

Regional Director and Registrar of Companies (A brief insight)

I. Background

Under the Companies Act, 2013, both the Regional Director (RD) and the Registrar of Companies (ROC) play crucial roles in the administration, regulation, and enforcement of the provisions of the Company Law.

The Companies Act, 2013, and various Rules made thereunder confer various powers onto the Central Government and, at the same time, cast a duty on the Central Government to discharge certain functions for the purposes of registration of companies under the Act and the same are delegated to the office of the Regional Director (RD) established under the Act. Furthermore, the Central Government appoints Registrar of Companies (ROC) (including Additional / Joint / Deputy / Assistant Registrars) for registration of companies and for discharging various other functions under the Act.

Regional Director:

The Regional Directors (RDs) supervise the work of the offices of the Registrar of Companies (ROCs) and Official Liquidators (OLs) located in their respective jurisdictions. They also maintain liaison between the respective State Governments and the Central Government on matters relating to the administration of the Act. They serve as an intermediate administrative level between the Ministry and field offices of the ROCs, ROCs-cum-OLs and OLs.

Registrar of Companies (ROCs):

The ROCs (other than Registrar of CRC, CPACE, CSC and CPC) have jurisdiction over the companies incorporated by CRC under the Act for all other provisions of the Act and Rules made thereunder.

In essence, the office of the Regional Director operates at the Supervisory / Regional level, while that of the Registrar of Companies operates at the Operational / Field level and reports to the Regional Director.

II. Hierarchy under Companies Act

The regulatory hierarchy is explained in a simple form as under:

- **Top:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), which is the top authority formulating and administering company law and corporate governance matters.
- **Middle:** Regional Directors (RDs), which represents the Central Government (region-wise) and supervise ROC offices and handle delegated legal powers.
- **Base:** Registrars of Companies (ROCs), which consists of Field-level officers responsible for company registration, filings, and compliance

III. Number of Offices

At present, there are seven Regional Directors (RD) in charge of their respective regions, each region comprising a number of States and Union Territories¹. The list of Regional Directors along with their jurisdiction is as under:

Sr No	Regional Directors	Jurisdiction over ROC Offices based at
1.	Eastern Region	Kolkata, Jharkhand (Ranchi), Patna, Cuttack
2.	Southern Region	Chennai, Ernakulam, Pondicherry, Coimbatore, and Andaman
3.	Northern Region	New Delhi & Haryana, Chandigarh, Himachal, Uttarakhand, Kanpur, Jammu, Kashmir
4.	Western Region	Mumbai, Pune, Goa, Daman & Diu
5.	North Western Region	Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Gwalior, Chhattisgarh (Bilaspur)
6.	South East Region	Hyderabad, Bangalore, Vijayawada
7.	North Eastern Region	Guwahati, Shillong

¹ Source: <https://www.mca.gov.in/content/mca/global/en/contact-us/rd.html>

IV. Need for additional offices

As per the statistics contained in the Annual Report for the year 2024-25 published by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, there are 27.76 Lakh companies registered in India, out of which 17.92 Lakh were active (as of 30.11.2024)². Due to various beneficial measures undertaken by the Government under the Ease of Doing Business initiative, the number of companies registered in India keeps increasing. Therefore, a need may have been felt to have additional offices of the Regional Directors and of Registrars of Companies to enable better regulatory and supervisory oversight over the Companies registered in India.

Therefore, by way of two separate Gazette Notifications³ dated 23rd October 2025; the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has established additional offices of the Regional Directors and of Registrars of Companies, which shall be effective from 1st January 2026.

The revised list of Regional Directors along with their jurisdiction as per the said Gazette Notification is as under:

Sr No	Regional Directors	Jurisdiction over ROC Offices based at
1.	Regional Director, Northern Region Directorate I, Headquarters at New Delhi	State of Uttar Pradesh and National Capital Territory of Delhi
2.	Regional Director, Northern Region Directorate II, Headquarters at Chandigarh	States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Union Territories of Chandigarh, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir
3.	Regional Director, North-Western Region Directorate, Headquarters at Ahmedabad	States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli
4.	Regional Director, Western Region Directorate I, Headquarters at Mumbai	State of Goa, Union Territory of Daman and Diu and the Districts of Mumbai and Mumbai Suburban
5.	Regional Director, Western Region Directorate II, Headquarters at Navi Mumbai	All districts of Maharashtra other than Mumbai and Mumbai Suburban
6.	Regional Director, Southern Region Directorate, Headquarters at Chennai	State of Tamil Nadu, Union Territory of Puducherry and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

² Source: <https://www.mca.gov.in/content/mca/global/en/data-and-reports/reports/annual-reports/annual-report.html>

³ Source: <https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mds=yAnqPocKzLxnYoerlj0xWA%253D%253D&type=open> and <https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mds=5iXn9ronxr%252Fp8MHIPd5lg%253D%253D&type=open>

7.	Regional Director, South-Western Region Directorate, Headquarters at Bangalore	States of Karnataka, Kerala and Union Territory of Lakshadweep
8.	Regional Director, Eastern Region Directorate, Headquarters at Kolkata	States of West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand
9.	Regional Director, Northeastern Region Directorate, Headquarters at Guwahati	States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura
10.	Regional Director, Southeastern Region Directorate, Headquarters at Hyderabad	States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Telangana

The list of additional offices of Registrars of Companies, along with changes in jurisdiction of existing offices of Registrars of Companies as per the said Gazette Notification, is as under:

Sr No	Office and location	Jurisdiction
1.	Registrar of Companies, National Capital Territory of Delhi-I, at South Delhi	Districts of South Delhi, Southwest Delhi, New Delhi, Southeast Delhi and East Delhi
2.	Registrar of Companies, National Capital Territory of Delhi-II, at Central Delhi	Districts of Central Delhi, West Delhi, North Delhi, Northwest Delhi, Northeast Delhi and Shahdara.
3.	Registrar of Companies, Haryana, at Chandigarh	State of Haryana
4.	Registrar of Companies, Uttar Pradesh-I, at Kanpur	Districts of Ambedkar Nagar, Amethi, Amroha, Auraiya, Ayodhya, Azamgarh, Badaun, Bahraich, Ballia, Balarampur, Banda, Barabanki, Bareilly, Basti, Bhadohi, Bijnor, Chandauli, Chitrakoot, Deoria, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Fatehpur, Ghazipur, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Jaunpur, Jalaun, Jhansi, Kaushambi, Kannauj, Kanpur Dehat, Kanpur Nagar, Kushinagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Lalitpur, Lucknow, Maharajganj, Mahoba, Mau, Mirzapur, Moradabad, Pilibhit, Pratapgarh, Prayagraj, Raebareli, Rampur,

		Sambhal, Sant Kabir Nagar, Shahjahanpur, Shravasti, Siddharth Nagar, Sitapur, Sonbhadra, Sultanpur, Unnao and Varanasi
5.	Registrar of Companies, Uttar Pradesh-II, at NOIDA	Districts of Agra, Aligarh, Baghpat, Bulandshahr, Etah, Firozabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Hapur, Hathras, Kasganj, Mainpuri, Mathura, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur and Shamli
6.	Registrar of Companies, Mumbai-I, at Mumbai	Districts of Mumbai and Mumbai Suburban
7.	Registrar of Companies, Mumbai-II, at Navi Mumbai	Districts of Aurangabad, Dhule, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, Nashik, Palghar, Raigad and Thane
8.	Registrar of Companies at Nagpur	Districts of Akola, Amravati, Beed, Bhandara, Buldhana, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Gondia, Hingoli, Jalna, Latur, Nagpur, Nanded, Osmanabad, Parbani, Wardha, Washim and Yavatmal
9.	Registrar of Companies, Kolkata-I at Kolkata	District of Kolkata
10.	Registrar of Companies, Kolkata-II at Kolkata	State of West Bengal, except the district of Kolkata

V. Conclusion

Establishment of additional offices of the Regional Directors and of Registrars of Companies is a welcome step for furthering the Government's objective of Ease of Doing Business and will help both the Government in increased oversight and the Companies / Industry in getting additional offices to represent their matters and to seek guidance over their compliance issues.

- ❑ Audit & Assurance
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