

Info Capsule

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**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)

President : CS Nagendra D. Rao

Vice President : CS Devendra V. Deshpande

❖ Latest @ ICSI

ICSI Annual Progress Report 2020 (March 02, 2021)

The ICSI has published its Annual Progress Report for the year 2020 and the same is available on its website for reference of all stakeholders.

For details:

https://www.icsi.edu/media/web_modules/ICSI_AR_with_flyer.pdf

❖ Direct Tax

Cross-border payments for use of software not taxable as royalty : SC (March 02, 2021)

The Supreme Court on March 02, 2021 held that Indian companies need not deduct tax for the amount they pay foreign manufacturers and suppliers for use or re-sale of computer software through end-user licence agreements (EULA). In a relief for Indian buyers, a three-judge Bench led by Justice Rohinton F. Nariman said the consideration paid by them for use or sale of computer software cannot be considered a payment of “royalty for the use of copyright in the computer software”.

For details:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/cross-border-payments-for-use-of-software-not-taxable-as-royalty-sc/article33973907.ece>

❖ Banking and Insurance

41st SAARC FINANCE Governors’ Group Meeting and SAARCFINANCE Governors’ Symposium, March 01-02, 2021 (March 02, 2021)

Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India chaired the 41st Meeting of the SAARCFINANCE Governors’ Group in virtual format on March 1, 2021. In his opening remarks, Governor Shri Das expressed optimism about the overall COVID-19 situation following the roll-out of the vaccines and complimented all the SAARC central banks for their efforts in combating the pandemic. He also emphasized the importance of effective, creative and prudent use of technology by central bankers, especially in the areas of Big Data, Digital Currencies, Reg-Tech, Sup-Tech and cyber security.

For details:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51210

❖ *Ministry of Finance*

Government amends Insurance Ombudsman Rules for better resolution of policyholders' complaints regarding insurance service deficiencies (March 03, 2021)

The Government on 2nd March 2021 notified comprehensive amendments to the Insurance Ombudsman Rules, 2017, with a view to improve the working of the Insurance Ombudsman mechanism to facilitate resolution of complaints regarding deficiencies in insurance services in a timely, cost-effective and impartial manner.

The amended rules have enlarged the scope of complaints to Ombudsmen from only disputes earlier to deficiencies in service on the part of insurers, agents, brokers and other intermediaries. Further, insurance brokers have been brought within the ambit of the Ombudsman mechanism, by empowering the Ombudsmen to pass awards against insurance brokers as well.

Under the amended rules, the timeliness and cost-effectiveness of the mechanism has been substantially strengthened. Policyholders will now be enabled for making complaints electronically to the Ombudsman and a complaints management system will be created to enable policyholders to track the status of their complaints online. Further, the Ombudsman may use video-conferencing for hearings. To enable access to relief through the Ombudsman mechanism even when there is vacancy in the office of a particular Ombudsman, provision has been made for giving additional charge to another Ombudsman, pending the filling of the vacancy.

A number of amendments have been made for securing the independence and integrity of the Ombudsman selection process, while also building in safeguards to secure the independence and impartiality of the appointed persons while serving as Ombudsmen. Further, the selection committee will now include an individual with a track record of promoting consumer rights or advancing the cause of consumer protection in the insurance sector.

The Ombudsman mechanism was administered by the Executive Council of Insurers, which has been renamed as the Council for Insurance Ombudsmen.

Click here to view Official Gazette Notification.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1702099>

❖ *International Business*

How Asia Can Unleash Private Investment for Its Infrastructure (March 03, 2021)

Asian governments are scrambling to reboot their battered economies, following the COVID-19 pandemic. The key to generating a return to high levels of economic growth is a substantial increase in infrastructure investment.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has estimated that developing Asian economies need \$1.7 trillion a year in climate-adjusted infrastructure investment in transportation, power, water and sanitation and telecommunications. Prior to the pandemic, only about two-thirds of that huge financing requirement was being met, overwhelmingly with government spending.

For details:

<https://www.brinknews.com/how-asia-can-unleash-private-investment-for-its-infrastructure/>

❖ *Terminology for today*

BOSCARD

This method details and considers the background, objectives, scope, constraints, assumptions, risks, and deliverables of new projects.

❖ *Market Watch*

Stock Market Indices as on 03.03.2021

S & P BSE Sensex	51444.65 (+1147.76)
Nifty 50	15245.60 (+326.5)

Foreign Exchange Rates as on 02.03.2021

(<https://www.fbil.org.in/#/home>)

INR / 1 USD	INR / 1GBP	INR / 1 EUR	INR/ 1 JPY
73.3507	101.9012	88.2047	.6866

Prepared by Directorate of Academics

For any suggestions, please write to academics@icsi.edu, or call at 01204082269

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

ICSI Motto
सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर।
speak the truth. abide by the law.

MISSION
"To develop high calibre professionals
facilitating good corporate governance"

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