

## PREFACE

In an era of rapid corporate evolution, the need for transparency and accountability in business practices has gained immense momentum. The Companies Act, 2013 (Act) is a landmark piece of legislation that has reshaped the Corporate Governance environment in India. The Act addressing the necessity for regulatory scrutiny and oversight of corporate entities entails robust mechanism for inspection, inquiry and investigation, with enhanced focus on transparency, governance and accountability.

The provisions of inspection, inquiry and investigation hold a special significance in corporate governance, these provisions are not just tools for regulatory enforcement, but also instruments for building public trust in corporate entities and ensuring that companies operate within the bounds of law and ethical standards. Chapter XIV of the Act empowers the government to inspect, inquire and investigate companies through various statutory authorities such as the Registrar of Companies, Regional Directors, SFIO, etc., thereby playing a pivotal role in detecting corporate malpractices, promoting transparency and safeguarding the rights of stakeholders.

This handbook, 'Inspection, Inquiry & Investigation under the Companies Act, 2013' aims to provide a thorough exploration of the provisions relating to inspection, inquiry, and investigation under the Act, 2013. The handbook delves into the legal framework surrounding the processes, the powers vested in regulatory bodies, the rights of the company and its stakeholders, and the procedural steps that must be complied to ensure that these mechanisms are exercised in a fair and transparent manner. The publication is structured in a manner that not only explains the theoretical and legal underpinnings of inspection, inquiry and investigation but also provides practical guidance for navigating these processes in real-life corporate settings.

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I am confident that this publication shall serve as a perfect guide for professional colleagues, corporate managers, regulators and students, who seek to understand the intricacies of these procedures and their application in real-world scenarios. I would appreciate the users/ readers for offering their constructive suggestions/comments for the improvement of this publication.

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