LLP.
- Applicant has to file e-Form 1, for ascertaining availability and reservation of the name of a LLP business

Incorporate LLP

- After reserving a name, user has to file e-Form 2 for incorporating a new Limited Liability Partnership (LLP).
- e-Form 2 contains the details of LLP proposed to be incorporated, partners/ designated partners' details and consent of the partners/ designated partners to act as partners/ designated partners.

LLP Agreement

- Execution of LLP Agreement is mandatory as per Section 23 of the Act.
- LLP Agreement is required to be filed with the registrar in e-Form 3 within 30 days of incorporation of LLP.

. No.	Basis	LLP	Partnership firm
1.	Regulating Act	The Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008.	The Indian Partnership Act, 1932.
2,	Body corporate	33. 2	It is not a hody compared
3.	Separate legal entity	It is a legal entity separate from its members.	It is a group of persons with no separate legal entitu
4.	Creation	It is created by a legal process called registration under the LLP Act, 2008.	It is created by
5.	Registration	own name.	Registration is voluntary. Only the registered partnership firm can sue the third parties.
6.	Perpetual succession	or insurvey of the partners	The death, insanity retirement or insolvency of the partner(s) may auect its existence. It has no perpetual succes-sion

	Name		
7.		Name of the LLP to contain the word limited liability partners (LLP) as suflx.	No guidelines. The partners can s have any name as per their choice.
8.	Liability	Liability of each partner	Liability of each partner is unlimited. It can be extended upto the personal assets of the partners.
9.	Mutual agency	Each partner can bind the LLE	Each partner can bind the firm as well as other partners by his own acts.
10.	Designated partners	At least two designated partners and atleast one of them shall be resident in India.	There is no provision for such partners under the Indian partnership Act, 1932.
11.	Common seal		There is no partnership such in concept
12.	Legal compliances	Only designated partners are responsible for all the compliances and penalties under this Act.	All partners are responsible for all the compliances and penalties under the Act.
13.	Annual filing of documents		Partnership firm is not required to file any annual document with the registrar of firms.
14.	Foreign partnership	Foreign nationals can become a partner in a LLP.	Foreign nationals cannot become a partner in a partnership firm.
15.	Minor as partner	Minor cannot be admitted to the benefits of LLP.	Minor can be admitted to the benefits of the partnership with the prior consent of the existing partners.

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

PART-B

State the rules regarding registered office of a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) and change therein as per provided. change therein as per provisions of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008. (5 Marks) sol. Registered office of LLP and change therein (Section 13):

(1) Every LLP shall have a registered office to which all communications and notices

may be addressed and where they shall be received.

- (2) A document may be served on a LLP or a partner or designated partner thereof by sending it by post under a certificate of posting or by registered post or by any other manner, as may be prescribed, at the registered office and any other address specifically declared by the LLP for the purpose in such form and manner as may be prescribed.
- (3) A LLP may change the place of its registered office and file the notice of such change with the Registrar in such form and manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed and any such change shall take effect only upon such filing.
- (4) If any default is made in complying with the requirements of this section, the limited liability partnership and its every partner shall be liable to a penalty of five hundred rupees for each day during which the default continues, subject to a maximum of fifty thousand rupees for the limited liability partnership and its every partner.

Q2. Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) gives the benefits of limited liability of a company on one hand and the flexibility of a partnership on the other. Discuss.

LLP gives the benefits of limited liability of a company and the flexibility of a partnership

Or

"LLP is an alternative corporate business form that gives the benefits of limited liability of a company and the flexibility of a partnership". Explain.

Sol. Limited Liability: Every partner of a LLP is, for the purpose of the business of LLP, the agent of the LLP, but not of other partners (Section 26 of the LLP Act, 2008). The liability of the partners will be limited to their agreed contribution in the LLP, while the LLP it self will be liable for the full extent of its assets.

Flexibility of a partnership: The LLP allows its members the flexibility of organizing their internal structure as a partnership based on a mutually arrived agreement. The LLP form enables entrepreneurs, professionals and enterprises providing services of any kind or engaged in scientific and technical disciplines, to form commercially efficient vehicles suited to their requirements. Owing to flexibility in its structure and operation, the LLP is a suitable vehicle for small enterprises and for investment by venture capital.

he Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008

What are the essential elements to form a LLP in India as per the LLF ACC, 2008?

Essential elements to incorporate LLP-

Under the LLP Act, 2008, the following elements are very essential to form a LLP in India:

- (i) To complete and submit incorporation document in the form prescribed with the Registrar electronically;
 - To have at least two partners for incorporation of LLP [Individual or body corporate];
- (iii) To have registered office in India to which all communications will be made and received;
- (iv) To appoint minimum two individuals as designated partners who will be responsible for number of duties including doing of all acts matters and things as are required to be done by the LLP. Atleast one of them should be resident in India.
- partner of LLP should hold a Designated Partner Identification Number (DPIN)

 [Allotted by MCA.]
- (vi) To execute a partnership agreement between the partners inter se or between the LLP and its partners in the labsence of any agreement the provisions as set out in First Schedule of LLP Act, 2008 will be applied.

(vii) LEP Name.

Q4/ Explain the steps involved therein under the LLP Act, 2008.

Sol Steps to incorporate LLP:

1. Name reservation:

- O The first step to incorporate Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) is reservation of name of LLP.
- O Applicant has to file e-Form 1 for ascertaining availability and reservation of the name of a LLP business.

2. Incorporate LLP:

- O After reserving a name, user has to file e- Form 2 for incorporating a new Limited Liability Partnership (LLP).
- O e-Form 2 contains the details of LLP proposed to be incorporated, partners'/
 designated partners' details and consent of the partners/designated partners
 to act as partners/ designated partners

3. LLP Agreement

- O Execution of LLP Agreement is mandatory as per Section 23 of the Act.
- O LLP Agreement is required to be filed with the registrar in e-Form 3 within

- What do you mean by Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)? What are the advantages
 - 1. LLP: A LLP is a new form of legal business entity with limited liability. It is an liability at law same. liability at low compliance cost but allows its partners the flexibility of organising their internal structure as a traditional partnership.

The LLP is a separate legal entity and, while the LLP itself will be liable for the full extent of its assets, the liability of the partners will be limited.

LLP is an alternative corporate business form that gives the benefits of limited liability of a company and the flexibility of a partnership.

Since LLP contains elements of both 'a corporate structure' as well as 'a partnership firm structure' LLP is called a hybrid between a company and a partnership.

Advantages of LLP form:

Sol.

- (a) LLP is organized and operates on the basis of an agreement.
- (b) It provides flexibility without imposing detailed legal and procedural requirements
- (c) It enables professional/technical expertise and initiative to combine with financial risk taking capacity in an innovative and efficient manner.
- (d) It is easy to form
- (e) In LLP form, all partners enjoy limited liability
- (f) Flexible capital structure is there in this form
- (g) It is easy to dissolve
- Q6. List the differences between the Limited Liability Partnership and the Limited Liability Company. Sol.

S. No.	Basis	LLP	Limited Liability Company
1.	Regulating Act	The LLP Act, 2008.	The Companies Act, 2013.
2.	Members/ Partners	to LLP are known as partners	The persons who invest the money in the shares are known as members of the company.
3.	Internal governance structure	The internal governance	The internal governance structure of a company is regulated by statute

thorship Act, 2008

particular and the same			Name of the public company to
4.	Name	"I imited Liability	Name of the public company to contain the word "limited" and
		partnership" or "LLP" as	Pvt. Co. to contain the word
The second secon		suffix.	"Private limited" as suffix.
5.	No. of	Minimum – 2 members	Private company:
	members/	Maximum - No such limit on	Minimum – 2 members
	partners	the members in the Act. The	Maximum 200 members Public
	•	members of the LLP can be individuals/or body corporate	company:
		through the nominees.	Minimum – 7 members
			Maximum – No such limit
			on the members.
			Members can be
			organizations, trusts, another
			business form or individuals.
6.	Liability of	Liability of a partners is	Liability of a member is limited
	members/	limited to the extent of	to the amount unpaid on the
	partners	agreed contribution in case	shares held by them.
en e	-Andriana	of intention is fraud.	
7.	Management	The business of the company	The affairs of the company are
			managed by board of directors
			elected by the shareholders.
		partners authorized in the	
		agreement.	
8.	Minimum	Minimum 2 designated	Pvt. Co. – 2 directors
	number of	partners.	
	directors/		Public co. – 3 directors
	designated		1 - 3/5
,	partners		

What is the meaning of the Limited Liability Partnership? State the various characteristics of it?

Sol.

1. Meaning of Limited Liability Partnership (LLP): A LLP is a new form of legal business entity with limited liability. It is an alternative corporate business vehicle that not only gives the benefits of limited liability at low compliance cost but allows partners the flexibility of organising their internal structure as a traditional

The LLP is a separate legal entity and, while the LLP itself will be liable for the full extent of its assets, the liability of the partners will be limited.

LLP is an alternative corporate business form that gives the benefits of limited liability of a company and the flexibility of a partnership.

Since LLP contains elements of both 'a corporate structure' as well as 'a partnership firm structure' LLP is called a hybrid between a company and a partnership. Characteristic/Salient Features of LLP

- 1. LLP is a body corporate: Section 2(1)(d) of the LLP Act, 2008 provides that a LLP is a body corporate formed and incorporated under this Act and is a legal entity separate from that of its partners and shall have perpetual succession. Therefore, any change in the partners of a LLP shall not affect the existence, rights or liabilities of the LLP. Section 3 of LLP Act provides that a LLP is a body corporate formed and incorporated under this Act and is a legal entity separate from that of its partners.
- 2. Perpetual Succession: The LLP can continue its existence irrespective of changes in partners. Death, insanity, retirement or insolvency of partners has no impact on the existence of LLP. It is capable of entering into contracts and holding property in its own name.
- 3. Separate Legal Entity: The LLP as a separate legal entity, is liable to the full extent of its assets but liability of the partners is limited to their agreed contribution in the LLP. In other words, creditors of LLP shall be the creditors of LLP alone.
- 4. Mutual Agency: No partner is liable on account of the independent or un-authorized actions of other partners, thus individual partners are shielded from joint liability created by another partner's wrongful business decisions or misconduct. In other words, all partners will be the agents of the LLP alone. No one partner can bind the other partner by his acts.
- 5. LLP Agreement: Mutual rights and duties of the partners within a LLP are governed by an agreement between the partners. The LLP Act, 2008 provides flexibility to partner to devise the agreement as per their choice. In the absence of any such agreement, the mutual rights and duties shall be governed by the provisions of the LLP Act, 2008.
- 6. Artificial Legal Person: A LLP is an artificial legal person because it is created by a legal process and is clothed with all rights of an individual. It can do everything which any natural person can do, except of course that, it cannot be sent to jail, cannot take an oath, cannot marry or get divorce nor can it practice a learned profession like CA or Medicine.
 - A LLP is invisible, intangible, immortal (it can be dissolved by law alone) but not fictitious because it really exists.
- 7. Common Seal: A LLP being an artificial person can act through its partners and Common Seal. A LLP may have a common seal, if it decides to have one [Section designated partners. LLP may have a LLP to have a second to have one in the mondatory for a LLP to have a second to have one in the second to have a aesignateu pui common seal. 14(c)]. Thus, it is not mandatory for a LLP to have a common seal.

The Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008

- It shall remain under the custody of some responsible official and it shall be affixed in the presence of at least 2 designated partners of the LLP.
- 8. Limited Liability: Every partner of a LLP is, for the purpose of the business of LLP, the agent of the LLP, but not of other partners (Section 26). The liability of the partners will be limited to their agreed contribution in the LLP. Such contribution may be of tangible or intangible nature or both.

Example: The professionals like Engineering consultants, Legal Advisors and Accounting

Professional are afraid of entering into business due to unlimited liability. Hence the LLP partnership Act provides an avenue for these professionals to Limited Liability Partnership firms which restricts their liability to the agreed amount. This has encouraged Professionals to form LLP.

- 9. Management of Business: The partners in the LLP are entitled to manage the business of LLP. But only the designated partners are responsible for legal compliances.
- 10. Minimum and Maximum number of Partners: Every LLP shall have least two partners and shall also have at least 2 individuals as designated partners, of whom at least one shall be resident in India. There is no maximum limit on the partners in LLP.
- 11. Business for Profit Only: The essential requirement for forming LLP is carrying on a lawful business with a view to earn profit. Thus, LLP cannot be formed for charitable or non-economic purpose.
- 12. Investigation: The Central Government shall have powers to investigate the affairs of an LLP by appointment of competence authority for the purpose.
- 13. Compromise or Arrangement: Any compromise or agreements including merger and amalgamation of LLPs shall be in accordance with the provisions of the LLP Act, 2008.
- 14. Conversion into LLP: A firm, private company or an unlisted public company would be allowed to be converted into LLP in accordance with the provisions of LLP Act, 2008.
- 15. E-Filling of Documents: Every form or application of document required to be filed or delivered under the act and rules made thereunder, shall be filed in computer readable electronic form on its website www.mca.gov.in and authenticated partner of LLP by the use of electronic or digital
- 16. Foreign LLPs: Section 2(1)(m) defines foreign limited liability partnership "as a limited liability partnership formed, incorporated, or registered outside India which an Indian LLP



what is the procedure for changing the name of Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) 501.

- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 15 and 16, if through inadvertence or otherwise, a limited liability partnership, on its first registration or on its pregistration by a new body corporate, its registered name;">name, is registered by a name which is identical with or too nearly resembles to—
 - (a) that of any other limited liability partnership or a company; or
 - (b) a registered trade mark of a proprietor under the Trade Marks Act, 1999, as is likely to be mistaken for it, then on an application of such limited liability partnership or proprietor referred to in clauses (a) and (b) respectively or a company, the Central Government may direct that such limited liability partnership to change its name or new name within a period of three months from the date of issue of such direction:

Provided that an application of the proprietor of the registered trademarks shall be maintainable within a period of three years from the date of incorporation or registration or change of name of the limited liability partnership under this Act.

- (2) Where a limited liability partnership changes its name or obtains a new name under sub-section (1), it shall within a period of fifteen days from the date of such change, give notice of the change to Registrar along with the order of the Central Government, who shall carry out necessary changes in the certificate of incorporation and within thirty days of such change in the certificate of incorporation, such limited liability partnership shall change its name in the limited liability partnership agreement.
- (3) If the limited liability partnership is in default in complying with any direction given under sub-section (1), the Central Government shall allot a new name to the limited liability partnership in such manner as may be prescribed and the Registrar shall enter the new name in the register of limited liability partnerships in place of the old name and issue a fresh certificate of incorporation with new name, which the limited liability partnership shall use thereafter:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall prevent a limited liability partnership from subsequently changing its name in accordance with the provisions of section 16.

What do you mean by Designated Partner? Whether it is mandatory to appoint Designated partner in a LLP? Sec- 7 Sol. Every limited liability partnership shall have at least two designated partners who are

Every limited liability partners who individuals and at least one of them shall be a resident in India:

the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008

Provided that in case of a limited liability partnership in which all the partners are bodies corporate or in which one or more partners are individuals and bodies corporate, at least two individuals who are partners of such limited liability partnership or nominees of such bodies corporate shall act as designated partners.

Explanation. For the purposes of this section, the term resident in India means a person who has stayed in India for a period of not less than one hundred and twenty days during the financial year.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (1),
 - (i) if the incorporation document specifies who are to be designated partners, such persons shall be designated partners on incorporation; or states that each of the partners from time to time of limited liability partnership is to be designated partner, every partner shall be a designated partner;
 - (ii) any partner may become a designated partner by and in accordance with the limited liability partnership agreement and a partner may cease to be a designated partner in accordance with limited liability partnership agreement.

An individual shall not become a designated partner in any limited liability partnership unless he has given his prior consent to act as such to the limited liability partnership in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

Every limited liability partnership shall file with the Registrar the particulars of every individual who has given his consent to act as designated partner in such form and manner as may be prescribed within thirty days of his appointment.

An individual eligible to be a designated partner shall satisfy such conditions and requirements as may be prescribed.

Every designated partner of a limited liability partnership shall obtain a Designated Partners Identification Number (DPIN) from the Central Government and the provisions of sections 153 to 159 (both inclusive) of the Companies Act, 2013 shall apply mutatis mutandis for the said purpose.

Q10 Differentiate between a LLP and a partnership firm?

S. No.	Basis	LLP	Partiaged: 0:
1/	Regulating Act	Partnership Act and	Partnership firm The Indian Partnership Act, 1932. It is not a body corporate, It is a group of persons with no separate legal entity. It is created by an agreement between the partners.
3/	Body corporate Separate legal entity	It is a body corporate. It is a legal entity separate from its members	
A.		It is created by a legal process called registration under the LLP Act, 2008.	

5.	Registrati		
(6/	Registration Perpetual	Registration is mandatory. LLP can sue and be sued in its own name.	Registration is voluntary. Only the registered partnership firm can sue the third parties.
(6)	succession	The death, insanity, retirement or insolvency of the partner(s) does not affect its existence of LLP. Members may join or leave but its	The death, insanity, retirement or insolvency of the partner(s) may affect its existence. It has no perpetual
7.	Name	Name of the LLP to contain the word limited liability	No guidelines. the partners can have any name as per
8.	Liability	partners (LLP) as suffix. Liability of each partner limited to the extent to agreed contribution except in case of willful fraud.	Liability of each partner is unlimited. It can be extended
9/	Mutual agency	Each partner can bind the	Each partner can bind the firm as well as other
10.	Designated partners	At least two designated partners and atleast one of them shall be resident in India.	There is no provision for such partners under the
11	Common seal	It may have its common seal as its official signatures.	There is no such concept in partnership
12.	Legal compliances	Only designated partners are responsible for all the compliances and penalties under this Act.	
13.	Annual filing of documents	LLP is required to file: Annual statement of accounts Statement of solvency Annual return with the registration of LLP every year.	of firms.
14.	Foreign partnership	Foreign nationals can become a partner in a LLP.	Foreign nationals cannot become a partner in a partnership firm.
15.	Minor as partner	Minor cannot be admitted to the benefits of LLP.	Minor can be admitted to the benefits of the partnership with the prior consent of the existing partners.

Q11. Who are the individuals which shall not be capable of becoming a partner of a Limited Liability Partnership?

Sol. Partners (Section 5 of Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008): Any individual or body corporate may be a partner in a LLP.

However, an individual shall not be capable of becoming a partner of a LLP, if—

- (a) he has been found to be of unsound mind by a Court of competent jurisdiction and the finding is in force;
- (b) he is an undischarged insolvent; or
- (c) he has applied to be adjudicated as an insolvent and his application is pending.

Q12. What are the effects of registration of LLP?

Sol. On registration of a LLP, by its name, it shall be capable of: (Section 14):

- (1) Suing and being sued
- (2) Acquiring, owning, holding and developing or property, whether movable or immovable, tangible or intangible
- (3) Having a common seal, if it decided to have one
- (4) Doing and suffering such other acts and things as bodies corporate may lawfully do and suffer

Q1/3:/Examine the concept of LLP.

Meaning — A LLP is a new form of legal business entity with limited liability. It is an alternative corporate business vehicle that gives the benefits of limited liability but allows its partners the flexibility of organising their internal structure as a traditional partnership.

The LLP is a separate legal entity and, while the LLP itself will be liable for the full extent of its assets, the liability of the partners will be limited.

Concept of "limited liability partnership":

- The LLP can continue its existence irrespective of changes in partners. It is capable of entering into contracts and holding property in its own name.
- The LLP is a separate legal entity, is liable to the full extent of its assets but liability of the partners is limited to their agreed contribution in the LLP.
- Further, no partner is liable on account of the independent or un-authorized actions of other partners, thus individual partners are shielded from joint liability created by another partner's wrongful business decisions or misconduct.
- Mutual rights and duties of the partners within a LLP are governed by an agreement between the partners or between the partners and the LLP as the case may be. The entity.
- LLP is an alternative corporate business form that gives the benefits of limited liability of a company and the flexibility of a partnership.