



**THE INSTITUTE OF  
Company Secretaries of India**  
**भारतीय कम्पनी सचिव संस्थान**  
**IN PURSUIT OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE**  
Statutory body under an Act of Parliament  
(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)



# **INFO CAPSULE**

## **Series - 15**

### **(601 - 650)**



**Motto**

**सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर।**

**“इष्टं वदते त्रुष्टं वदते त्रुष्टं वदते त्रुष्टं वदते”**

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# Latest @ ICSI

## Info Capsule Series 15

### Feedback on Company Forms in MCA21-V3

Portal As you are aware, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs w.e.f. August 31, 2022 migrated filing of 9 Company Forms from MCA 21 V2 to V3 Portal. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs w.e.f. January 23, 2023, has launched second set of Company Forms covering 56 forms on MCA21-V3 Portal for filing purposes. The list of all 56 Company Forms is available on MCA website. The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, in its attempt to further facilitate the stakeholders and ensure smooth transition and implementation, is sharing your feedback to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) on regular basis. Such feedback is constantly and closely monitored by MCA at all levels for timely resolution. We request you to share your inputs/ issues/suggestions on filing of Company Forms in MCA V3 at the link given below:

For details:

<https://forms.gle/m5NGoCbt4TibuD196>

### Feedback on Company Forms in MCA21-V3

Career Opportunities for Young Company Secretaries In accordance with the understanding between the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) for deployment of Resources on contract by ICSI at IEPFA, New Delhi, the ICSI invites applications for the post of IEPFA Executives (On Contractual Basis). Interested candidates must apply only through electronic application form (Online) by clicking on the link <http://www.icsi.in/recruitmentIEPFA/>. The last date for applying Online is 24.01.2023.

For details:

[https://www.icsi.edu/media/webmodules/Annexure\\_A\\_Advertisement\\_IEPFA\\_Executives.pdf](https://www.icsi.edu/media/webmodules/Annexure_A_Advertisement_IEPFA_Executives.pdf)

### **Feedback on Company Forms in MCA21-V3**

Crash Course on IT Tools & Crash Course on Appeals & Drafting The ICSI with a view to equip its members with understanding of intricacies of vital IT tools and Appeal & Drafting that add up to the value of services offered by Company Secretaries, launches online Crash Course on IT Tools & Crash Course on Appeals & Drafting for Professionals.

*For details:*

*<https://www.icsi.in/student/DelegateRegistration/tabid/137/ctl/ViewEventDetails/mid/454/Even%20tld/169/Default.aspx>*

# Ministry of Corporate Affairs

## Info Capsule Series 15

### **IEPF Authority invites comments from stakeholders for simplifying claims refund process (January 16, 2023)**

The Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) invites comments from all stakeholders to simplify and expedite claims settlement process. The suggestions may be offered through:

- E-Consultation module available at MCA website [www.mca.gov.in](http://www.mca.gov.in)
- via email at [iepfa.consultation@mca.gov.in](mailto:iepfa.consultation@mca.gov.in). The last date for receiving comments is January 27, 2023. The Notice inviting comments and the Consultation paper have been uploaded at the website of the Authority [www.iepf.gov.in](http://www.iepf.gov.in).

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1891605>

### **Ministry of Corporates Affairs amended the Rules (January 21, 2023)**

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) vide its notifications dated January 21, 2023 has notified below mentioned amended rules: i) The Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2023; ii) The Companies (Share Capital and Debentures) Amendment Rules, 2023; iii) The Companies (Appointment and Remuneration of Managerial Personnel) Amendment Rules, 2023; iv) The Companies (Incorporation) Amendment Rules, 2023; v) The Companies (Prospectus and allotment of securities) Amendment Rules, 2023; vi) The Companies (Authorised to Register) Amendment Rules, 2023; and vii) The Companies (Accounts) Amendment Rules, 2023. The amended rules shall come into force with effect from January 23, 2023. According to the amendments, Form No. MGT-3, Form No. SH-7, Form No. SH-8, Form No. 9, Form No. MR-1, Form No. MR-2, Form No. RUN, INC-4, INC-6, INC-9, INC-12, INC-13, INC-18, INC-20, INC-20A, INC-22, INC-23, INC-24, INC-27, INC-28, INC-31, SPICE+ (INC-32), INC-33, INC-34, INC-35, RD-1, Form PAS-2, Form PAS-3, PAS-6, URC-1 and Form No. AOC-5 has been substituted. Various others changes in rules/sub-rules are also made pursuant to migration of set of forms from MCA V2 to MCA V3 portal.

For details:

<https://www.mca.gov.in/content/mca/global/en/home.html>

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2023/242156.pdf>

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2023/242155.pdf>

### **The Companies (Miscellaneous) Amendment Rules, 2023 (January 27, 2022)**

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) vide its notifications dated January 20, 2023 has notified the Companies (Miscellaneous) Amendment Rules, 2023, the amended rules has come into force with effect from January 23, 2023. According to the amendment, Forms No. MSC-1, MSC-3 and MSC-4 has been substituted pursuant to migration of set of forms from MCA V2 to MCA V3 portal. Further rule 3 (Application for Obtaining Status of Dormant Company) is modified by stating that, if the company is having any outstanding unsecured loans then enclosure of concurrence from the lender in the form MSC-1 is not required. Also that, the requirement to enclose certificate in Form MSC-1, indicating that there is no management or ownership dispute persisting is also dispensed with. The Form MSC-1 is modified to include these requirements under the heading "declaration" in the form itself.

### **MCA issued general circular regarding filing of Forms GNL-2, MGT-14, PAS-3, SH-8, SH-9 and SH-11 (February 22, 2023)**

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has issued general circular no. 05/2023 dated February 22, 2023 and informed that the companies intending to file: (i) Form GNL-2 (filing of prospectus related documents and private placement), (ii) MGT-14 (filing of Resolutions relating to prospectus related documents, private placement), (iii) PAS-3 (Allotment of Shares), (iv) SH-8 (letter of offer for buyback of own shares or other securities), (v) SH-9 (Declaration of Solvency) and (vi) SH-11 (Return in respect of buy-back of securities) from 22.02.2023 to 31.03.2023 on the MCA-21 Portal may file such Form in physical mode duly signed by the persons concerned as per requirements of the relevant forms, along with a copy thereof in electronic media, with the concerned Registrar without payment of fee and take acknowledgement (as per Annexure to this Circular) thereof. Such filing will be accompanied by an undertaking from the company that, the company shall also file the relevant Form in electronic form on MCA-21 Portal along with fee payable as per Companies (Registration Offices and Fees) Rules, 2014. As clarified by General circular Number 04/2023 dated 21.02.2023 no additional fees will be levied as referred in the said circular.

*For details:*

*<https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mds=L1%252FlzzFGRvjYOFmh0PQHAW%253D%253D&type=open>*

# Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

## Info Capsule Series 15

### Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change 'LiFE' - 'Lifestyle for Environment', key to combating climate change (March 13, 2023)

Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on March 13, 2023 informed that the Government has started Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) movement with a view to sensitize all stakeholders, including the public at large, about the need for mindful utilization instead of mindless consumption of resources. A comprehensive and nonexhaustive list of 75 individual environment-friendly actions (LiFE actions) across 7 categories has been identified for nudging individuals, communities and institutions as a part of this movement. In the written reply it was stated that the five elements enunciated by India at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021 have been appropriately incorporated in enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under Paris Agreement and Long-term Low Carbon Development Strategies towards net zero emissions by 2070, in accordance with the principles of equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) in light of National Circumstances. The update to NDC submitted to UNFCCC in August 2022 includes India's commitment to reduce Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030, from 2005 level; achieve about 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030, with the help of transfer of technology and low-cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund; and put forward and further propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for 'LiFE' - 'Lifestyle for Environment' as a key to combating climate change. The NDC update is a step towards achieving India's long-term goal of reaching net-zero by 2070; for which India has prepared and submitted a separate framework document titled 'India's Long-term Low Carbon Development Strategy' to the secretariat of the UNFCCC in November 2022. India's long term strategy rests on seven key transitions to low-carbon development pathways including promotion on economy-wide decoupling of growth from emissions and development of an efficient, innovative low-emission industrial system.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1906390>



# Ministry of Law & Justice

## Info Capsule Series 15

### Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, K V Viswanathan sworn in as Supreme Court judges (May 19, 2023)

Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and senior advocate K V Viswanathan were on Friday sworn in as judges of the Supreme Court, taking its working strength to 34. Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud administered the oath of office to them. The Supreme Court, which has a sanctioned judge strength of 34, was working with 32 judges following the retirement of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and M R Shah. Justice Mishra was the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court, while his parent High Court is Chhattisgarh. Senior Advocate K V Viswanathan, who was directly elevated from the Bar, will be the Chief Justice of India in August 2030 and will go on to hold office for about 10 months. The SC Collegium headed by the CJI had recommended their names on May 16 after which the government approved it quickly and the President signed their warrants of appointment. The appointments were announced by new Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal.

For details:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/supreme-court-two-new-judges-sworn-in-fullstrength-8617669/>

# Securities Laws and Capital Markets

## Info Capsule Series 15

### Adani lifts payout for NDTV open offer to match payment to founders (January 03, 2023)

Adani Enterprises said it will raise the amount it pays New Delhi Television Ltd. stockholders who tendered their shares in the conglomerate's open offer to match what it paid the news broadcaster's founders for their stake. Adani Enterprises said it will pay an additional 48.65 rupees per NDTV share to investors who sold their shares in an open offer between November 22 and December 05, taking the payout to 342.65 rupees per share and matching what it paid NDTV founders Radhika and Prannoy Roy. About 5.3 million shares were tendered in the open offer, at 294 rupees per share, and Indian billionaire Gautam Adani now controls about 65% of NDTV after acquiring a 27.26% stake from the Roys last week, four months after launching his takeover.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/adani-lifts-payout-for-ndtv-open-offer-to-match-payment-to-founders/articleshow/96701980.cms?from=mdr>

### Government exempts PSUs from minimum public float rules (January 03, 2023)

The government has exempted public sector entities from the Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) norm which mandates at least 25 per cent public float for all listed companies. The exemption would apply on these entities regardless of the government's direct or indirect holding. The exemption from MPS norm will be valid for a "specified period" even if there is a change in ownership or control after the exemption is granted, a Gazette notification said. The notification exempts "any listed entity in which the Central Government or State Government or public sector company, either individually or in any combination with other, hold directly or indirectly, majority of the shares or voting rights or control of such listed entity, from any or all of the provisions of this rule (MPS norms)."

### **Byju's founder raising funds to buy back as much as 15% of firm (January 04, 2023)**

Byju Raveendran, the founder of the world's most valuable edtech startup Byju's, is in financing talks to lift his stake in the company to as high as 40%, people familiar with the matter said. The former teacher is seeking funding to finance the stake repurchases which could amount to as much as 15% of the firm by using his shares as collateral, according to the people. Founded in 2015 and formally known as Think & Learn Pvt., the Bangalore-headquartered startup shelved plans for a stock-market debut as global markets slumped last year. Raveendran has about a 25% stake and prominent other investors include the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Sequoia Capital India, Blackrock Inc. and Silver Lake.

*For details:*

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/byjusfounder-looking-to-buy-back-up-to-15-in-company-report9809691.html>

### **SEBI extends relaxation on dispatching hard copies of financial statements (January 05, 2023)**

SEBI extended the relaxation to listed companies from dispatching of physical copies of financial statements till September 30, 2023. The earlier extension was till December 31, 2022. SEBI extension comes after the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has also provided similar relaxations to companies dispatching physical copies of financial statements, including board's report, auditor's report or other documents to shareholders through a circular on December 28, 2022. However, firms will be required to send hard copy of annual reports to those shareholders who request for the same. SEBI also requires companies to disclose the web-link to the annual report so as to enable shareholders to have access to the full annual report.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-extends-relaxation-on-dispatching-hard-copies-of-financial-statements-123010501237\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-extends-relaxation-on-dispatching-hard-copies-of-financial-statements-123010501237_1.html)

### **Time till Jan-end for entering details of non-convertible securities: SEBI (January 05, 2023)**

SEBI extended the timeline till January-end for entering the details of existing outstanding non-convertible securities in the security and covenant monitoring system hosted by depositories. Earlier, this was to be complied by October 31, 2022. This is the second time SEBI has extended the deadline to comply with the rules. Earlier, the deadline was September 2022, which was extended to October 2022. The regulator, in August 2021, asked depositories to use blockchain technology to record and monitor security creation as well as covenants of non-convertible securities.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/time-till-jan-end-for-entering-details-of-non-convertible-securities-sebi-123010501401\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/time-till-jan-end-for-entering-details-of-non-convertible-securities-sebi-123010501401_1.html)

### **SEBI nod to reclassify government holding in IDBI Bank as 'public' after sale (January 06, 2023)**

In a major dispensation, capital markets regulator SEBI acceded to the central government's request to reclassify its shareholding in IDBI Bank after its disinvestment as "public holding". This is subject to the condition that the government's voting rights in the bank will not exceed 15 per cent of the total voting rights after the sale. Also, the government must specify its intention to reclassify its shareholding in the bank as "public holding" in the letter of offer dispatched to the shareholders of the bank in connection with the open offer made by the acquirer.

*For details:*

*[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/sebi-gives-nod-to-reclassify-govt-sstake-in-idbi-bank-as-public-holding-123010501129\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/sebi-gives-nod-to-reclassify-govt-sstake-in-idbi-bank-as-public-holding-123010501129_1.html)*

# Direct Tax

## Info Capsule Series 15

### Direct tax mop-up grows 24% to Rs. 15.7 lakh crore (February 12, 2023)

Gross direct tax collections grew 24% to Rs. 15.7 lakh crore so far this fiscal. After adjusting for refunds, the net direct tax collection stood at Rs. 13 lakh crore, a growth of 18.4%. The net collection are about 79% of Revised Estimates of direct tax collection for current fiscal, the CBDT said. The revised estimates for the current fiscal pegged direct tax revenues at Rs. 16.5 lakh crore, higher than the budget estimates of Rs. 14.2 lakh crore.

*For details:*

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/indiabusiness/direct-tax-mop-up-grows-24-to-rs-15-7-lakhcrore/articleshow/97829855.cms>

### Inherited assets tax: ITAT bats for legal heir (March 23, 2023)

The Mumbai bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) has settled in a recent order the contentious issue relating to determining the cost of acquisition and the indexed cost in inherited assets. In this case of US resident Sohrab Fali Mehta, the ITAT bench disagreed with the tax department that the indexed cost of acquisition should be based on the year in which Mehta inherited his share following his mother's death. The tax tribunal held that the indexed cost of acquisition has to be computed with respect to the year in which the initial owner first held the asset. In case of an inheritance, the cost of acquisition is nil as the inheritor has not paid anything for acquiring the asset. However, according to the provisions of the Income Tax Act, for computing capital gains, the cost to the previous owner is considered as the cost of acquisition. The year of acquisition by the previous owner is also to be considered for computing the indexed cost.

*For details:*

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/inherited-assets-tax-itat-bats-for-legalheir/articleshow/98928492.cms>

### **Income Tax department launches 'AIS for Taxpayer' mobile app (March 23, 2023)**

The Income Tax Department has launched a Mobile app, namely, 'AIS for Taxpayer' to facilitate taxpayers to view their information as available in the Annual Information Statement (AIS) or Taxpayer Information Summary (TIS). AIS for Taxpayer is a mobile application by the Income Tax Department, and is available on Google Play and App Store at free of cost. The app has been developed aiming at providing a comprehensive view of the AIS/TIS to the taxpayer, displaying the information collected from various sources pertaining to the taxpayer. Taxpayers can use the mobile app to view their information related to tax deducted at source (TDS), tax collection at source (TCS), interest, dividends, share transactions, tax payments, income tax refunds, and other information, i.e. GST data and foreign remittances as available in AIS and TIS. The taxpayer can also provide feedback on the information displayed on the app.

*For details:*

<https://www.livemint.com/money/personal-finance/income-tax-dept-launches-mobileapp-ais-for-taxpayer-11679500424607.html>

### **The Finance Bill 2023 passed in Lok Sabha (March 24, 2023)**

The Finance Bill 2023 was approved by a voice vote in Lok Sabha on 24.03.2023, enacting the tax proposals of the 2023-24. The amendments to the Finance Bill include the imposition of short-term capital gains tax on the interest income from debt mutual funds and higher securities transaction tax (STT) on options and futures trade, among others.

*For details:*

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/finance-billpassed-without-discussion-11679678644969.html>

### **Last date for linking of PAN-Aadhaar extended (PIB Dated March 28, 2023)**

In order to provide some more time to the taxpayers, the date for linking PAN and Aadhaar has been extended to 30th June, 2023, whereby persons can intimate their Aadhaar to the prescribed authority for Aadhaar-PAN linking without facing repercussions. Under the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (the 'Act') every person who has been allotted a PAN as on 1st July, 2017 and is eligible to obtain Aadhaar Number, is required to intimate his Aadhaar to the prescribed authority on or before 31st March, 2023, on payment of a prescribed fee. Failure to do so shall attract certain repercussions under the Act w.e.f. 1st April, 2023. The date for intimating Aadhaar to the prescribed authority for the purpose of linking PAN and Aadhaar has now been extended to 30th June, 2023. From 1st July, 2023, the PAN of taxpayers who have failed to intimate their Aadhaar, as required, shall become inoperative and the consequences during the period that PAN remains inoperative will be as follows: i. no refund shall be made against such PANs; ii. interest shall not be payable on such refund for the period during which PAN remains inoperative; and iii. TDS and TCS shall be deducted /collected at higher rate, as provided in the Act.

*For details:*

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1911396>

**Procedure, format and standards for filling an application in Form No. 15C or Form No. 15D for grant of certificate for no-deduction of income-tax under sub-section (3) of section 195 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 through TRACES (March 29, 2023)**

Section 195(3) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 provides for grant of certificate to a person entitled to receive interest or other sum on which income tax is to be deducted under section 195(1) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 without deduction of tax at source. For the purpose, an application has to be made by the person to the Assessing Officer "AO" in the prescribed form. Rule 29B(3) of the Income-tax Rules, 1962 provides that the application shall be made by a banking company or insurer in Form No. 15C and by any other person who carries on business or profession in India through a branch in Form 15D. The Director General of Income-tax (Systems) hereby specifies Form No. 15C and Form No. 15D for electronic furnishing at TRACES website under digital signature or through electronic verification code; and the procedure, format and standards for the purpose of electronic filing of Form No. 15C and Form No. 15D and generation of certificate through TRACES which will be applicable from 01.04.2023.

*For details:*

*<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/notification/notification-no-01-of-2023.pdf>*

# Indirect Tax

## Info Capsule Series 15

### Goods & Services Tax

#### 5% GST for Covid vax at hospitals, rules AAAR (January 09, 2023)

Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, a multispecialty hospital chain, has not succeeded in its appeal that administration of Covid vaccine by hospital would qualify as a healthcare services and be exempt from GST. The Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings (AAAR) upheld an original ruling, against which an appeal had been filed and reconfirmed GST applicable at 5%. The GST Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR), in March, 2022 had held that administration of the Covid Vaccine by hospitals is a 'Composite Supply', where principal supply is the sale of vaccine and auxiliary supply is the service of administering the vaccine. Thus, the total transaction would be taxable at the rate applicable to the principal supply, which is 5%.

*For details:*

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/5-gst-for-covid-vax-at-hospitalsrulesaaar/articleshow/96842012.cms>

#### Clarification regarding GST rates and classification of certain goods (Circular No. 189/01/2023-GST, dated January 13, 2023)

CBIC makes clarifications, with reference to applicability of GST based on the recommendations of GST Council in its 48th meeting held on December 17, 2022, related to the various items like; Rab, by-products of milling of Dal/ Pulses, Carbonated Beverages of Fruit Drink, fryums, Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) etc.

*For details:* <https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/gst/cir-189-01-2023-cgst.pdf>

#### Exemption of COVID-19 vaccine (Notification No. 01 /2023 -Customs, dated January 13, 2023)

Central Government exempts the goods (COVID-19 vaccine) when imported into India by Central Government or State Governments, from the whole of the duty of customs leviable thereon. The said notification shall come into force on January 14, 2023 and remain in force upto and inclusive of the March 31, 2023.

*For details:* <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1009613/ENG/Notifications>



**Fixation of Tariff value of edible oil, Brass Scrap, Palm Oil, Areca nuts, gold & silver (Notification No. 04/2023-Customs, dated January 13, 2023)**

CBIC makes the amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 36/2001-Customs (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001 for TABLE-1, TABLE-2, and TABLE-3 substituted regarding goods like edible oil, Brass Scrap, Palm Oil, Areca nuts, gold & silver. The said notification shall come into force with effect from the 14th day of January, 2023.

*For details:*

<https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1009612/ENG/Notifications>

**Clarifications regarding applicability of GST on certain services-(Circular No. 190/02/2023- GST, dated January 13, 2023)**

CBIC makes clarifications, regarding accommodation services supplied by Air Force Mess to its personnel qualify to be considered as services supplied by Central Government, State Government, Union Territory or local authority hence are exempt from GST. Further, Govt. is clarified that incentives paid by MeitY to acquiring banks under the Incentive scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit Cards and low value BHIM-UPI transactions are in the nature of subsidy and thus not taxable

*For details:* <https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/gst/cir-190-02-2023-cgst.pdf> Customs

**Amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 50/2017-Customs, dated the 30th June, 2017 (Notification No. 02/2023-Customs New Delhi, dated February 01, 2023)**

In the said notification, It is inserted as; If, at the time of import, the importer produces to the Deputy Commissioner of Customs or Assistant Commissioner of Customs, as the case may be, a certificate from an Officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Heavy Industries certifying that the imported goods (having regard to their description, quantity and technical specification) are intended for use by testing agencies specified in List 37 for testing and/or certification purposes only; This notification shall come into force on the 2nd day of February, 2023.

*For details:*

<https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1009620/ENG/Notifications>

**Goods & Services Tax Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) and the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up of Digital Forensic Laboratories (February 07, 2023)**

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) and the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up of Digital Forensic Laboratories along with exchange of information and knowledge, technological advancement and skill development in the field of digital forensics. DGGI is the apex intelligence organisation under Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for collection and dissemination of information and for taking necessary measures to check evasion of GST.

*For details:*

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1896968>

**Customs Fixation of Tariff Value of Edible Oils, Brass Scrap, Areca Nut, Gold and Silver (Notification No. 09/2023-CUSTOMS (N.T.), New Delhi, February 15, 2023)**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, being satisfied that it is necessary and expedient to do so, hereby makes amendments in TABLE-1, TABLE-2, and TABLE-3 for fixation of Tariff Value of Edible Oils like Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil & Others - Palm Oil, Brass Scrap, Areca Nut, Gold and Silver. This notification shall come into force with effect from February 16, 2023.

*For details:*

<https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1009637/ENG/Notifications>

**Goods and Services Tax Recommendations of 49th GST Council Meeting (February 18, 2023)**

The 49th GST Council met under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on February 18, 2023. The GST Council has made the recommendations relating to GST compensation, GST Appellate Tribunal, approval of the Report of Group of Ministers (GoM) on Capacity Based Taxation and Special Composition Scheme in certain Sectors on GST, recommendations relating to GST rates on Goods and Services and other measures for facilitation of trade: GST Compensation: The Government of India has decided to clear the entire pending balance GST compensation of Rs. 16,982 crore for June'2022. GST Appellate Tribunal: The Council adopted the report of Group of Ministers with certain modifications. Capacity Based Taxation and Special Composition Scheme in certain Sectors on GST: With a view to plug the leakages and improve the revenue collection from the commodities like pan masala, gutkha, chewing tobacco, the Council approved the recommendations of the GoM. Changes in GST rates of "Rab" and Pencil Sharpener: GST rates of "Rab" and Pencil Sharpener are reduced.

*For details:*

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1900376>

**Custom Amendment in Circular No. 29/2020-Customs dated 22.06.2020 for allowing transshipment of Bangladesh export cargo to third countries through Delhi Air Cargo -reg. (Circular No. 03/2023-Customs, New Delhi dated February 07, 2023)**

The Circular allows inter alia transshipment of Bangladesh export cargo through Kolkata Air Cargo. The goods loaded on containers/ closed bodied trucks enter India from LCS Petrapole, move by road to Kolkata Air Cargo, from where they are airlifted and transported to third countries. It has been represented to allow this movement through Delhi Air Cargo also, for better cargo evacuation and improved logistics efficiency.

*For details:*

<https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1003145/ENG/Circulars>

**Indirect Taxes Customs Custom notification for amendment in HSN code 8908 00 00 vide (Notification No. 13/2023-Customs, New Delhi, February 23, 2023)**

The Central Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby makes further amendments in the notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 50/2017-Customs, dated the 30th June, 2017 in relation to HSN code 8908 00 00. This notification shall come into force on the 24th day of February, 2023.

*For details:*

<https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1009641/ENG/Notifications>

**Customs Fixation of Tariff Value for Edible Oils, Brass Scrap, Areca Nut, Gold and Silver (Notification No. 14/2023- CUSTOMS (N.T.)-New Delhi, March 15, 2023)**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs has fixed the tariff value of Edible Oils, Brass Scraps, Areca Nut, Gold and silver by amending the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 36/2001-Customs (N.T.). The said notification shall come into force with effect from the March 16, 2023.

*For details:*

<https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/viewpdf/1009665/ENG/Notifications>

**Goods & Services Tax (GST) GST department to scrutinise I-T, MCA data to identify entities not paying taxes (March 19, 2023)**

The Goods & Services Tax (GST) department will soon begin analysing Income Tax Returns (ITRs) filed by business entity and professionals and also Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) filings to ascertain if the entities are adequately discharging their GST liability and widening the taxpayer base. The data analysis will focus on those entities which are not exempt and are required to register under the GST and file returns, either monthly or quarterly. After identifying the entities which are not complying with the GST law, the GST department will communicate to them at their registered place of business asking them the reasons for non-compliance.

*For details:*

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/gst-dept-to-scrutinise-i-tmca-data-to-identify-entities-not-paying-taxes/articleshow/98780285.cms?from=mdr>

# Banking and Insurance

## Info Capsule Series 15

### **Launch of Utkarsh 2.0 - Reserve Bank of India's Medium-term Strategy Framework (December 30, 2022)**

The Reserve Bank of India's Medium-term Strategy Framework for the period 2023- 2025 - 'Utkarsh 2.0' - was launched on December 30, 2022 by Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, RBI. The first strategy framework (Utkarsh 2022) covering the period 2019-2022 was launched in July 2019. It became a medium-term strategy document guiding the Bank's progress towards realisation of the identified milestones. Utkarsh 2.0 harnesses the strengths of Utkarsh 2022 by retaining the six Vision statements as well as Core Purpose, Values, and Mission statement. Collectively, they create a strategic guiding path.

*For details:*

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54970](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54970)

### **Individual Housing loans - Revised limits under four-tiered regulatory framework (December 30, 2022)**

It has been decided to specify the limits on housing loans sanctioned by Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) to an individual borrower as ₹60 lakh for Tier-1 UCBs and ₹140 lakh for UCBs categorised in Tier-2 to 4. Other terms and conditions of the circular *ibid*, remain unchanged. The limits prescribed under this circular are effective from the date of this circular. However, existing housing loans sanctioned prior to the date of this circular, which may be in breach of the ceiling, will be allowed to run off till maturity.

*For details:*

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12432&Mode=0>

### **RBI releases 2022 list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) (January 02, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank had issued the Framework for dealing with Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) on July 22, 2014. The D-SIB framework requires the Reserve Bank to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs starting from 2015 and place these banks in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs). The Reserve Bank had announced SBI and ICICI Bank as DSIBs in 2015 and 2016. Based on data collected from banks as on March 31, 2017, HDFC Bank was also classified as a D-SIB, along with SBI and ICICI Bank. The current update is based on the data collected from banks as on March 31, 2022.

*For details:*

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54979](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54979)

### **Outstanding microfinance loan portfolio to rise 20.3% in FY23 in India: MFIN (January 03, 2022)**

Outstanding loan portfolio of the Micro-Finance Institution (MFI) sector across India will increase around 20.3% at Rs. 3.25 lakh crore in 2022-23 compared to the previous fiscal, said the MFIN, a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) recognised by RBI.

*For details:*

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/outstanding-microfinance-loan-portfolio-to-rise-20-3-in-fy23-in-india-mfin-11672754387129.html>

### **HDFC assigns Rs. 8,892 crore in loans to HDFC Bank (January 04, 2022)**

Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) on January 03, 2022 said that it has assigned loans of up to Rs. 8,892 crore in the quarter ended December 31, higher by 19% compared to previous year. In Q3 FY22, HDFC had assigned loans of Rs. 7,468 crore to the bank. HDFC assigned loans of up to Rs. 35,937 crore in the 12 months ended December 31. The company also earned a gross income of Rs. 482 crore from dividend in Q3 FY23.

*For details:*

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/hdfc-assigns-rs-8892-crore-in-loans-to-hdfc-bank/2935693/>

### **SBI board nod to raise 10K cr via infra bonds in FY23 (January 04, 2022)**

The executive committee of the central board of State Bank of India (SBI) has approved the proposal to raise up to Rs. 10,000 crore by issuing infrastructure bonds in 2022-23 (April-March), the bank said in an exchange filing on January 03, 2022. The bonds will be issued through a public issue or a private placement basis. On Thursday, the bank's board announced that it will meet to seek approval for raising the said money by issuing the bonds.

*For details:*

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/sbi-board-nod-to-raise-10kcr-via-infra-bonds-in-fy23/2935642/>

### **RBI releases Annual Report of Ombudsman Schemes, 2021-22 (January 04, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes for the period April 01, 2021 - March 31, 2022 on January 04, 2023. With the year also marking the launch of Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) on November 12, 2021, the Annual Report covers the activities under the erstwhile Ombudsman Schemes i.e., Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006 (BOS), the Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies, 2018 (OSNBFC), and the Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions, 2019 (OSDT) upto November 11, 2021, along with the activities under RB-IOS, 2021 since November 12, 2021. The report also captures major developments during the year and the way forward in the area of consumer protection.

*For details:*

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54989](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54989)

### **Turnaround of PSBs: A story from doom to bloom; journey towards Rs. 1 lakh crore profit (January 04, 2023)**

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have travelled a long distance since 2017 when they posted a net loss of Rs. 85,390 crore to a profit of Rs. 66,539 crore in FY22 and are estimated to touch a milestone of Rs. 1 lakh crore by the end of the current fiscal. There was a time when 11 out of 21 PSBs were placed under the prompt corrective framework of the Reserve Bank due to deteriorating financial health on account of mounting bad loans to alarming levels of 14.58 per cent of the total credit.

*For details:*

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/turnaroundof-psbs-a-story-from-doom-to-bloom-journey-towards-rs-1-lakh-crprofit/articleshow/96738598.cms>

### **CBI chargesheets CG Power, ex-promoter Thapar in Rs. 2,435-cr fraud case (January 04, 2023)**

The CBI has filed a charge sheet against CG Power and Industrial Solutions and its former promoter Gautam Thapar in an alleged Rs. 2435-crore bank fraud case that affected 12 banks, officials said. This comes after the agency conducted a probe for nearly 19 months into the allegations of diversion of bank funds, and manipulation of account books among other charges against the company, Thapar and other senior executives, they said.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/cbi-chargesheets-cg-power-expromoter-thapar-in-rs-2-435-cr-fraud-case-123010401140\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/cbi-chargesheets-cg-power-expromoter-thapar-in-rs-2-435-cr-fraud-case-123010401140_1.html)

### **Periodic Updation of KYC details of Customers (January 05, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank has, from time to time, taken measures to rationalise the KYC related instructions taking into account the available technological options for enhancing customers' convenience within the framework prescribed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) and rules framed thereunder. The process for the periodic updation of KYC (re-KYC) was simplified in May 2021. As the banks are mandated to keep their records up-to-date and relevant by undertaking periodic reviews and updations, a fresh KYC process/documentation may have to be undertaken in certain cases including where the KYC documents available in bank records do not conform to present list of the Officially Valid Documents or where the validity of the KYC document submitted earlier may have expired. In such cases, the banks are required to provide an acknowledgement of the receipt of the KYC documents / self-declaration submitted by the customer. Fresh KYC process can be done by visiting a bank branch, or remotely through a Video based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP) (wherever the same has been enabled by the banks).

*For details:*

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54998](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54998)

### **Traction in consumer durable loans likely to continue: Lenders (January 06, 2023)**

Consumer durable loans, which saw healthy growth in the July-September quarter, are likely to see a good growth rate in the coming quarters as well, say lenders. Typically, consumer durable loans are short-term unsecured loans that are availed to purchase everyday items like washing machines, air conditioners, televisions, microwaves, furniture and others.

*For details:*

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/traction-in-consumerdurable-loans-likely-to-continue-lenders/2938261/>

### **Issuance Calendar for Marketable Sovereign Green Bonds: FY 2022-23 (January 06, 2023)**

As announced in the Union Budget 2022-23, Government of India, as part of its overall market borrowings, will be issuing Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs), for mobilising resources for green infrastructure. The proceeds will be deployed in public sector projects which help in reducing the carbon intensity of the economy. Accordingly, it was notified in the Half-yearly issuance calendar for marketable dated securities for the second half of the fiscal year 2022-23 on September 29, 2022 that SGrBs for an aggregate amount of ₹16,000 crore would be issued. Government of India has since issued the Sovereign Green Bond Framework on November 09, 2022. The Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Government of India, has decided to notify the indicative calendar for issuance of SGrBs for the fiscal year 2022-23.

*For details:*

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55004](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55004)



### **Government gets multiple preliminary bids for buying 61% stake in IDBI Bank (January 08, 2023)**

The Centre on January 07, 2023 received multiple Expressions of Interests (Eols) from domestic and foreign investors for the 60.72% stake in IDBI Bank, which will go to the successful bidder along with management control. On October 7 last year, the Centre invited Eols for IDBI Bank and offered to sell a total of 60.72% stake worth over Rs. 38,550 crore at current market prices, comprising 30.48% from the government and 30.24% from LIC, along with the transfer of management control.

### **Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra re-appointed as RBI Deputy Governor (January 10, 2023)**

The Central Government has re-appointed Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra as Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India for a further period of one year with effect from January 15, 2023, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

*For details:*

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55026](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55026)

### **IDBI Bank sale seen a winner with top dollar bids expected (January 10, 2023)**

As the IDBI Bank privatisation enters the next stage, it may end up being one of the most profitable divestment processes for the government in recent years. Interested bidders are willing to offer a 7-10 per cent premium for controlling interest in the bank, which works out to a valuation of ₹64,000-66,000 crore. It is learnt from multiple sources that nearly 4-5 large investors, a motley of banks and private equity players, have submitted their Expressions Of Interest (EOI) to the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) to collectively pick up a 60.72 per cent stake in IDBI Bank.

*For details:*

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/idbi-sale-likely-toconclude-at-710-per-cent-premium/article66360586.ece>

### **The rise and rise of the UPI (January 10, 2023)**

India's indigenously-developed United Payment Interface (UPI) has almost become the default payment option. While cash is still the king, increasingly a majority of peer-to-peer transactions are being done using the UPI. According to the data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the UPI recorded over 7.82 billion transactions worth Rs. 12.82 trillion in December 2022-a new record since it was launched in 2016.

*For details:*

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/the-rise-and-rise-of-theupi/2942331/>



### **Banking and Insurance Cabinet clears Rs. 2,600 cr scheme to promote RuPay debit card: Officials (January 11, 2023)**

The Cabinet on January 11, 2023 approved a Rs. 2,600 crore scheme for promoting RuPay debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions. Under the scheme, banks would be provided financial incentives for promoting Point of Sale (PoS) and e-commerce transactions using RuPay and UPI in the current financial year.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/cabinet-clears-rs-2-600-cr-scheme-to-promote-rupay-debit-card-officials-123011100842\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/cabinet-clears-rs-2-600-cr-scheme-to-promote-rupay-debit-card-officials-123011100842_1.html)

### **RBI Working Paper No. 01/2023: Measuring Contagion Effects of Crude Oil Prices on Sectoral Stock Price Indices in India (January 12, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank of India placed on its website a Working Paper titled, “Measuring Contagion Effects of Crude Oil Prices on Sectoral Stock Price Indices in India” under the Reserve Bank of India Working Paper Series. The paper uses the Generalised Pareto Distribution (GPD) for estimating excess returns or exceedances, defined as deviations - above and below, thresholds. The Multinomial Logit Model (MNL) framework is then used for determining the probability of contemporaneous exceedances or co-exceedances, occurring the same day for 10 sectoral Indian stocks and global crude oil returns during the period from January 2007 to December 2020. The literature defines this probability of co-exceedances as contagion effect.

*For details:*

[https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55037](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55037)

### **RBI Working Paper No. 02/2023: Tail Risks of Inflation in India (January 12, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank of India placed on its website a Working Paper titled, “Tail Risks of Inflation in India” under the Reserve Bank of India Working Paper Series. This paper estimates the tail risks, i.e., the upside and downside risks to Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation in India using a quantile regression framework. The paper examines the impact of various domestic and global macroeconomic factors, besides the role of the Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) regime in influencing inflation tail risks.

*For details:*

[https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55036](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55036)

### **Bank of Baroda (BOB) CEO Mr. Sanjiv Chadha's term extended till June 30 (January 14, 2023)**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has given its nod for the extension of the term of Bank of Baroda's incumbent Chief Executive Mr. Sanjiv Chadha till June 30, which is his date of superannuation. Chadha's three year period of appointment as BOB Chief Executive expires on January 19, 2023. The executive order announcing the ACC approval for the extension was issued by the Department of Personnel & Training on January 14, 2023.

*For details:*

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-andbanking/bank-of-baroda-ceo-sanjiv-chadhas-termextended-till-june-30/article66379125.ece>

### **NFRA to introduce Annual Transparency Report by the Audit Firms (January 16, 2023)**

As a step towards enhancing the transparency about management and governance of audit firms and their internal policy framework to ensure high quality audits and preventing conflict of interest by maintaining independence, the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has published draft requirements regarding preparation and publication of Annual Transparency Report (ATR) by auditors/audit firms. The ATR requirements are proposed to be implemented in a gradual manner for PIEs starting with Statutory Auditors of Top 1000 Listed Companies (by market capitalisation) with effect from the financial year ending on 31 March 2023. The ATR has to be published within three months from the end of each financial year. NFRA has also decided to seek public comments/suggestions on the contents of the ATR by 16 February 2023.

*For details:*

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1891606>

### **Why have different standards for India and Europe: SC to Google (January 16, 2023)**

The Supreme Court on January 16, 2023 (Monday) asked Google; why the standards for Android devices in India were different from those in Europe. This came in response to Google's appeal against the Competition Commission of India's (CCI's) order penalising the tech giant, asking it to pay Rs 1,338 crore for practices related to Android devices.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/supreme-court-refuses-to-stay-cci-order-against-google-seeks-explanation-123011600713\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/supreme-court-refuses-to-stay-cci-order-against-google-seeks-explanation-123011600713_1.html)

### **RBI proposes expected loss-based approach for provisioning by banks (January 17, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on January 17, 2023 proposed a framework for adoption of an 'expected loss-based' approach for provisioning by banks. Presently, banks are required to make loan loss provisions based on an 'incurred loss' approach, which used to be the standard globally till recently.

### **FinMin to meet heads of PSBs; to review progress of various schemes (January 17, 2023)**

The Finance Ministry has called a meeting of heads of Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions to review the progress of various social sector schemes, including Jan Dhan, Mudra, KCC, and PM SVANidhi. The meeting with Managing Director and CEOs of Public Sector banks is scheduled to be held on January 19 and largely for reviewing the schemes to promote financial inclusion.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/finmin-to-meet-heads-of-psbs-to-review-progress-of-various-schemes-123011701422\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/finmin-to-meet-heads-of-psbs-to-review-progress-of-various-schemes-123011701422_1.html)

### **Auction of Sovereign Green Bonds (January 19, 2023)**

Government of India (GOI) has announced the sale (issue) of two Sovereign Green Bonds for a notified amount of ₹8,000 crore. The securities will be sold through Reserve Bank of India Mumbai Office, Fort, Mumbai - 400001. Bids for underwriting of the Additional Competitive Underwriting (ACU) portion can be submitted by 'Primary Dealers' from 09.00 a.m. up to 09:30 a.m. on January 25, 2023 (Wednesday) on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system.

*For details:*

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55077](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55077)

### **Banks to report all interest income paid to account holders (January 20, 2023)**

Banks and post offices will now have to report all the amounts paid as interest to depositors as part of the move towards pre-filled income tax forms. The income tax department has abolished the threshold of Rs. 5,000 above which any interest paid to a depositor had to be earlier reported. In a recent notification, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has said that banks will have to report "any interest income exceeding Rs. zero" for all account and deposit holders in a financial year excluding Jan Dhan Accounts.

*For details:*

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/banks-to-report-allinterest-income-paid-to-account-holders/2954121/>

### **Tethering inflation is 2023 focus: RBI report (January 20, 2023)**

With Consumer Price-Based Inflation (CPI) easing below the upper tolerance band of 6 per cent, the focus for 2023 is to tether inflation at those levels and further align it to the target of 4 per cent by 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said in a report. Retail inflation eased to 5.72 per cent in December. In November, the inflation print was 5.88 per cent.

*For details:*

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/tethering-inflation-is-2023-focusrbi-report8392831/#:~:text=With%20consumer%20price%2Dbased%20inflation,5.72%20per%20cent%20in%20December>

### **Ministry asks PSU banks' heads to start talks on wage revision (January 23, 2023)**

The Finance Ministry has asked Public Sector Banks (PSUs) to begin negotiations for the next round of wage revision for employees, due from November 01, 2022. Wage revision in PSU banks has always been a tedious and time-consuming process with bank managements and unions engaging in tough negotiations. The All-India Bank Employees Association (AIBE) has already called a strike on January 30 and 31 for implementing various demands, including wage revision, five -day week and reversion to the old pension scheme.

*For details:*

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/banking-and-finance/ministry-asks-psubanks-heads-to-start-talks-on-wage-revision-8398158/>

**Credit guarantee scheme. ECLGS saved about 12% of outstanding MSME credit from slipping into NPA: SBI report (January 23, 2023)**

Incentives provided by the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) has helped in boosting credit flow to MSMEs, with at least 14.6 lakh MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise) accounts being saved due to the scheme, according to an analysis by State Bank of India's economic research department. In absolute terms, MSME loan accounts worth ₹2.2 lakh crore improved since inception of ECLGS for the entire banking industry, per the ERD's analysis.

*For details:*

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/eclgs-saved-about-12-of-outstanding-msme-credit-from-slipping-into-npa-sbi-report/article66422691.ece>

**RBI extends time for renewal of agreements for existing Safe Deposit Locker/Safe Custody Article Facility Provided by Banks (January 23, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank of India had issued revised instructions with respect to Safe Deposit Locker/Safe Custody Article Facility that inter alia required banks to enter into revised agreements with the existing locker holders by January 01, 2023. However, it has come to the notice of RBI that a large number of customers are yet to sign the revised agreement. In many cases, the banks are yet to inform the customers about the need to do so before the stipulated date (January 01, 2023). Accordingly, it has been decided to extend the deadline for banks to complete the process of renewal of agreements for the existing safe deposit lockers in a phased manner by December 31, 2023, with intermediate milestones of 50 per cent by June 30, 2023, and 75 per cent by September 30, 2023.

*For details:*

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55092](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55092)

**Rupee may firm past 81 per dollar, bond yields to edge up ahead of Budget (January 23, 2023)**

The Indian rupee is expected to extend its gains this week, while Government bond yields may move marginally higher due to worries about yet another year of elevated borrowing. With a holiday-shortened week in India, the Chinese New Year, and no major data releases apart from U.S. economic growth and consumption prints towards the end of the week, market participants will keep a close eye on foreign portfolio inflows into Indian markets.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/rupee-may-firm-past-81-per-dollar-bond-yields-to-edge-up-ahead-of-budget-123012300068\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/rupee-may-firm-past-81-per-dollar-bond-yields-to-edge-up-ahead-of-budget-123012300068_1.html)

### **NARCL acquires first stressed account from IDBI Bank-led lenders (January 24, 2023)**

After a much delay, lenders, led by IDBI Bank, have transferred the first large stressed account to the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL), last week. The bad loan transferred to NARCL, or bad bank, is Jaypee Infratech, which was among the 12 large accounts referred by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the National Company Law tribunal (NCLT) in 2017.

*For details:*

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/narcl-acquires-first-stressed-account-from-idbi-bank-led-lenders-8400221/>

### **RBI directs SBM Bank to stop outward remittance business (January 24, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on January 24, 2023 barred SBM Bank (India) Ltd. from undertaking outward remittance transactions till further orders. SBM Bank India is a subsidiary of the State Bank of Mauritius and became the first foreign bank to receive a universal banking licence under an Indian scheme for wholly owned subsidiaries, which allowed foreign lenders to compete with Indian banks.

*For details:*

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/rbi-directs-sbm-bank-to-stop-outward-remittance-business-11674499785448.html>

### **Banks face one-time impact on capital with transition to ECL framework: ICRA (January 24, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) discussion paper on the implementation of the Expected Credit Loss (ECL)-based loss provisioning by banks is expected to be an important step towards their eventual shift to the Indian Accounting Standards (IND-AS) regime, said a new report by ICRA. The methodology/basis of computation of ECL is central to IND-AS and migration to ECL-based loss provisioning will be a major step towards the eventual shift to an IND-AS regime for banks.

*For details:*

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/banks-face-one-time-impact-on-capital-with-transition-to-ecl-framework-icra-11674569457918.html>

### **Discussion Paper on Securitisation of Stressed Assets Framework (SSAF) (January 25, 2023)**

The Task Force on the Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans constituted by the Reserve Bank, which submitted its recommendations in September 2019, had also specifically recommended that securitisation of NPAs may be considered as an alternative investment route in stressed assets. It was announced in the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies released on September 30, 2022 that a Discussion Paper (DP) detailing relevant contours of the proposed Framework on Securitisation of Stressed Assets (SSAF) will be issued shortly. This DP delineates the broad features of the proposed framework, soliciting views/comments on critical issues of SSAF since securitisation of NPAs has features that distinguish it from the securitisation of standard assets. Comments may be submitted by February 28, 2023 to The Chief General Manager, Credit Risk Group, Department of Regulation, Central Office, Reserve Bank of India, 12th Floor, Central Office Building, Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg, Fort, Mumbai - 400001, or by [strcrgdor@rbi.org.in](mailto:strcrgdor@rbi.org.in) with the subject line "Discussion Paper on Securitisation of Stressed Assets Framework (SSAF)".

*For details:*

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/PublicationsView.aspx?id=21728>

### **800 more cooperative banks set to join AePS platform (January 26, 2023)**

To promote seamless banking transactions and financial inclusion in semi-urban and rural areas, the Centre will likely unveil measures for the implementation of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) in 800-odd more cooperative banks soon. Currently, around 40 cooperative banks offer this facility to their customers, who from the comfort of their homes can check balances, deposit, withdraw and interbank/intrabank transfer funds (Aadhaar to Aadhaar) through business correspondents of banks and point of sale machines (micro ATMs).

*For details:*

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/800-more-cooperativebanks-set-to-join-aeps-platform/2960362/>

### **CBI books GTL Ltd for ₹4,760-crore bank loan fraud (January 27, 2023)**

The CBI has booked GTL Limited, which deals with telecom infrastructure planning and services, and its directors for allegedly siphoning off a “substantial portion” of ₹4,760 crore credit facilities availed from a consortium of banks led by IDBI. The CBI in its FIR filed on January 21 alleged that GTL, promoted by Manoj Tirodkar and Global Holding Corporation Pvt. Ltd. as promoters, created a sham network of vendors to divert the bank loans on the pretext of giving them advances for works largely remaining on paper.

*For details:*

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/cbi-books-glt-ltd-for-4760-crore-bank-loan-fraud/article66440349.ece>

### **RBI's Digital Payments Index jumps to 377.46 in Sept from 349.30 in March (February 01, 2023)**

RBI's Digital Payments Index, a measure of the extent of digitisation of payments across the country, rose to 377.46 in September 2022 from 349.30 in March. RBI introduced the composite Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) on January 01, 2021 with March 2018 as the base, to capture digitisation of payments.

*For details:*

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbis-digital-payments-indexjumps-to-37746-in-sept-from-34930-in-march/article66455025.ece>



### **Youngsters are boosting India's loan growth, says report (February 02, 2023)**

Youngsters have become the driving force behind India's credit growth which is witnessing the expansion of riskier segments like credit cards, consumer durable loans and personal loans, said TransUnion Cibil's data. The credit information company's data for the September quarter revealed that the proportion of loan inquiries by people of age group 18-30 years grew by 5% from last one year to 43 per cent in the quarter.

*For details:*

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/youngsters-are-boosting-india-s-loan-growth-says-report-11675352479105.html>

### **RBI statement on the health of Indian Banking sector (February 03, 2023)**

There have been media reports expressing concern about the exposures of Indian banks to a business conglomerate. As the regulator and supervisor, the RBI maintains a constant vigil on the banking sector and on individual banks with a view to maintain financial stability. The RBI has a Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) database system where the banks report their exposure of Rs.5 crore and above which is used for monitoring purposes. As per the RBI's current assessment, the banking sector remains resilient and stable. Various parameters relating to capital adequacy, asset quality, liquidity, provision coverage and profitability are healthy. Banks are also in compliance with the Large Exposure Framework (LEF) guidelines issued by the RBI.

*For details:*

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55166](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55166)

### **RBI framework for invoicing and payments for international trade in Indian Rupee (February 06, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed invoicing and payments for international trade in Indian Rupee vide A.P (DIR Series) Circular No. 10 RBI/2022-2023/90 dated 11.07.2022 on "International Trade Settlement in Indian Rupees (INR)". This was stated by the Union Minister of State for Finance, Dr Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad, in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on February 06, 2023. Giving more information, the Minister stated that the Circular lays down that all exports and imports under the arrangement may be denominated and invoiced in Rupee (INR) and the settlement of trade transactions under the arrangement shall take place in INR. RBI has put in place the arrangement to promote growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and to support the increasing interest of global trading community in INR.

*For details:*

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1896727>

### **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana generated 1.12 crore net additional employment from 2015 to 2018 (February 06, 2023)**

As per the results of a large sample survey conducted at the national level by Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) to assess employment generation under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), the scheme helped in generating 1.12 crore net additional employment during a period of approximately 3 years (i.e. from 2015 to 2018).

*For details:*

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1896725>

### **84 DBUs are operational across the country (February 06, 2023)**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) to the service of the nation on October 16, 2022. The Union Minister of State for Finance, Dr Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad stated that as on date, 84 DBUs are operational across the country.

*For details:*

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1896726>

### **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC): e₹-R is in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender (February 06, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the first pilot of Digital Rupee- Retail segment (e₹-R) on December 01, 2022. The e₹-R pilot currently covers the five cities of Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar and Chandigarh. The e₹-R is in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender. It is being issued in the same denominations that paper currency and coins are currently issued.

*For details:*

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1896721>

### **RBI releases the results of Forward Looking Surveys (February 08, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank of India on February 08, 2023 released on its website the results of the following Surveys : Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) - January 2023; Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH) - January 2023; OBICUS Survey on manufacturing sector - Q2:2022-23; Industrial Outlook Survey of the Manufacturing Sector for Q3:2022-23; Survey of Professional Forecasters on Macroeconomic Indicators- Round 80th; Bank Lending Survey for Q3:2022-23 & Services and Infrastructure Outlook Survey for Q3:2022-23. The Survey results are based on the feedback received from the respondents to the Surveys and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Reserve Bank of India.

*For details:*

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55184](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55184)

### **Pilot for QR Code-based vending machine coming: RBI (February 08, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank of India on February 08, 2023 said it's preparing a pilot project on QR Code based Coin Vending Machine (QCVN) in collaboration with a few leading banks. The QCVN is a cashless coin dispensation machine which would dispense coins against a debit to the customer's bank account using Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The QCVN would eliminate the need for physical tendering of banknotes and their authentication, the RBI said.

*For details:*

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/pilot-for-qr-code-based-vending-machine-coming-rbi8432830/>



### **Finance Minister addresses the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India (February 11, 2023)**

The 600th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India was held on February 11, 2023 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, addressed and interacted with the Central Board. The Hon'ble Finance Minister in her address highlighted the key thrust areas outlined in the Union Budget 2023-24 and the expectations from the financial sector.

*For details:*

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55207](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55207)

# Competition Law

## Info Capsule Series 15

### **Centre sets up committee to prepare draft digital competition law (February 06, 2023)**

The Centre has ordered setting up a committee that will review whether existing antitrust laws in the country are equipped to deal with the challenges that have emerged from the digital economy, and submit to the government a draft Digital Competition Act within three months. Last year, a Parliamentary panel also proposed to frame 'ex-ante' regulations to curb the market dominance of large tech companies. The committee will be headed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), and will include eight other members including the Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India. The joint secretary for competition at the MCA will join the committee as a member secretary. The remaining seven members of the committee are from the private sector and various law firms.

### **CCI approves acquisition of METRO Cash and Carry India Private Limited by Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (March 15, 2023)**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of METRO Cash and Carry India Private Limited by Reliance Retail Ventures Limited. The proposed combination involves acquisition of 100% of the issued and paid-up equity share capital of METRO Cash and Carry India Private Limited (Target) by the Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (Acquirer). The Acquirer is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited. The Acquirer, through its subsidiaries and affiliates, is engaged in the wholesale and retail sale of products across categories such as food and groceries, durable goods and apparel and footwear in India. The Target is engaged in the business of cash and carry wholesale trading in India.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1907052>

### **CCI approves acquisition of sole control of Meritor by Cummins (March 15, 2023)**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of sole control of Meritor by Cummins. The combination consisted of the acquisition of sole control of Meritor, Inc. by Cummins Inc. Cummins, a stock corporation under USA, is said to be engaged in designs, manufactures, distribution and service of diesel, natural gas, electric and hybrid powertrains and powertrain-related components. Meritor, a stock corporation under USA, is said to be a supplier of axles, brakes, and other modules and components to OEMs and the aftermarket for the commercial vehicle, transportation and industrial sectors.

*For details:*

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1907051>

### **Digital competition Bill based on standing committee report: Sinha (March 21, 2023)**

Shri Jayant Sinha, member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha and chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, said the private member's Bill on digital competition that proposes to table will include all the provisions suggested by the committee in its report on anti-competitive practices by big tech companies. "The Bill will be completely modelled on the digital competition report. Everything we have said in the report is in the Bill – identifying systemically important digital intermediaries (SIDIs), making sure that they are compliant with the 10 anti-competitive practices, and they should file an annual report," Sinha said. The parliamentary panel on finance, chaired by Sinha, presented a report in December identifying 10 anticompetitive practices in digital markets and a need for ex ante regulations to address them. The committee also called upon the government to come up with a definition for SIDIs that need tighter regulations. The classification could be done based on revenues, market capitalisation, and the number of active users, the panel suggested. Sinha said he worked on the Bill alongside the report on anticompetitive practices by big tech companies, which took a year to research. The Bill is another input for the government to deliberate on and will be tabled soon, he added.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economypolicy/digital-competition-bill-modelled-on-standingcommittee-on-finance-report-123032101140\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economypolicy/digital-competition-bill-modelled-on-standingcommittee-on-finance-report-123032101140_1.html)

### **CCI approves acquisition of shareholding of JM Baxi Ports and Logistics Limited by HL Terminal Holding B.V.(March 27, 2023)**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the acquisition of shareholding of JM Baxi Ports and Logistics Limited by HL Terminal Holding B.V., a wholly owned subsidiary of Hapag Lloyd Aktiengesellschaft. The proposed combination pertains to acquisition by HL Terminal Holding B.V. (Acquiring Entity) of certain shareholding of JM Baxi Ports and Logistics Private Limited (Target) (Proposed Combination). Acquiring Entity The Acquiring Entity, is a newly incorporated entity, intended to serve as a strategic / investment holding company for the port terminal business of Hapag Lloyd Aktiengesellschaft (HLAG). HLAG is the parent company of the Acquirer Group. Headquartered in Germany, the Acquirer Group is an international group of companies active in the maritime sector, offering global transport services for containerized cargo (i.e., deep-sea and short-sea container shipping services for the transport of both reefer and dry cargo) under the Hapag-Lloyd AG brand.

*For details:*

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1911254>

### **NCLAT upholds Rs 1,337 cr penalty on Google: What are the allegations against it?(March 31, 2023)**

In a significant ruling, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has upheld a penalty of Rs 1,337.76 crore imposed by India's competition regulation body on Google, for its anti-competitive conduct in the Android ecosystem. The tribunal held that a number of Google's practices pointed to an abuse of dominance, which in some cases, had also stalled scientific development. However, Google managed to score a partial victory in the judgement as four of the ten conditions that the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had imposed on the company - including preventing sideloading of apps, and sharing Google's Play Store code with original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) - that would have further hamstrung the tech giant, was set aside by the NCLAT. The contest between Google and CCI was among the most high profile battles globally between a tech giant and a regulator, one that was being followed closely by governments across the world. About 97 per cent of the 600 million smartphones in India run on Android, according to Counterpoint Research estimates. What did the NCLAT find Google guilty of? NCLAT's order has largely confirmed CCI's other findings from last October that said Google abused its market dominance in the Android ecosystem. It held that mandating pre-installation of its entire Google Mobile Suite (GMS) - a family of key Google apps and services such as Google search, Chrome browser, YouTube, Google Maps, and Gmail - amounted to "imposing unfair conditions on OEMs which is an abuse of dominant position" by the company. By making pre-installation of its GMS suite conditional to signing various agreements, such as Anti-fragmentation Agreement (AFA) and Android Compatibility Commitment Agreement (ACC) with the OEMs, the tribunal said that Google had "reduced the ability and incentive of devices manufacturers to develop and sell self-device operating or alternative version of Android and Android Forks and thereby limited technical and scientific development".

# Business and Economic News

## Info Capsule Series 15

### SC upholds 2016 decision on demonetisation by 4:1 majority verdict (January 03, 2023)

A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Monday upheld the Modi government's 2016 decision to demonetise Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes, saying the decision was about executive policy and could not be reversed. The court rejected the 58 petitions challenging demonetisation and said the decisionmaking process of the government was not flawed. The judgment, authored by Justice B R Gavai, was agreed to by judges S Abdul Nazeer, A S Bopanna, and V Ramasubramanian. Justice B V Nagarathna faulted demonetisation in her dissenting judgment but did not quash it. The judgment said there was consultation between the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for six months, indicating a "reasonable nexus between the measures undertaken and the object sought to be achieved" and, therefore, the demonetisation notification passed the test or doctrine of "proportionality".

*For details*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/sc-4-1-majority-verdict-upholds-demonetisation-process-1-judge-dissents-123010200488\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/sc-4-1-majority-verdict-upholds-demonetisation-process-1-judge-dissents-123010200488_1.html)

### Outstanding microfinance loan portfolio to rise 20.3% in FY23 in India: MFIN (January 03, 2022)

Outstanding loan portfolio of the Micro-Finance Institution (MFI) sector across India will increase around 20.3% at Rs. 3.25 lakh crore in 2022-23 compared to the previous fiscal, said the MFIN, a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) recognised by RBI.

*For details:*

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/outstanding-microfinance-loan-portfolio-to-rise-20-3-in-fy23-in-india-mfin-11672754387129.html>

### **SBI board nod to raise 10K cr via infra bonds in FY23 (January 04, 2022)**

The executive committee of the central board of State Bank of India (SBI) has approved the proposal to raise up to Rs. 10,000 crore by issuing infrastructure bonds in 2022-23 (April-March), the bank said in an exchange filing on January 03, 2022. The bonds will be issued through a public issue or a private placement basis. On Thursday, the bank's board announced that it will meet to seek approval for raising the said money by issuing the bonds.

*For details:*

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/sbi-board-nod-to-raise-10kcr-via-infra-bonds-in-fy23/2935642/>

### **HDFC assigns Rs. 8,892 crore in loans to HDFC Bank (January 04, 2022)**

Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) on January 03, 2022 said that it has assigned loans of up to Rs. 8,892 crore in the quarter ended December 31, higher by 19% compared to previous year. In Q3 FY22, HDFC had assigned loans of Rs. 7,468 crore to the bank. HDFC assigned loans of up to Rs. 35,937 crore in the 12 months ended December 31. The company also earned a gross income of Rs. 482 crore from dividend in Q3 FY23.

*For details:*

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/hdfc-assigns-rs-8892-crore-in-loans-to-hdfc-bank/2935693/>

### **RBI releases Annual Report of Ombudsman Schemes, 2021-22 (January 04, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes for the period April 01, 2021 - March 31, 2022 on January 04, 2023. With the year also marking the launch of Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) on November 12, 2021, the Annual Report covers the activities under the erstwhile Ombudsman Schemes i.e., Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006 (BOS), the Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies, 2018 (OSNBFC), and the Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions, 2019 (OSDT) upto November 11, 2021, along with the activities under RB-IOS, 2021 since November 12, 2021. The report also captures major developments during the year and the way forward in the area of consumer protection.

*For details:*

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54989](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54989)

### **CBI chargesheets CG Power, ex-promoter Thapar in Rs. 2,435-cr fraud case (January 04, 2023)**

The CBI has filed a charge sheet against CG Power and Industrial Solutions and its former promoter Gautam Thapar in an alleged Rs. 2435-crore bank fraud case that affected 12 banks, officials said. This comes after the agency conducted a probe for nearly 19 months into the allegations of diversion of bank funds, and manipulation of account books among other charges against the company, Thapar and other senior executives, they said.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/cbi-chargesheets-cg-power-expromoter-thapar-in-rs-2-435-cr-fraud-case-123010401140\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/cbi-chargesheets-cg-power-expromoter-thapar-in-rs-2-435-cr-fraud-case-123010401140_1.html)

### **Periodic Updation of KYC details of Customers (January 05, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank has, from time to time, taken measures to rationalise the KYC related instructions taking into account the available technological options for enhancing customers' convenience within the framework prescribed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) and rules framed thereunder. The process for the periodic updation of KYC (re-KYC) was simplified in May 2021. As the banks are mandated to keep their records up-to-date and relevant by undertaking periodic reviews and updations, a fresh KYC process / documentation may have to be undertaken in certain cases including where the KYC documents available in bank records do not conform to present list of the Officially Valid Documents or where the validity of the KYC document submitted earlier may have expired. In such cases, the banks are required to provide an acknowledgement of the receipt of the KYC documents / self-declaration submitted by the customer. Fresh KYC process can be done by visiting a bank branch, or remotely through a Video based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP) (wherever the same has been enabled by the banks).

*For details:*

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54998](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=54998)

### **Traction in consumer durable loans likely to continue: Lenders (January 06, 2023)**

Consumer durable loans, which saw healthy growth in the July-September quarter, are likely to see a good growth rate in the coming quarters as well, say lenders. Typically, consumer durable loans are short-term unsecured loans that are availed to purchase everyday items like washing machines, air conditioners, televisions, microwaves, furniture and others.

*For details:*

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/traction-in-consumerdurable-loans-likely->

### **Government engaging with diff layers to ensure EoDB aid reach ground level: FM (January 08, 2023)**

Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said, the central government is engaging with states and local administrations to ensure that benefits of Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) initiatives reach the ground. EoDB is not just the Centre's responsibility but that of states as well, she added. "Central Government can bring in rules, meaningful regulations, remove many of the burdens and give it as a policy. It can be implemented in Union Territories for which the Government of India is directly responsible but further down it is the State governments, which also equally have to do it," she said. Similarly, municipal areas will have to do their part and panchayats will have to also pitch in, Sitharaman said while interacting with students here.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-engaging-with-diff-layers-toensure-eodb-aid-reach-ground-level-fm-123010800629\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-engaging-with-diff-layers-toensure-eodb-aid-reach-ground-level-fm-123010800629_1.html)

### **With \$10.8 billion, Bengaluru top city on start-up funding in 2022: Report (January 10, 2023)**

Bengaluru topped the startup funding chart in India with \$10.8 billion in 2022, followed by Mumbai at \$3.9 billion, and Gurugram at a distant \$2.6 billion. Startups based in Delhi and Chennai registered \$1.2 billion each in funding, followed by Pune at \$1 billion, according to data provided by Tracxn, a leading global market intelligence platform. In 2021, Bengaluru-based startups had raised \$20.8 billion in funding and Mumbai-based startups had pocketed \$5.2 billion in the same year, showing the impact of the deepening funding winter last year. There were 22 unicorns in 2022, compared to 46 in 2021, and average funding before the unicorn round was around \$160 million.

*For details:*

[https://www.businessstandard.com/article/companies/with-10-8-billionbengaluru-top-city-on-start-up-funding-in-2022-report123010900952\\_1.html](https://www.businessstandard.com/article/companies/with-10-8-billionbengaluru-top-city-on-start-up-funding-in-2022-report123010900952_1.html)

### **MCA waives late fees for 15 days as it migrates to new statutory filing system (January 10, 2022)**

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs on January 09, 2023 started moving a large part of the corporate reporting process to the revamped compliance portal, MCA21, and has given more time for businesses to file key statutory documents without additional fees. As part of the move, 45 statutory forms will be made available on the MCA21 portal by January 22, 2023, out of which 10 forms related to the incorporation of companies were uploaded on January 09, 2023. The updated forms have tighter security and validation features. According to an order published on the Ministry's website, all the 45 forms will not be available on the old portal till the migration is completed on January 22, 2023. Businesses have been given 15 days extra to file applications without additional fees if their due date falls during this period.

*For details:*

<https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/mca-waives-late-fees-for-15-days-as-itmigrates-to-new-statutory-filing-system-11673291839384.html>

### **NFRA to introduce Annual Transparency Report by the Audit Firms (January 16, 2023)**

As a step towards enhancing the transparency about management and governance of audit firms and their internal policy framework to ensure high quality audits and preventing conflict of interest by maintaining independence, the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has published draft requirements regarding preparation and publication of Annual Transparency Report (ATR) by auditors/audit firms. The ATR requirements are proposed to be implemented in a gradual manner for PIEs starting with Statutory Auditors of Top 1000 Listed Companies (by market capitalisation) with effect from the financial year ending on 31 March 2023. The ATR has to be published within three months from the end of each financial year. NFRA has also decided to seek public comments/suggestions on the contents of the ATR by 16 February 2023.

*For details:* <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1891606>



### **ECLGS bailed out 14.6 lakh MSMEs, says SBI report (January 25, 2023)**

At least 14.6 lakh micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) accounts were saved due to the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) launched by the government during the pandemic, thus saving millions of jobs till November, 2022, according to estimates made by a State Bank of India research report. In absolute terms, MSME loan accounts worth Rs 2.2 lakh crore have improved since the inception of ECLGS for the entire banking industry. This means that around 12 per cent of the outstanding MSME credit has been saved from slipping into NPA because of the ECLG scheme,” SBI said in a research report.

### **Institutional Traders Shifting Attention from Blockchain to AI: JP Morgan (February 06, 2023)**

More than half of the institutional traders surveyed by global financial services giant JP Morgan said that artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning will be the most influential technology in shaping the future of trading over the next three years—cited four times more often than blockchain and distributed ledger technology.

*For details:*

<https://decrypt.co/120639/institutional-trader-surveyjp-morgan-crypto-artificial-intelligence>

### **SBI raises \$1 bn under 5-year syndicated social loan for ESG funding (February 28, 2023)**

The country's largest lender, State Bank of India, has raised \$1 billion in its largest syndicated social loan for onward lending to ESG projects, affordable housing and self help groups (SHGs). The deal was the largest Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) loan by a commercial bank in the Asia Pacific and the second largest social loan globally. SBI executives said the five-year loan was priced at the secured overnight financing rate (SOFR) of three months plus 130 basis points. This was all-in cost pricing. The base size was \$500 million with a green shoe option of \$500 million. The facility of \$1 billion was arranged through a mandated lead arranger and bookrunner (MLAB). MUFG and Taipei Fubon Commercial Bank were the joint social loan coordinators. SBI said in a statement that this is its inaugural social loan and the first syndicated loan in the past five years. The issuance, which saw overwhelming participation from banks across Taiwan, Japan, China, and the Middle East, was fully subscribed along with the \$500 million green shoe.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/state-bank-of-india-raises-1-billion-via-5-year-syndicated-social-loan-123022800725\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/state-bank-of-india-raises-1-billion-via-5-year-syndicated-social-loan-123022800725_1.html)

### **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) further Simplifies the process of levying Composition Fee for Export Obligation Extension to include more cases under Advance Authorization Scheme (March 01, 2023)**

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has notified amended rules for implementing all PRC (Policy Relaxation Committee) decisions regarding the levy of Composition Fee. DGFT is extending the benefit of reduced Composition Fee for cases where it has allowed an extension in EOP (Export Obligation Period) and/or regularization of exports already made. This was notified vide Public Notice No. 59/2015-20 on February 28, 2023 by amending Para 4.42 of Handbook of Procedures (2015-20). The rationalization of Composition Fee calculations aids in automation and accelerated delivery of services by attempting to make the procedure simpler and more understandable. The revised Composition Fee model, which is based on a specific rate for different levels of the 'CIF value of Authorisation,' is less complicated and simpler to calculate. This will assist in streamlining the compliance process with minimal human intervention, reducing the risk of discrepancies and confusions. Automating the process will result in faster service delivery by reducing the need for manual calculations and paperwork. This initiative aims to integrate a uniform and transparent system for implementing all PRC decisions, including past decisions related to levying Composition Fee in the case of extending Export Obligation Period (EOP) and/or regularization of exports made under the Advance Authorization Scheme. The goal is to make doing business easier and reduce transaction costs.

*For details:*

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1903374>

### **Data Protection Bill gets IT panel thumbs-up, says Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw (March 02, 2023)**

The parliamentary standing committee on communications and information technology (IT) has given a “big thumbs-up” to the draft Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill, 2022, as it will soon be tabled in Parliament, said Union Minister for Communications and IT Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw on March 02, 2023.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/data-protection-bill-gets-a-thumbs-up-from-parliamentary-committee-on-it-123030201160\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/data-protection-bill-gets-a-thumbs-up-from-parliamentary-committee-on-it-123030201160_1.html)

### **India's CEOs more bullish on economy than global counterparts (March 05, 2023)**

The Global CEO Survey by PwC, which has been running for over a quarter of a century, found that nearly 80% of CEOs in India anticipate a decline in global economic growth in the coming year, marking the most negative outlook in the past 12 years. Nonetheless, a majority of India's CEOs (57%) are hopeful about the country's own economic growth prospects over the next 12 months. This is in stark contrast with the views of CEOs in the wider region and globally, with 'only' 37% and 29% of CEOs in Asia Pacific and globally (29%) optimistic about their country's own economic growth prospects.

### **A billion transactions a day can be processed through UPI: RBI governor (March 06, 2023)**

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), India's flagship digital payments platform, has the bandwidth to process one billion transactions a day, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Monday while launching the mission "Har Payment Digital". The objective of the mission, as part of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2023, is to make every citizen in the country opt for digital payments. Das said he expected more countries to join India in linking their payments on a real-time basis, like the one with Singapore's PayNow, which started last month. "Currently the number of transactions done through UPI is 26 crore (260 million) per day. The system has the capacity to handle 100 crore (one billion) transactions per day. So the system is geared to onboard new customers into the UPI platform," Das said. On March 1, there were 300 million transactions through the UPI. "NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) is operating the UPI in three parallel systems – they not only act as disaster recovery facilities for each other but are running parallel. In the unlikely event of some problems in one system, the other systems are very much in operation," Das said, alluding to the capacity of the UPI in terms of handling transactions.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/upi-can-process-a-billiontransactions-a-day-says-rbi-governor-123030600789\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/upi-can-process-a-billiontransactions-a-day-says-rbi-governor-123030600789_1.html)

### **Centre brings crypto assets under PMLA, wrongdoing can be probed by ED (March 08, 2023)**

The central government has brought the trading of cryptocurrency and digital assets within the ambit of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) through a gazette notification. The move comes even as the legislation to govern the cryptocurrency sector is still awaited, and at a time when India – as Group of 20 (G20) President – is looking to drive the narrative among global leaders and regulators on the dangers of cryptocurrency. This means that any financial wrongdoing involving cryptocurrency assets can now be investigated by the Enforcement Directorate. In a gazette notification dated March 7, the Ministry of Finance's Department of Revenue stated that activities related to the trading of cryptocurrency and digital assets would be covered within the ambit of PMLA. These include an exchange between virtual digital assets and fiat currencies, between one or more forms of virtual digital assets, transfer of virtual digital assets, safekeeping or administration of virtual digital assets or instruments enabling control over such assets, and participation in and provision of financial services related to an issuer's offer and sale of a virtual digital asset. The definition of 'virtual assets' would be the same as that in the Income-Tax Act, the notification stated. The definition includes cryptocurrencies and non-fungible tokens.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/centre-brings-crypto-assets-under-theambit-of-pmla-123030800807\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/centre-brings-crypto-assets-under-theambit-of-pmla-123030800807_1.html)

### **Pension scheme for unorganised workers being evaluated: Govt to House panel (March 15, 2023)**

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM)- a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for workers of the unorganised sector - is currently undergoing third-party evaluation by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) to identify the hurdles in its implementation, labour ministry officials told the parliamentary standing committee on labour last month. Responding to a query by the House panel regarding the reasons for the dismal performance of the scheme, officials said that the long-term financial commitment required by the beneficiaries, the sudden outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the presence Atal Pension Yojana covering unorganised workers and the provision of free pension by states like Rajasthan and Haryana are some of the reasons behind the poor performance of the scheme.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/pension-scheme-forunorganised-workers-being-evaluated-govt-to-house-panel-123031500182\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/pension-scheme-forunorganised-workers-being-evaluated-govt-to-house-panel-123031500182_1.html)

### **Twitter launches new API with free, basic, enterprise tiers (March 30, 2023)**

Elon Musk-run Twitter has launched its new paid API (Application Programming Interface) platform with free, basic, and enterprise access tiers. Initially, the company had planned to shut down free access to its API on February 9, 2023 but later extended the deadline to February 13 and then again postponed it. Moreover, these three levels include a basic free level primarily intended for content posting bots, a \$100 per month basic level, and an expensive enterprise level.

*For details:*

<https://www.zeebiz.com/technology/news-twitter-launches-new-api-with-free-basiceenterprise-tiers-228128>

# Technology and Automation

## Info Capsule Series 15

### Technology powerful tool for efficiency, accessibility in legal system: CJI (January 25, 2023)

Chief Justice of India Shri D Y Chandrachud said on January 24, 2023, technology has become a powerful tool in the legal system for improving efficiency, accessibility and accuracy in the administration of justice. He said the success of any initiative and innovation depends on the ability to collaborate with stakeholders and incorporate critical feedback of those who will be using it.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/currentaffairs/technology-powerful-tool-for-efficiencyaccessibility-in-legal-system-cji-123012401549\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/currentaffairs/technology-powerful-tool-for-efficiencyaccessibility-in-legal-system-cji-123012401549_1.html)

### Union government to set up more 'technology centres' for growth of MSMEs: Union Minister Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh (March 05, 2022)

Union Minister Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma on March 05, 2023 said the Central Government will increase the number of technology centres to provide tools, trained personnel and consultancy to MSMEs for stimulating growth of industries.

*For details:*

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/union-govt-to-set-up-more-technologycentres-for-growth-of-msmes-union-minister-bhanu-pratapsingh/articleshow/98433850.cms>

### **Government developing platform to update DigiLocker documents using Aadhaar (March 07, 2023)**

The Center is preparing to launch a platform to update addresses and other demographic details across departments through Aadhaar. The facility will be available to citizens who store their documents in DigiLocker, according to a report in The Economic Times (ET). Various government ministries are holding discussions to prepare an outline for the platform. The ministries of transport, rural development, and panchayati raj, along with the Election Commission, are discussing the specifics of the platform. The report said that the platform is at a nascent stage at this point and that work on conceptualization and development is ongoing.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/govt-developing-aplatform-to-update-digilocker-documents-using-aadhaar-123030700314\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/govt-developing-aplatform-to-update-digilocker-documents-using-aadhaar-123030700314_1.html)

### **India's Twitter alternative Koo integrates ChatGPT to help users create posts (March 13, 2023)**

ChatGPT took the internet by storm when it was unveiled as a prototype in November 2022. The viral AI chatbot surprised people at first with its capabilities as it could respond to questions in a human-like manner. Developed by the Artificial Intelligence (AI) research company OpenAI, ChatGPT is based on GPT-3.5, which is a language model. The chatbot's popularity saw a rapid increase and OpenAI soon rolled out a paid version of the chatbot as well. Off late, ChatGPT was made available as an API for developers, giving them a chance to use the AI chatbot's abilities as they deemed fit. And now, Indian company Koo has also integrated ChatGPT to help users create better content.

*For details:*

<https://www.businesstoday.in/technology/story/indias-twitter-alternative-koointegrates-chatgpt-to-help-users-create-posts-details-here-373221-2023-03-13>

### **VALL-E: 5 things to know about Microsoft's AI model that can mimic any voice in 3 seconds (January 11, 2023)**

Microsoft showed off VALL-E, its text-to-speech AI model that can simulate any voice from a short audio sample. Not only the voice but it can also match the emotion and acoustics of the room. While it can be used in a lot of good ways, there are moral concerns about it.

*For details:*

<https://www.gadgetsnow.com/featured/vall-e-5-things-to-know-about-microsofts-aimodel-that-can-mimic-any-voice-in-3-seconds/articleshow/96898911.cms>

### **Obtain residents' informed consent before conducting Aadhaar authentication: UIDAI to Requesting Entities (January 23, 2023)**

Entities are required to obtain residents' informed consent either on paper or electronically before carrying out Aadhaar authentications, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has highlighted in its new guidelines for Requesting Entities (REs). UIDAI has urged REs, which carry out online authentications, to ensure that residents understand the type of data being collected and the purpose of Aadhaar authentications. It has underlined that logs of authentication transactions including the consent taken are kept only for the period as prescribed in the Aadhaar Regulations. And purging of such logs after expiry of the said time period shall also be done as per the Aadhaar Act and its regulations. REs are engaged in providing Aadhaar authentication services to residents. REs are responsible for submitting the Aadhaar number and demographic/ biometric OTP information to the Central Identities Data Repository for the purpose of authentication. UIDAI has highlighted that REs should be courteous to residents and assure them about the security and confidentiality of the Aadhaar numbers, which are being used for authentication transactions. The Authority has also urged REs to immediately report to the UIDAI about any suspicious activity around authentications like suspected impersonation by residents, or any compromise or fraud by any authentication operator.

*For details:*

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1892991>

### **Google CEO Mr. Sundar Pichai introduces Chat-GPT rival Bard; here's what it can do (February 07, 2023)**

ChatGPT was introduced in the month of November last year. Since then, OpenAI has revealed the extraordinary capabilities of ChatGPT and its impact on daily lives. Google has been working on AI for the past six years and it has finally revealed Bard. In a blog post, Google CEO Mr. Sundar Pichai explained who is Bard and some of its basic functionality. Bard is an experimental conversational AI service. Powered by the company's Language Model for Dialogue Applications (LaMDA). What separates Bard from ChatGPT is that it will be able to derive information from the web.

*For details:*

<https://www.businesstoday.in/technology/news/story/google-ceo-sundar-pichai-introduceschat-gpt-rival-bard-heres-what-it-can-do-369242-2023-02-07>

**Microsoft packs Bing search engine, Edge browser with AI in big challenge to Google (February 08, 2023)**

Microsoft Corp is revamping its Bing search engine and Edge Web browser with artificial intelligence, the company said on February 07, 2023, signaling its ambition to retake the lead in consumer technology markets where it has fallen behind.

*For details:*

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/microsoft-packs-bing-search-engine-edge-browser-with-ai-in-big-challenge-to-google/articleshow/97715365.cms>

**Microsoft may soon roll out built-in VPN support in Edge for stable users (February 27, 2023)**

Microsoft Edge's built-in VPN support is expected to become available to all stable channel users soon, with some already using the feature. Edge's VPN "Edge Secure Network" uses Cloudflare to protect users' devices and sensitive data while they browse, but it will not be a replacement for their VPN, reports Bleeping Computer. Cloudflare provides performance and security to website owners via its global network.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/microsoft-may-soon-roll-out-built-in-vpn-support-in-edge-for-stable-users-123022700410\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/microsoft-may-soon-roll-out-built-in-vpn-support-in-edge-for-stable-users-123022700410_1.html)

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<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/union-govt-to-set-up-more-technologycentres-for-growth-of-msmes-union-minister-bhanu-pratapsingh/articleshow/98433850.cms>



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[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/govt-developing-a-platform-to-update-digilocker-documents-using-aadhaar-123030700314\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/govt-developing-a-platform-to-update-digilocker-documents-using-aadhaar-123030700314_1.html)

### **Microsoft increases Bing AI's chat limits to 120 total chats per day (March 09, 2023)**

Kids can launch a rocket to Moon like NASA Artemis team with Minecraft (March 08, 2023) Children using Microsoft-owned game-based learning platform Minecraft can now build and launch a rocket to the Moon like the real NASA Artemis team, the US space agency has said. Minecraft Artemis Missions was developed to engage students ages 8 and up in NASA's next chapter in human spaceflight and encourage them to see themselves as future astronauts or scientists.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/kids-can-launch-a-rocket-to-moon-like-nasa-artemis-team-with-minecraft-123030800660\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/kids-can-launch-a-rocket-to-moon-like-nasa-artemis-team-with-minecraft-123030800660_1.html)

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*For details:*

<https://www.businesstoday.in/technology/story/indias-twitter-alternative-koo-integrates-chatgpt-to-help-users-create-posts-details-here-373221-2023-03-13>

#### **GPT-4: Bing to Word and Excel, AI is changing Microsoft platform experience (March 27, 2023)**

As Microsoft powers its productivity suites, search engine, and browser with AI, the integration is increasing the company's user base and making its search results more accurate. The company has also recently introduced a feature called 'Bing Image Creator,' which enables users to create an image using a text prompt. Open AI's DALL-E model powers the new feature. After search engine and browser, Microsoft enabled AI capabilities in its suite of productivity apps called Microsoft 365. With AI, the suite is now called Microsoft 365 Copilot. (Add a bit about why Microsoft is calling it a Copilot). The Microsoft 365 Copilot includes apps such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Teams. With AI integrated, each of these are set to get a big makeover. For instance, the Copilot in Excel app can quickly summarise critical trends and analyse large data chunks.

*For details:*

*[https://www.business-standard.com/technology/tech-news/gpt-4-bing-to-word-andexcel-ai-is-changing-microsoft-platform-experience-123032700661\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/technology/tech-news/gpt-4-bing-to-word-andexcel-ai-is-changing-microsoft-platform-experience-123032700661_1.html)*

# Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

## Info Capsule Series 15

### Indian delegation participates in the 47th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (May 24, 2023)

An Indian delegation, led by Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, Advisor (Science & Standards, CODEX), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), took part in the 47th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling held from 15th to 19th May, 2023 in Gatineau (Ottawa), Québec, Canada. The delegation participated in various discussions at the global meet that saw the participation of delegates from 59 countries and 23 International Government and Non Governmental Organisations, including representatives from WHO and FAO. The issues that were discussed at the session included standards related to food labelling norms, use of new technologies in labelling, labelling of food allergens, labelling for e-commerce etc. Further, India has been made the co-chair in two E-working groups (EWGs) on labelling for E-commerce and the use of new technology in labelling.

For details:

[https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/press\\_release/2023/05/646d9336c93bcPress%20Release\\_Indian%20delegation%20at%20CCFL,%20Ottawa.pdf](https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/press_release/2023/05/646d9336c93bcPress%20Release_Indian%20delegation%20at%20CCFL,%20Ottawa.pdf)

### Food regulator FSSAI to come up with stricter norms for ready-to-eat food sold in plastic wrap (May 31, 2023)

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the food regulator of India under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, may soon issue guidelines on ready-to-eat food sold in plastic wrap. These guidelines will aim to ensure the sellers are maintaining the quality of food that is sold without any information on its wrapper.

For details:

<https://www.zeebiz.com/india/news-food-safety-andstandards-authority-ofindia-fssai-hot-dog-burger-puff-readyto-eat-guidelines-238060>

# Labour Laws

## Info Capsule Series 15

### **Job gap shows much worse situation for women, says ILO report (March 06, 2023)**

A noticeably higher proportion of women than men would like to work but don't have a job, a global disparity that has barely budged in a new index dating back in 2005. A new indicator developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Jobs Gap, captures all persons without employment that are interested in finding a job. It paints a much bleaker picture of the situation of women in the world of work than the more commonly used unemployment rate. The new data shows that women still have a much harder time finding a job than men. The so-called gender gap revealed by the gauge shows 15 per cent of female working-age would-be employees in that category, compared with 10.5 per cent for their male counterparts, according to a report by the ILO published on Monday.

*For details:*

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/job-gap-shows-much-worse-situation-for-women-says-ilo-report-123030601177\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/job-gap-shows-much-worse-situation-for-women-says-ilo-report-123030601177_1.html)

### **Labour Law Code on Wages Act, 2019 stipulates government to review minimum rates of wages at an interval not exceeding five years (March 23, 2023)**

An Expert Group on fixation of Minimum Wages and National Floor Wages has been constituted by the Government of India in 2021 to provide technical inputs and recommendations on fixation of minimum wages and national floor wages to the Government. The terms of reference of Expert Group are inter-alia, to evolve the scientific criteria and methodology for fixation of wages. Section 3(1)(b) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, mandates the Central Government and the State Governments to review the minimum rates of wages so fixed in the scheduled employments in their respective jurisdiction at intervals not exceeding five years and revise the minimum rates, if necessary. Recently, the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, have been rationalized and amalgamated in the Code on Wages Act, 2019, passed by the Parliament and notified on 08.08.2019.

*For details:*

[https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1909994#:~:text=Section%203\(1\)%20\(b,the%20minimum%20rates%2C%20if%20necessary](https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1909994#:~:text=Section%203(1)%20(b,the%20minimum%20rates%2C%20if%20necessary)

# Foreign Exchange Management

## Info Capsule Series 15

### **Rationalisation of reporting in Single Master Form (SMF) on FIRMS Portal (January 04, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank of India has issued notification for rationalisation of reporting in SMF on FIRMS Portal. It is advised that the following changes are being implemented with respect to the reporting of foreign investment in SMF on FIRMS portal: i. The forms submitted on the portal will be auto-acknowledged. The AD banks shall verify the same within five working days based on the uploaded documents, as specified. ii. In cases of delayed reporting, the AD banks shall either advise the Late Submission Fee (LSF) to the applicants, which will be computed by the system or advise for compounding of contravention, as the case may be. For detailed guidelines, the FIRMS manual available at <https://firms.rbi.org.in> may be referred to, and the version of manual available at the portal will have the finality in case of any mismatch.

*For details:*

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12433&Mode=0>

### **Foreign Exchange Management ED seized ₹859.15 crore under PMLA and Rs 189.28 crore under FEMA Act (February 07, 2023)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has furnished the list of Digital Lending Apps (DLAs) being used by Regulated Entities (REs) of RBI to the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), which in turn, has shared the list with respective intermediary (App Stores) and requested them to ensure that only the apps figuring in the list are hosted on their app stores. This was stated by Union Minister of State for Finance Dr Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on February 07, 2023. The Minister stated that as on date, proceeds of crime of Rs. 2,116 crore (approx) has been identified, out of which proceeds of crime amounting to Rs. 859.15 crore have been attached / seized / freezed under the provisions of PMLA. Further, assets amounting to Rs. 289.28 crores have been seized under section 37A of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

*For details:*

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1897034>

### **Introduction of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) related transaction code in NEFT and RTGS Systems (February 16, 2023)**

Under the FCRA, 2010 (amended as on September 28, 2020), Foreign Contributions must be received only in the “FCRA account” of State Bank of India (SBI), New Delhi Main Branch (NDMB). The contributions to the FCRA account are received directly from foreign banks through SWIFT and from Indian intermediary banks through NEFT and RTGS systems.

*For details:*

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id= 12454&Mode=0>

# Pronouncements

## Info Capsule Series 15

*January 10, 2023 Association for Democratic Reforms & Anr (Petitioners) vs. Union of India (Respondent) High Court of Delhi W.P. (C) 9592/2015, Neutral Citation Number: 2023/DHC/000161*

### **Brief Facts:**

A Writ Petition has been filed before the Hon'ble High Court by the Association for Democratic Reforms ('Petitioner') seeking directions to constitute an independent tribunal or committee to oversee the enforcement of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 ('FCRA Act'). The Petition has been filed in an attempt to remedy the various lacunas that purportedly plague the functioning of the FCRA. This need, according to the Petitioner, is exacerbated since the proceedings under the FCRA are quasi-judicial in nature and according to the Petitioner, the tribunal or committee which is sought to be established under the FCRA may be presided over by a retired High Court or Supreme Court judge.

### **Judgement:**

The Hon'ble High Court inter-alia observed that a perusal of the scheme of the Act shows that the Central Government plays an important role in enforcing and bringing into action the provisions of the FCRA. It has the power to delineate what organisations qualify as 'political' in nature so as to prohibit them from receiving foreign contribution. It also designates the authority which investigates offences under the FCRA. It is trite law that decisions taken by the Central Government are assumed to be bona fide in nature, unless something to the contrary is placed on record. It goes without saying the authority designated by the Central Government to investigate offences exercises a statutory power. It is trite law that when a body or person, as prescribed by the Central Government, passes an order under the FCRA, the law presumes that such order is bona fide..... The Apex Court on a number of occasions has reiterated that sweeping attacks made on the likelihood of misuse of a Statute, in the future, cannot succeed, and the occasion to complain only arises when such alleged misuse occurs. Hence, the mere possibility of a law being administered in a manner which may conflict with constitutional requirements does not render it invalid. The judiciary always circumspect in substituting its wisdom with that of the legislature. In light of this, the prayer made by the Writ Petitioner seeking a direction to constitute an independent Tribunal Committee to oversee the enforcement of FCRA cannot be accepted.

# Terminologies

## Info Capsule Series 15

### Community development investing

Investment options from community development corporations (CDCs) and other organizations intended to generate new opportunities that help lower-income neighborhoods and populations. Such investments generally are related to affordable housing, small businesses and jobs.

### CDSB

It means Climate Disclosure Standards Board. The CDSB is a standards-setting consortium of environmental nongovernmental organizations and other groups that focuses its efforts on disclosures related to equating “natural capital” with “financial capital.

### Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

Diversity refers to the presence of differences along the lines of race, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and more. Equity is promoting justice, fairness, and impartiality in the procedures and policies of organizations. Inclusion is an outcome that ensure those who are diverse feel and are welcomed. Together, these principles form an organizational culture that encourages

differences in backgrounds and ideas, makes all members or employees feel safe, and boosts morale, retention, and innovation.



### **Ecoregion**

An area within which the ecosystems—and the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources—are generally similar. An ecoregion can serve as a spatial framework for the research, assessment, management, and monitoring of ecosystems and ecosystem components. Several different classification schemes have been developed, at various scales.

### **Ecosystem services**

The benefits provided by healthy ecosystems in the natural environment, such as food and water provisioning, air and water purification, carbon sequestration, and waste decomposition.

### **Fama and French Three Factor Model**

The Fama and French Three-Factor Model (or the Fama French Model for short) is an asset pricing model developed in 1992 that expands on the capital asset pricing model (CAPM) by adding size risk and value risk factors to the market risk factor in CAPM. This model considers the fact that value and small-cap stocks outperform markets on a regular basis. By including these two additional factors, the model adjusts for this outperforming tendency, which is thought to make it a better tool for evaluating manager performance.

### **Piotroski Score**

The Piotroski score is a discrete score between zero and nine that reflects nine criteria used to determine the strength of a firm's financial position. The Piotroski score is used to determine the best value stocks, with nine being the best and zero being the worst.

### **Positive Screening**

it means the act of including strong CSR performers or otherwise incorporating positive CSR factors into the investment analysis process. Generally, socially conscious investors seek to own profitable companies that make positive contributions to society, and avoid those that do not. “Buy” lists may include enterprises with, for example, good employeremployee relations, strong environmental practices, products that are safe and useful, and operations that respect human rights around the world.

### **Precautionary Principle**

Is a broad epistemological, philosophical, and legal approach to innovations with potential for causing harm when extensive scientific knowledge on the matter is lacking. It emphasizes caution, pausing and review before leaping into new innovations that may prove disastrous.

### **Quitclaim Deed**

A quitclaim deed releases a person's interest in a property without stating the nature of the person's interest or rights, and with no warranties of that person's interest or rights in the property. A quitclaim deed neither states nor guarantees that the person relinquishing their claim to the property had valid ownership, but it does prevent that person (the grantor) from later claiming they have an interest in the property.

### **SDG alignment**

Aligning business strategies and operations with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals created by the United Nations Global Compact.

### **Socially motivated investors**

**Investors** who have goals beyond maximizing profit. These may include value alignment or wanting their investments to create more social value (social value creation).

### **Stewardship**

A purposeful dialogue between shareholders and boards with the aim of ensuring a company's long-term strategy and day-to-day management is effective and aligned with shareholders' interest. Good stewardship should help protect and increase the value of investments.

### **Sustainability risks**

Risks to the value of an asset occasioned by environmental, social, and/or governance issues. For example, the price of an equity declining due to fines levelled against the issuer for environmental damages.

### **Sustainability-linked bonds**

Sustainability-linked bonds ("SLBs") are any type of bond instrument for which the financial and/or structural characteristics can vary depending on whether the issuer achieves predefined sustainability/ ESG objectives. Issuers are thereby committing explicitly (including in the bond documentation) to future improvements in sustainability outcome(s) within a predefined timeline.

### **TCFD**

Developed by the Financial Stability Board (FSB), the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) was developed to provide recommendations for more effective climate-related disclosures that promote more informed investment, credit, and insurance underwriting decisions, thereby helping stakeholders to better understand the financial system's exposure to climate-related risks.

### **Trilemma**

Trilemma is a term in economic decision-making theory. Unlike a dilemma, which has two solutions, a trilemma offers three equal solutions to a complex problem. A trilemma suggests that countries have three options from which to choose when making fundamental decisions about managing their international monetary policy agreements.

### **United Nations Global Compact**

A global corporate sustainability initiative, calling on companies, investors and other participants to align their strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

## Motto

सत्यं वद । धर्मं चर ।

इष्टवक्त्रे तेष्ट त्रुपक्ते. वक्त्रेवष्टे त्रुपु तेष्ट वक्त्र.

## Vision

"To be a global leader in promoting good corporate governance"

## Mission

"To develop high calibre professionals facilitating good corporate governance"



**THE INSTITUTE OF  
Company Secretaries of India**

**भारतीय कम्पनी सचिव संस्थान**

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