

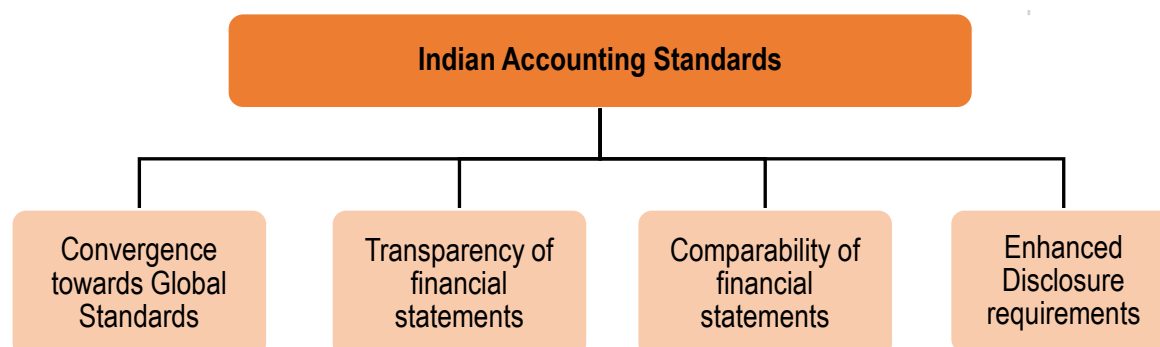
UNIT – 9 INDIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After studying this unit, you will be able to:

- ◆ Understand the significance of issuance of Indian Accounting Standards.
- ◆ Learn the need of issuance of Indian Accounting Standards.

UNIT OVERVIEW



9.1 NEED FOR CONVERGENCE TOWARDS GLOBAL STANDARDS

The last decade has witnessed a sea change in the global economic scenario. The emergence of transnational corporations in search of money, not only for fueling growth, but to sustain on going activities has necessitated raising of capital from all parts of the world, cutting across frontiers.

Each country has its own set of rules and regulations for accounting and financial reporting. Therefore, when an enterprise decides to raise capital from the markets other than the country in which it is located, the rules and regulations of that other country will apply and this in turn will require that the enterprise is in a position to understand the differences between the rules governing financial reporting in the foreign country as compared to its own country of origin. Therefore translation and re-instatements are of utmost importance in a world that is rapidly globalising in all ways. In themselves also, the accounting standards and principle need to be robust so that the larger society develops degree of confidence in the financial statements, which are put forward by organizations.

International analysts and investors would like to compare financial statements based on similar accounting standards, and this has led to the growing support for an internationally accepted set of accounting standards for

cross-border filings. The harmonization of financial reporting around the world will help to raise confidence of investors generally in the information they are using to make their decisions and assess their risks.

Also a strong need was felt by legislation to bring about uniformity, rationalization, comparability, transparency and adaptability in financial statements. Having a multiplicity of accounting standards around the world is against the public interest. If accounting for the same events and information produces different reported numbers, depending on the system of standards that are being used, then it is self-evident that accounting will be increasingly discredited in the eyes of those using the numbers. It creates confusion, encourages error and facilitates fraud. The cure for these ills is to have a single set of global standards, of the highest quality, set in the interest of public. Global Standards facilitate cross border flow of money, global listing in different bourses and comparability of financial statements.

The convergence of financial reporting and accounting standards is a valuable process that contributes to the free flow of global investment and achieves substantial benefits for all capital market stakeholders. It improves the ability of investors to compare investments on a global basis and thus lowers their risk of errors of judgment. It facilitates accounting and reporting for companies with global operations and eliminates some costly requirements say reinstatement of financial statements. It has the potential to create a new standard of accountability and greater transparency, which are values of great significance to all market participants including regulators. It reduces operational challenges for accounting firms and focuses their value and expertise around an increasingly unified set of standards. It creates an unprecedented opportunity for standard setters and other stakeholders to improve the reporting model. For the companies with joint listings in both domestic and foreign country, the convergence is very much significant.



9.2 INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS AS GLOBAL STANDARDS

With a view of achieving convergence towards global reporting, the London based group namely the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC), responsible for developing International Accounting Standards, was established in June, 1973. It is presently known as International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The IASC comprises the professional accountancy bodies of over 75 countries (including the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India). Primarily, the IASC was established, in the public interest, to formulate and publish, International Accounting Standards to be followed in the presentation of audited financial statements. International Accounting Standards were issued to promote acceptance and observance of International Accounting Standards worldwide. The members of IASC have undertaken a responsibility to support the standards promulgated by IASC and to propagate those standards in their respective countries.

Between 1973 and 2001, the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) released International Accounting Standards. Between 1997 and 1999, the IASC restructured their organisation, which resulted in formation of International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). These changes came into effect on 1st April, 2001. Subsequently, IASB issued statements about current and future standards: IASB publishes its Standards in a series of pronouncements called International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). However, IASB has not rejected the standards issued by the ISAC. Those pronouncements continue to be designated as "International Accounting Standards" (IAS).

The term IFRS comprises IFRS issued by IASB; IAS issued by International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC); Interpretations issued by the Standard Interpretations Committee (SIC) and the IFRS Interpretations Committee of the IASB.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) are considered a "principles-based" set of standards. In fact, they establish broad rules rather than dictating specific treatments. Every major nation is moving toward adopting them to some extent. Large number of authorities requires public companies to use IFRS for stock-exchange listing purposes, and in addition, banks, insurance companies and stock exchanges may use them for their statutorily required reports. So over the next few years, thousands of companies will adopt the international standards. This requirement will affect about 7,000 enterprises, including their subsidiaries, equity investors and joint venture partners. The increased use of IFRS is not limited to public-company listing requirements or statutory reporting. Many lenders and regulatory and government bodies are looking to IFRS to fulfil local financial reporting obligations related to financing or licensing.



9.3 BENEFITS OF CONVERGENCE WITH IFRSS

There are many beneficiaries of convergence with IFRSs such as the economy, investors, industry etc.

The Economy: When the markets expand globally the need for convergence increases since the convergence benefits the economy by increasing growth of its international business. It facilitates maintenance of orderly and efficient capital markets and also helps to increase the capital formation and thereby economic growth. It encourages international investing and thereby leads to more foreign capital flows to the country.

Investors: A strong case for convergence can be made from the viewpoint of the investors who wish to invest outside their own country. Investors want the information that is more relevant, reliable, timely and comparable across the jurisdictions. Financial statements prepared using a common set of accounting standards help investors better understand investment opportunities as opposed to financial statements prepared using a different set of national accounting standards. Investors' confidence is strong when accounting standards used are globally accepted. Convergence with IFRS contributes to investors' understanding and confidence in high quality financial statements.

The Industry: A major force in the movement towards convergence has been the interest of the industry. The industry is able to raise capital from foreign markets at lower cost if it can create confidence in the minds of foreign investors that their financial statements comply with globally accepted accounting standards. With the diversity in accounting standards from country to country, enterprises which operate in different countries face a multitude of accounting requirements prevailing in the countries. The burden of financial reporting is lessened with convergence of accounting standards because it simplifies the process of preparing the individual and group financial statements and thereby reduces the costs of preparing the financial statements using different sets of accounting standards.



9.4 DEVELOPMENT IN INDIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS (INDAS)

9.4.1 First Step towards IFRSs

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) being the accounting standards-setting body in India, way back in 2006, initiated the process of moving towards the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs)

issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) with a view to enhance acceptability and transparency of the financial information communicated by the Indian corporates through their financial statements. This move towards IFRS was subsequently accepted by the Government of India.

The Government of India in consultation with the ICAI decided to converge and not to adopt IFRSs issued by the IASB. The decision of convergence rather than adoption was taken after the detailed analysis of IFRS requirements and extensive discussion with various stakeholders. Accordingly, while formulating IFRS- converged Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS), efforts have been made to keep these Standards, as far as possible, in line with the corresponding IFRS and departures have been made where considered absolutely essential. These changes have been made considering various factors, such as, various terminology related changes have been made to make it consistent with the terminology used in law. Certain changes have been made considering the economic environment of the country, which is different as compared to the economic environment presumed to be in existence by IFRS.

9.4.2 What are Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)?

Indian Accounting Standards (Ind-AS) are the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) converged standards issued by the Central Government of India under the supervision and control of Accounting Standards Board (ASB) of ICAI and in consultation with National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standards (NACAS).

National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standards (NACAS) recommend these standards to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). MCA has to spell out the accounting standards applicable for companies in India.

The Ind AS are named and numbered in the same way as the corresponding International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

9.4.3 Government of India - Commitment to IFRS Converged Ind AS

Initially Ind AS were expected to be implemented from the year 2011. However, keeping in view the fact that certain issues including tax issues were still to be addressed, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs decided to postpone the date of implementation of Ind AS.

In July 2014, the Finance Minister of India at that time, Shri Arun Jaitely ji, in his Budget Speech, announced an urgency to converge the existing accounting standards with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) through adoption of the new Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) by the Indian companies.

Pursuant to the above announcement, various steps have been taken to facilitate the implementation of IFRS-converged Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS). Moving in this direction, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has issued the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 vide Notification dated February 16, 2015 covering the revised roadmap of implementation of Ind AS for companies other than Banking companies, Insurance Companies and NBFCs and Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS). As per the Notification, Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) converged with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) shall be implemented on voluntary basis from 1st April, 2015 and mandatory from 1st April, 2016. Later on, in 2016 MCA notified roadmap for NBFC announcing implementation date for Ind AS. Similarly, Banking and Insurance regulatory authority have issued separate roadmaps for implementation of Ind AS for Banking and Insurance companies respectively.

9.5 LIST OF IND AS

Ind AS	Title of Ind AS
101	First -Time Adoption of Indian Accounting Standards
102	Share- Based Payment
103	Business Combinations
104*	Insurance Contracts
105	Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations
106	Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources
107	Financial Instruments: Disclosures
108	Operating Segments
109	Financial Instruments
110	Consolidated Financial Statements
111	Joint Arrangements
112	Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities
113	Fair Value Measurement
114	Regulatory Deferral Accounts
115	Revenue from Contracts with Customers
116	Leases
1	Presentation of Financial Statements
2	Inventories
7	Statement of Cash Flows
8	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
10	Events after the Reporting Period
12	Income Taxes
16	Property, Plant and Equipment
19	Employee Benefits
20	Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance
21	The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates
23	Borrowing Costs
24	Related Party Disclosures
27	Separate Financial Statements
28	Investment in Associates and Joint Ventures

Ind AS	Title of Ind AS
29	Financial Reporting in Hyperinflationary Economies
32	Financial Instruments: Presentation
33	Earnings per Share
34	Interim Financial Reporting
36	Impairment of Assets
37	Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets
38	Intangible Assets
40	Investment Property
41	Agriculture

**Ind AS 117 Insurance Contracts is under formulation and it will replace this.*

Note: The list of Ind AS given above does not form part of syllabus. It has been given here for the knowledge of students only.

SUMMARY

- ◆ The convergence of financial reporting and accounting standards improves the ability of investors to compare investments on a global basis and thus lowers their risk of errors of judgment. The major beneficiaries of convergence with IFRSs are the economy, investors, industry etc.
- ◆ Indian Accounting Standards (Ind-AS) are the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) converged standards issued by the Central Government of India under the supervision and control of Accounting Standards Board (ASB) of ICAI

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

True and False

1. The Government of India in consultation with the ICAI decided to adopt IFRSs issued by the IASB.
2. There are many benefits of convergence with IFRSs to the economy, investors, industry etc.
3. There was no need to converge to global accounting standards.
4. International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) are considered a “rules-based” set of standards.
5. Govt of India has taken IASB support to develop Ind AS standards.
6. IASC stands for International Accounting Standards Council.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Global Standards facilitate
 - (a) Cross border flow of money.
 - (b) Global listing in different bourses.

- (c) Comparability of financial statements. (d) All the three.
2. The Government of India in consultation with the ICAI decided to
- (a) Adapt with IFRS. (b) Converge with IFRS.
(c) apply IFRS in India. (d) notify IFRS in India.
3. Convergence with IFRSs
- (a) Simplifies the process of preparing the financial statements.
(b) Reduces the costs of preparing the financial statements.
(c) Both (a) and (b).
(d) Facilitates global investors' understanding and confidence in high quality financial statements.

Theoretical Questions

1. Explain the need of convergence rather adoption of IFRS as Global Standards.
2. What is the significance of issue of Indian Accounting Standards? Explain in brief.

ANSWERS/HINTS

True and False

1. False: The Government of India in consultation with the ICAI decided to converge and not to adopt IFRSs issued by the IASB.
2. True: Major benefits of convergence with IFRS's to economy, investors and industry.
3. False: Since India is going global, there was huge demand of global standards for better comparison.
4. False: International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) are considered a "principles-based" set of standards.
5. False: Govt. of India has taken ASB support to develop Ind AS standards.
6. False: IASC stands for International Accounting Standards Committee.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. (d); 2. (b); 3. (d)

Theoretical Questions

1. The Government of India in consultation with the ICAI decided to converge and not to adopt IFRSs issued by the IASB. The decision of convergence rather than adoption was taken after the detailed analysis of IFRSs requirements and extensive discussion with various stakeholders. Accordingly, while formulating IFRS-converged Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS), efforts have been made to keep

these Standards, as far as possible, in line with the corresponding IAS/IFRS and departures have been made where considered absolutely essential.

2. Global Standards facilitate cross border flow of money, global listing in different bourses and comparability of financial statements. The convergence of financial reporting and accounting standards is a valuable process that contributes to the free flow of global investment and achieves substantial benefits for all capital market stakeholders. It improves the ability of investors to compare investments on a global basis and thus lowers their risk of errors of judgment. It facilitates accounting and reporting for companies with global operations and eliminates some costly requirements say reinstatement of financial statements.