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

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

Motto
सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर। speak the truth, pursue righteousness

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

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Info Capsule

President
CS Pawan G Chandak

Vice President
CS Dwarakanath C

❖ Ministry of Commerce & Industry

India–UK CETA and Agreement on Social Security Enter into Force (July 15, 2026)

The India–United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Agreement on Social Security have formally entered into force, offering zero-duty market access on roughly 99% of Indian exports, covering almost 100% of trade value, and boosting bilateral trade projections by £25 billion annually. Inaugurated in New Delhi, the deal strengthens sectors like textiles and IT while eliminating double social security contributions for professionals over five years. The pact is expected to add nearly £5 billion annually to both nations' GDPs, with over $140 million in goods already flagged off on the first day. Additionally, the landmark deal cuts or eliminates tariffs on 90% of UK tariff lines, making cross-border trade simpler, quicker, and significantly more cost-effective for businesses in both major economies.

For details:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2285085&reg=48&lang=1

❖ International Financial Services Centres Authority

Report of the Expert Committee on Development of REITs and InvITs in IFSC (July 15, 2026)

The IFSCA has released a report of the Expert Committee on the Development of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) in IFSC. The Report sets out a comprehensive framework comprising regulatory reforms, inter-regulatory measures and taxation recommendations aimed at creating a commercially viable and internationally competitive REIT and InvIT regime in the IFSC. The Committee has also recommended measures to promote innovation through products such as Mortgage REITs, while outlining an appropriate approach for Green REITs and emerging structures such as Small and Medium REITs. The Report of the Expert Committee can be accessed on the IFSCA website at this link.

For details:
https://ifsca.gov.in/CommonDirect/GetFileView?id=29709e474fe6b066fc0cb19f7d614e56&fileName=Press_Release_on_Report_of_the_Expert_Committee_on_Development_of_REITs_and_InvITs_in_IFSC_submitted_to_IFSCA_20260715_1229.pdf

❖ Views/ Comments sought by Regulators

RBI pushes banks, NBFCs to own data risks across third parties (July 16, 2026)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a draft guidance titled 'Guidance on Regulatory Expectations for Data Governance,' proposing stricter controls on information shared with external technology vendors, group entities, and third-party service providers. Released on Wednesday, the draft framework mandates that regulated financial institutions restrict data access strictly on a "need-to-know" basis, enforce non-disclosure agreements in all contracts, and strictly prevent unauthorised reuse or duplication. Under these new rules, banks and regulated entities remain fully accountable for all shared information, ensuring it is used only for defined, approved purposes by designated personnel. The central bank has requested public feedback on these proposed standards, with comments open until August 17.

For details: *https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/rbi-pushes-banks-nbfcs-to-own-data-risks-across-third-parties/articleshow/132424533.cms*

❖ *Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)*

Cabinet approves National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 for Atmanirbhar Bharat (NIPU-2026) (July 15, 2026)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers on National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 for Atmanirbhar Bharat (NIPU-2026). The policy will encourage new investments in the Urea sector for setting up the gas-based Urea manufacturing units in the country. This will help in the achieving the goal of self-sufficiency. Further, the key changes in comparison to NIP-2012 includes the separation of fixed and variable costs for greater transparency, introduction of a viable Return on Equity (RoE) band with a floor at 12% and a ceiling at 16%, and mitigation of foreign exchange risk through conversion of fixed cost into INR after four years based on prevailing exchange rates. These measures are estimated to result in savings of over Rs.250 crore for each plant established under NIPU-2026 compared to NIP-2012.

For details: *https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2284800&reg=48&lang=1*

❖ *Business & Economy*

- **India and Poland decide to strengthen cooperation in MSME sector (July 15, 2026)**

India and Poland held high-level bilateral talks in New Delhi to boost cooperation in the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. Led by Indian MSME Secretary Bharat Khera and Polish Deputy Minister Michał Baranowski, the meeting focused on driving enterprise development, digital transformation, innovation, and institutional partnerships. Secretary Khera highlighted that India's 86 million registered MSMEs contribute nearly 30 per cent to the GDP and support 330 million livelihoods, showcasing flagship programs like the Udyam Portal and ZED scheme aimed at making the sector globally competitive. Noting that Poland is India's largest trading partner in Central and Eastern Europe, Khera expressed confidence that the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will further accelerate bilateral commerce. Deputy Minister Baranowski lauded India's MSME growth and reaffirmed Poland's commitment to deepening business-to-business engagement and technology sharing between the two nations.

For details: *https://newsonair.gov.in/india-and-poland-decide-to-strengthen-cooperation-in-msme-sector/*

- **Country committed to preparing its workforce for global labour markets, says Union Skill Development Minister (July 15, 2026)**

During the World Youth Skills Day 2026 celebrations in New Delhi, Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary emphasized building a high-quality, lifelong learning ecosystem to establish India as the global skill capital. Aligning with the National Education Policy under the theme "Skilling for a Shared Future," Chaudhary stated that skill development must evolve beyond mere employment to prepare the workforce for global labor markets and value chains. He stressed the critical need for absolute quality and credibility in every training intervention. Additionally, the Minister voiced concern over low female participation in non-traditional technical trades like welding and mechanics, announcing that the Ministry's newly formed Gender Mainstreaming Committee will actively work to increase women's involvement in designing and executing future skill programs.

For details: *https://newsonair.gov.in/skill-india-mission-completes-11-years-today/*

❖ Pronouncement

June 04, 2026	Trident Chemphar Limited (Petitioner) Versus Minas De Benga (Respondents)	Telangana High Court Civil Revision Petition No. 1511 of 2026

Scope and Purpose of the Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act

Legal Provisions

Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act read as under:

"12A. Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement
(1) A suit, which does not contemplate any urgent interim relief under this Act, shall not be instituted unless the plaintiff exhausts the remedy of pre institution mediation in accordance with such manner and procedure as may be prescribed by rules made by the Central Government.
(2) The Central Government may, by notification, authorise the Authorities constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, for the purposes of pre-institution mediation.
(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the Authority authorised by the Central Government under sub-section (2) shall complete the process of mediation within a period of three months from the date of application made by the plaintiff under sub-section (1):
Provided that the period of mediation may be extended for a further period of two months with the consent of the parties: Provided further that, the period during which the parties remained occupied with the pre-institution mediation, such period shall not be computed for the purpose of limitation under the Limitation Act, 1963 (36 of 1963).
(4) If the parties to the commercial dispute arrive at a settlement, the same shall be reduced into writing and shall be signed by the parties to the dispute and the mediator. (5) The settlement arrived at under this section shall have the same status and effect as if it is an arbitral award on agreed terms under sub-section (4) of section 30 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996."

Order

Hon'ble High Court inter alia observed that Section 12A imposes a mandatory condition precedent upon every party to a commercial dispute, requiring that party to exhaust the remedy of pre-institution mediation before the authorities constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 before instituting a suit. The Legislature, in its wisdom, incorporated this provision with the express and salutary object of relieving the dockets of commercial courts from disputes that are capable of resolution through the facilitative process of mediation at the pre-litigation stage. The provision represents a conscious policy choice by the legislature that parties to a commercial dispute must first make a genuine attempt to resolve their differences through mediation before resorting to litigation. Courts have consistently and emphatically held that requirement under Section 12A is mandatory in character and is not a mere formality that may be dispensed with at the convenience of a party.

Further, High Court said that the proviso to Section 12A carves out a limited and carefully circumscribed exception, permitting a party to institute a suit without prior recourse to mediation where the suit contemplates urgent interim relief. This exception must, of necessity, be construed narrowly and strictly, for a broad construction of the exception would swallow the rule and render the mandate of Section 12A nugatory. The word "urgent" in the context of the proviso to Section 12A does not mean merely that the plaintiff subjectively believes that speedy relief is required, or that the situation has become urgent because plaintiff has delayed taking action. The urgency contemplated by the proviso must be of an objective character, it must be urgency arising from circumstances that are sudden, unpredictable, and such that the time required for pre-institution mediation would itself result in irreversible prejudice to the plaintiff. It is well-settled that self-created urgency, or urgency arising from inaction on the part of plaintiff despite having knowledge of an impending threat, does not qualify as urgency within the meaning of the proviso. To hold otherwise would be to permit every plaintiff to circumvent Section 12A by the simple device of allowing a situation to develop to a point of urgency and then claiming exemption on that basis.

The High Court therefore concluded that the urgency pleaded by the petitioner was self-created and could not justify exemption under the proviso to Section 12A.

For Details: ***https://csis.tshc.gov.in/hcorders/2026/crp/crp_1511_2026.pdf***

❖ Market Watch

Stock Market Indices as on 16.07.2026	
S & P BSE Sensex	77186.87(0.00%)
Nifty 50	24072.75(-0.02%)

Foreign Exchange Rates as on 16.07.2026
(https://m.rbi.org.in//scripts/ReferenceRateArchive.aspx)

INR / 1 USD	INR / 1 EUR	INR / 1 GBP	INR/ 1 JPY
96.31	110.44	130.36	.59

❖ *ESG Update*

Maruti Suzuki Sustainability Approach

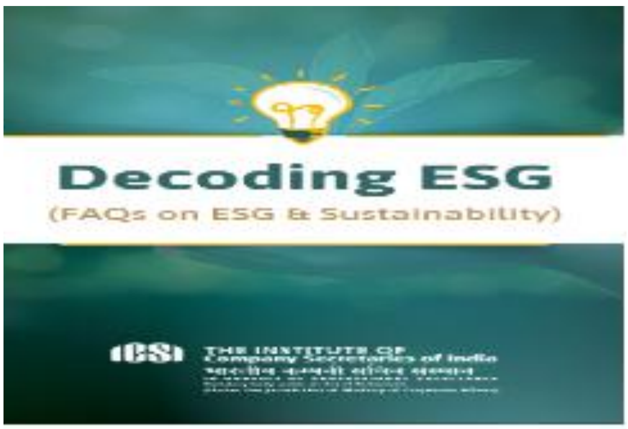
Maruti Suzuki understands that green technology is the need of the hour/way to achieve both, Maruti Suzuki strives to improve the environmental performance of its manufacturing operations, products, and the supply chain. The company identifies how these processes can affect the environment and thus develops strategies to mitigate these impacts.

The very first step towards tackling the issue was with the introduction of the environment policy which conveys Maruti Suzuki's commitment towards

- reducing the pressure on environment
- working collaboratively with its customers, suppliers, and the surrounding communities
- Controlled usage of natural resources

As a strategy, Maruti Suzuki has adopted the ISO 14001 standard and promotes it among its Tier-1 suppliers as well. The company also ensures compliance with Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016.

For Details: *https://www.marutisuzuki.com/corporate/about-us/sustainability?srsltid=AfmBOoo4KUvMlgAW2kKL5AHlg01m5BHji5hIOkgltPaNDw-qzozux8UZ*



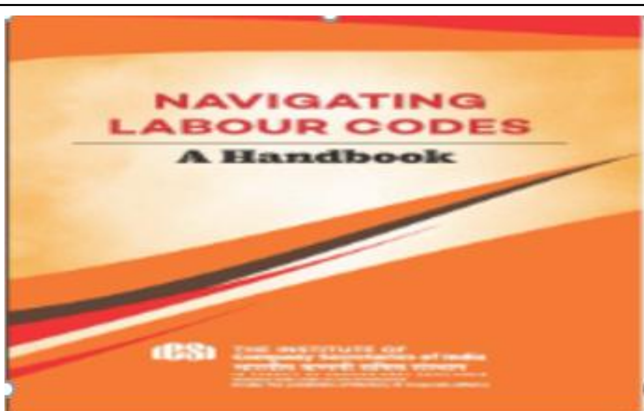
Decoding ESG(FAQs On ESG & Sustainability) - July 25

Publication & Author: ICSI

Year of Publication: 2025

Price: Rs. 120/-

Weblink for Purchase:
https://smash.icsi.edu/Scripts/ECart/Default/ItemWiseECartSearchOnlineBooks.aspx?ItemId=389



NAVIGATING LABOUR CODES - DEC 25

Publication & Author: ICSI

Year of Publication: 2025

Price: Rs. 300/-

Weblink for Purchase:
https://smash.icsi.edu/Scripts/ECart/Default/ItemWiseECartSearchOnlineBooks.aspx?ItemId=394

Prepared by Directorate of Academics & Research

For any suggestions, please write to academics@icsi.edu.