



Vision

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

Motto

सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर। इष्टार्थं कुरु। पण्डितः। लोकोत्कृष्टवृत्तवत्

Mission

"To develop high calibre professionals facilitating good corporate governance"

Friday, February 27, 2026

Info Capsule

President

CS Pawan G Chandak

Vice President

CS Dwarakanath C

❖ Ministry of Commerce & Industry

First Round of India–Israel FTA Talks Conclude Successfully in New Delhi (February 26, 2026)

The first round of negotiations for the India–Israel Free Trade Agreement (FTA), held from 23 to 26 February 2026 in New Delhi, has been concluded successfully. During the four-day negotiations, both countries engaged in discussions covering a wide range of areas, including trade in goods and services, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, customs procedures, intellectual property rights, digital trade, and other key chapters. Discussions were held in a constructive and forward-looking manner, with both sides reaffirming their objective of negotiating a comprehensive, balanced, and mutually beneficial agreement. Both sides also agreed to continue inter-sessional engagements virtually. The next round of in-person negotiations will be held in May 2026 in Israel.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2233199®=3&lang=1>

❖ Capital Market and Securities Law

• SEBI Circular on Categorization and Rationalization of Mutual Fund Schemes (February 26, 2026)

SEBI vide circular no. SEBI/HO/IMD/DF3/CIR/P/2017/114 dated October 06, 2017, read with circular no. SEBI/HO/IMD/DF3/CIR/P/2020/228 dated November 06, 2020 issued directions regarding categorization and rationalization of Mutual Fund Schemes. The said circulars were consolidated as clause 2.6 of the chapter 2 of Master Circular for Mutual Funds dated June 27, 2024.

To accommodate the continuously evolving landscape of mutual fund investments and the emergence of opportunities across various asset classes, SEBI vide Circular No. HO/24/13/15(2)2026-IMD-RAC4/I/5764/2026 dated 26th February, 2026, revised the Categories of Schemes, Scheme Characteristics and Type of Scheme (Uniform Description of Schemes) of the Mutual Funds, replacing Clause 2.6 of Chapter 2 of the Master Circular for Mutual Funds dated June 27, 2024, as detailed in the new circular.

For details: <https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2026/categorization-and-rationalization-of-mutual-fund-schemes-99983.html>

• SEBI issued Circular on Ease of Doing Investment (EoDI) - Disclosure of registered name and registration number by SEBI regulated entities and their agents on Social Media Platforms (SMPs) (February 26, 2026)

In order to strengthen the conduct of SEBI regulated entities, increase transparency and strengthen investor protection in the securities market, SEBI has issued Circular No. HO/ (79)2026-MIRSD-PODMMC dated 26th February, 2026, providing therein requirements w.r.t. Information/disclosures in the social media content while uploading/posting on SMPs by the SEBI regulated entities and their agents. The provisions of this circular shall come into effect from May 1, 2026 for all contents uploaded on/after the effective date.

For details: <https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2026/ease-of-doing-investment-eodi-disclosure-of-registered-name-and-registration-number-by-sebi-regulated-entities-and-their-agents-on-social-media-platforms-smpls-100005.html>

- **Caution to the Public regarding fake STT notices (February 26, 2026)**

SEBI vide issuing press release has informed that, it is noted fraudsters are sending fake notices forging SEBI's letter head and requesting for payments for outstanding Securities Transaction Tax (STT) amounts. Investors are being made aware that these notices have not been issued by SEBI. It is being informed that STT is levied on every purchase and sale transaction of securities executed on stock exchanges and the tax is collected by the broker. SEBI does not issue notices to remit STT amounts nor does it coordinate with RBI on the same. SEBI issued this Press Release to caution investors to remain vigilant and verify the authenticity of letters/ notices demanding information or payment on behalf of SEBI.

For details: https://www.sebi.gov.in/media-and-notifications/press-releases/feb-2026/caution-to-the-public-regarding-fake-stt-notices_100031.html

- ❖ **Reserve Bank of India**

Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Companies – Miscellaneous) Amendment Directions, 2026 (February 26, 2026)

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 45L of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and of all the powers enabling it in this regard, Reserve Bank, being satisfied that it is necessary and expedient in the public interest so to do, hereby issues these Directions hereinafter specified.

1. These Directions shall be called the Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Companies – Miscellaneous) Amendment Directions, 2026.
2. These Directions shall come into force with immediate effect.
3. These Directions shall modify the Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Companies – Miscellaneous) Directions, 2025, in the manner as specified hereinafter.
4. After paragraph 13 of the Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Companies – Miscellaneous) Directions, 2025, the following shall be inserted, namely:

C.2 Directions on Private Placement of Equity Shares by NUCFDC (Umbrella Organisation for Primary Co-operative Banks)

13A. National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC) may make offer or invitation to subscribe to its equity shares on a private placement basis to more than 200 persons in aggregate in a financial year, subject to the conditions specified herein below:

- (1) NUCFDC shall have a Board approved policy for resource planning which, *inter alia*, covers the planning horizon and the periodicity of the private placement.
- (2) Offer/invitation for the private placement of equity shares under these guidelines shall only be made to UCBs and National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- (3) The offer document shall clearly state that UCBs must ensure compliance with all the applicable statutory requirements, as well as the extant instructions/directions issued by Reserve Bank when making an application for subscribing to the equity shares under the offer, etc.

For details:

<https://outlook.cloud.microsoft/mail/inbox/id/AAQkADc4MzFhOGVmLWNhOTctNGI5ZS1iYjZmLTE2NjNmMTBIMzRkYgAQAPpavFfUQEu5pbfOeRvuPbY%3D>

- ❖ **ESG Update**

Merck & Co., Inc.

Global diversity and inclusion:

To better fulfill the company's commitment to optimal public health outcomes, it prides on a longstanding commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive work environment—one that nurtures creativity, empowers innovation and promotes efficiency and enhanced collaboration. These practices include accounting for the social determinants of health, like transportation to health care services and educational background, to design better commercialization strategies while using employee insights to improve performance. Merck & Co. remain committed to promoting an environment of respect, engagement and empowerment and it is intentional in providing equal opportunities to all employees.

For details: <https://www.merck.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/124/2025/08/PurposeforProgressMerckImpactReport2024-2025.pdf>

❖ **Pronouncement**

04 February, 2026	Vinita Agarwala & Ors. (Appellants) VS. Power Pack Steel Industries Pvt. Ltd.(Respondents)	National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi Company Appeal (AT) (Insolvency) No. 436 of 2022
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Section 73 of the Companies Act cannot be a defence for the Corporate Debtor to not return the loan amount**Facts of the Case**

Appellants, claim to have granted short-term business loan to the Corporate Debtor “Power Pack Steel Industries Pvt. Ltd.” from 2015 to 2017 totalling Rs.1,73,02,690/- being principal sum of Rs.1,57,00,000/- along with interest of Rs.16,02,690/-. The Corporate Debtor having not returned the amount, the Appellants demanded the payment in March 2018. Amount having not been refunded the Appellant filed application under section Section 7 of IBC claiming the total principal amount with interest and the notice was issued by the Adjudicating Authority. In the reply, the Corporate Debtor admitted receipt of money and payment of interest with TDS deduction, but argued that the amounts were advance payments for supply of finished steel rounds. It was also pleaded that the Corporate Debtor is a private limited company and under Section 73 of the Companies Act, 2013, a private company has no authority to accept any deposit from any unrelated individual.

The Adjudicating Authority (NCLT, Cuttack) rejected the Section 7 IBC application, holding that the transaction violated Section 73(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 and was void under Section 23 of the Contract Act, 1872. The Appellants contended that the transaction was a financial debt under Section 5(8) of IBC, since interest was paid and TDS deducted, proving time value of money. The Respondent argued that the amounts were deposits, unenforceable in law, and hence Section 7 application was not maintainable. Aggrieved by the order rejecting the application, Appeal has been filed.

Decision

After considering the facts and circumstances it was concluded that the respondent company is trying to take benefit of its breach in accepting deposits. No one can be allowed to take benefit of its own wrong. When Financial Creditor has successfully proved the financial debt and has raised a claim against the Corporate Debtor who defaulted in payment of debt, Adjudicating Authority committed error in rejecting Section 7 application relying on Section 73 of the Companies Act. The order passed by the Adjudicating Authority is unsustainable and deserves to be set aside.

The Appellate Tribunal noted that while deposits must comply with the Companies Act, repayment obligations remain enforceable. Acceptance of deposits in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act and repayment of deposits as per the procedure is statutory scheme under the Companies Act. It emphasized that IBC provisions prevail over Companies Act when determining financial debt and default. The rejection of Section 7 application under IBC solely on the basis of Section 73 of the Companies Act, 2013 was held to be erroneous.

For details:

https://efiling.nclat.gov.in/nclat/order_view.php?path=L05DTEFUX0RvY3VtZW50cy9DSVNfRG9jdW1lbnRzL2Nhc2Vkb2Mvb3JkZXJzL0RFTEhJLzlwMjYtMDItMDQvY291cnRzLzEvZGFpbHkvMTC3MDIwMzQvNjk5OTkxNjk4MzI5MjIxZTQ3ZC5wZGY=

❖ **Market Watch**

Stock Market Indices as on 27.02.2026	
S & P BSE Sensex	81,287.19 (-1.17%)
Nifty 50	25,178.65 (-1.25%)

Foreign Exchange Rates as on 27.02.2026 (https://m.rbi.org.in/scripts/ReferenceRateArchive.aspx)			
INR / 1 USD	INR / 1 EUR	INR / 1 GBP	INR / 1 JPY
90.95	107.37	122.54	0.58

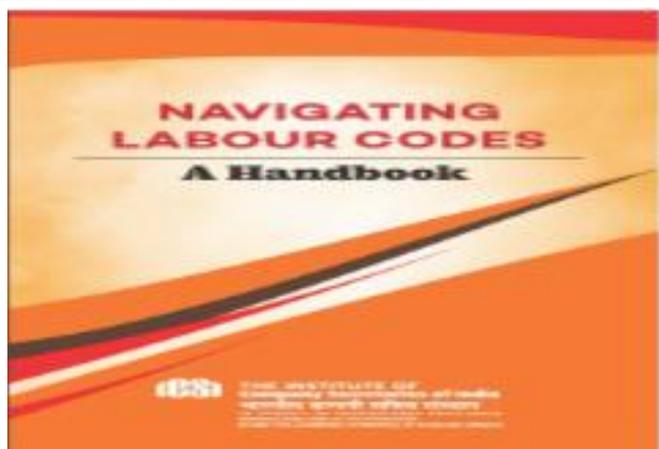
❖ *Business and Economy*

AI Takes Center Stage at India AI Impact Summit 2026, Showcases Transformative Role Across Industries (February 27, 2026)

Artificial Intelligence is playing a transformative role across multiple sectors by enhancing automation, precision, and operational efficiency. The recently concluded India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi highlighted how robotic systems are reshaping industries ranging from manufacturing and healthcare to agriculture and logistics. AI-powered robots are now capable of performing complex tasks such as precision assembly, medical assistance, warehouse automation, and field operations with minimal human intervention.

Talking to Akashvani News, Karthik Pandya, representing Yongovator, said that his team had presented Madhya Pradesh's first 3D-printed humanoid robot. He noted that the robot is capable of interacting with people and assisting them in various tasks. He added that such robots could also be deployed to help manage traffic, working alongside traffic police personnel to improve regulation and public safety.

For details: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/ai-takes-center-stage-at-india-ai-impact-summit-2026-showcases-transformative-role-across-industries/>



NAVIGATING LABOUR CODES

Year of Publication: Dec 2025

Price: Rs. 300 /-

Weblink for Purchase:

<https://smash.icsi.edu/Scripts/ECart/Default/ItemWiseECartSearchOnlineBooks.aspx?ItemId=394>



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT ON ESG

Year of Publication: Oct 2025

Price: Rs. 250 /-

Weblink for Purchase:

<https://smash.icsi.edu/Scripts/ECart/Default/ItemWiseECartSearchOnlineBooks.aspx?ItemId=392>

Prepared by Directorate of Academics & Research

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