CA Inter – Corporate & Other Laws

Chapter 4: Share Capital & Debentures (Secs. 43–72)

1 Kinds of Share Capital (Sec. 43)

1. Equity Share Capital

- With voting rights.
- With differential rights (subject to Rules):
 - Approval by Ordinary Resolution.
 - Max 26% of post-issue share capital.
 - Company must have consistent track record (profitability, compliance).

2. Preference Share Capital

- Preferential rights:
 - Dividend (fixed rate, before equity).
 - Repayment of capital on winding-up.
- Types: Participating / Non-participating, Redeemable / Convertible, Cumulative / Non-cumulative.
- **♦** Exam Note: Differential rights → important short question.

2 Voting Rights (Sec. 47)

- **Equity:** One vote per share (proportional to paid-up value).
- Preference: Only on -
 - Matters directly affecting rights.
 - If dividend arrears > 2 years.

3 Variation of Shareholders' Rights (Sec. 48)

- Allowed if authorised by AOA + approved by 3/4 in value (special resolution).
- Dissenting shareholders may appeal to NCLT within **21 days**.
- NCLT may cancel variation if unjust.

Share Capital Structure

Authorised / Nominal Capital – max permissible.

- Issued Capital portion offered for subscription.
- **Subscribed Capital** portion actually taken by public.
- Called-up Capital portion demanded by company.
- Paid-up Capital portion actually paid.

5 Calls on Shares (Secs. 49-50)

- Must be uniform for same class of shares.
- Calls in Advance (Sec. 50):
 - o Allowed if AOA permits.
 - o Interest payable (not compulsory).
 - No extra voting rights.

Issue of Shares at Premium & Discount

• Sec. 52 – Securities Premium A/c:

Can be used for -

- 1. Issue of bonus shares.
- 2. Writing off preliminary expenses.
- 3. Writing off commission/discount on issue of shares.
- 4. Premium on redemption of preference shares/debentures.
- 5. Buy-back (Sec. 68).

Sec. 53 – Issue at Discount:

- \circ Prohibited \rightarrow void.
- Exception: Sweat equity shares (Sec. 54).

Sweat Equity Shares (Sec. 54)

• Issued to employees/directors for know-how, IPR, or value addition.

• Conditions:

- o Special Resolution.
- Lock-in: 3 years.
- Limit: 25% of paid-up equity (for start-ups \rightarrow 50% up to 10 years).

- **Issue of Preference Shares (Sec. 55)**
 - Only **redeemable** (no perpetual pref. shares).
 - Redemption allowed from
 - o Profits (transfer equal amount to Capital Redemption Reserve), OR
 - Fresh issue of shares.
 - If unredeemable → issue further redeemable shares with ¾ approval + NCLT consent.

Further Issue of Shares (Sec. 62)

- **Rights Issue:** Offered to existing shareholders in proportion.
- Employees Stock Option Scheme (ESOPs): Special Resolution + conditions.
- Preferential Allotment: Must comply with SEBI guidelines.

10 Bonus Shares (Sec. 63)

- Issued free to existing shareholders.
- Sources: Free reserves, Securities Premium, Capital Redemption Reserve.
- Not from: Revaluation reserve, unrealised gains, reserves created from revaluation.

1 Reduction of Share Capital (Sec. 66)

- Allowed by Special Resolution + approval of NCLT.
- Modes:
 - o Extinguish unpaid capital.
 - o Cancel paid-up capital lost/unrepresented by assets.
 - Pay off excess capital.

1 2 Buy-Back of Shares (Sec. 68–70)

- Max 25% of paid-up capital & free reserves.
- Debt-equity ratio ≤ 2:1 after buy-back.
- Must be completed within **1 year** of approval.
- Sources: Free reserves, Securities Premium, Proceeds of fresh issue (not of same kind).
- Procedure: Special Resolution (if >10%) or Board resolution (≤10%).

1 3 Debentures (Sec. 71)

- Can be secured/unsecured.
- Convertible debentures → require Special Resolution.
- Debenture Redemption Reserve (DRR) → mandatory for certain companies.
- Debenture Trustees → appointed to protect debenture-holders' interests.
- ∳ Exam Note: Debenture holders = Creditors, not owners.

1 Nomination (Sec. 72)

• Shareholders/debenture-holders can nominate person to whom securities will transfer in case of death.

1 5 Penalties & Offences

- Issue at discount → void, penalty on company + officers.
- Default in redemption of preference shares → penalty + interest.
- Non-compliance with Sec. 62, 66, 68 → penalties up to ₹5 lakh (company) & ₹1 lakh (officer).

Quick Revision Capsule (Exam Special)

- **Sec. 43:** Kinds of share capital.
- **Sec. 47:** Voting rights.
- Sec. 48: Variation of rights.
- Sec. 52–54: Premium, Discount, Sweat Equity.
- Sec. 55: Redeemable Preference Shares.
- Sec. 62: Further Issue (Rights/ESOP/Preferential).
- Sec. 63: Bonus Shares.
- **Sec. 66:** Reduction of Capital.
- Sec. 68-70: Buy-back.
- Sec. 71: Debentures.
- Sec. 72: Nomination.