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)

Friday, September 26, 2025

Info Capsule

President
CS Dhananjay Shukla

Vice President
CS Pawan G Chandak

❖ *Ministry of Finance*

CBDT extends 'specified date' for filing of various reports of audit for the Assessment Year 2025-26 from 30th September, 2025 to 31st October, 2025(September 25,2025)

The due date for furnishing audit reports under the Income-tax Act, 1961 for FY 2024-25 (Assessment Year 2025-26) originally 30 September 2025 has been extended to 31 October 2025 for specified assessees.

This follows representations from professional bodies citing disruptions from floods and natural calamities, though the Income-tax e-filing portal remains fully functional, with over 4.02 lakh tax audit reports uploaded as of 24 September 2025.

For details: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2171174

❖ *Capital Market and Securities Laws*

SEBI Circular: Compliance Guidelines for Digital Accessibility Circular 'Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and rules made thereunder (September 25, 2025)

SEBI has issued circular SEBI/HO/ITD-1/ITD_VIAP/P/CIR/2025/131 dated September 25, 2025, specifying "Compliance Guidelines" for Digital Accessibility Circular 'Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and rules made thereunder-mandatory compliance by all Regulated Entities dated July 31, 2025". The Compliance Guidelines are enclosed at Annexure-A of the circular.

Annexure-A is divided and construed as outlined below:

- Part A: Summary of Compliance Requirements
- Part B: Mechanism of Submission of Compliance
- Part C: Formats for Compliance Submission
- Part D: List of REs submitting compliance directly to SEBI

For details: https://www.sebi.gov.in/web/?file=https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebi_data/attachdocs/sep-2025/1758794128066.pdf#page=1&zoom=page-width,-15,850

❖ *Ministry of Commerce & Industry*

GeM launches Vigilance Awareness Week campaign to promote transparency and ethical practices in public procurement(September 25,2025)

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has launched a Vigilance Awareness Week campaign, "GeM Ki Sunien, Satark Rahein, Zimmedar Banein," to promote transparency, integrity and ethical practices in public procurement. The initiative encourages buyers to follow best practices and enables sellers especially startups, MSEs, and entrepreneurs from Tier-2/3 cities to access safe and transparent opportunities.

Through vernacular outreach in states like Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, GeM is expanding awareness and empowering last-mile sellers. With features like red-flag alerts, transparent audits, dedicated #VocalForLocal outlets, and waived fees for new sellers, participation has become simpler and more inclusive.

Sellers in Madhya Pradesh have already secured orders worth ₹38,027 crore and in Chhattisgarh ₹87,873 crore, benefiting MSEs, startups, women-led and SC/ST enterprises. These measures reaffirm GeM's role as India's trusted, inclusive and transparent public procurement platform.

For details: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2171174

❖ *Business & Economy*

New company registrations pick up pace in August; 28.4% growth in the formation of new companies in five months of FY26 (September 26,2025)

A robust GDP growth in the first quarter of FY26 coupled with strong domestic demand have contributed to a 37.2% jump in the registration of new companies in August 2025, the latest data from ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) showed. After a two-month slump in June and July, the fresh registrations picked up pace last month to reach 20,167.

In five months of FY25, new company registrations stood at 98,862, up 28.4% on an annual basis as all five months of 2025 showed higher registrations as compared to the corresponding months in 2024 Signalling a strong pick-up in the economic activity in August, the total number of active companies jumped over 10.3% annually to touch 1.94 million last month, which is the highest level.

For details: https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-new-company-registrations-pick-up-pace-in-august-28-4-growth-in-the-formation-of-new-companies-in-five-months-of-fy26-3989900/?ref=business_hp

❖ *ESG UPDATE*

Hindustan Unilever Limited

- HUL is a leader in the Household & Personal Products industry with an 'AA' ESG Rating.
- 96% Deforestation-free supply chain in palm oil, paper and board, tea, soy and cocoa
- 99% Reduction in Scope 1 & 2 emissions in operations (kg/tonne of production).
- 62% Reduction in the total waste generated (kg/tonne of production) from factories.
- ESG score of 64 has been classified as a 'Strong' score.
- 13,000Hectares+ Land under regenerative agricultural practices.
- 50% Reduction in water use within our factories1.

For details: https://www.hul.co.in/files/annual-report-2024-25.pdf

❖ *Reserve Bank of India*

Reserve Bank of India (Authentication Mechanisms for Digital Payment Transactions) Directions, 2025(September 25, 2025)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued Reserve Bank of India (Authentication Mechanisms for Digital Payment Transactions) Directions, 2025. The directions, inter alia, focus on the following:

a. Encouraging introduction of new factors of authentication by leveraging upon technological advancements. The framework, however, does not call for discontinuation of SMS based OTP as an authentication factor.
b. Enabling issuers to adopt additional risk-based checks beyond the minimum two-factor authentication based on the fraud risk perception of the underlying transaction.
c. Facilitating interoperability and open access to technology
d. Delineating the responsibility of Issuers.
e. Mandating card issuers to validate AFA in non-recurring cross-border CNP transactions whenever such a request is raised by the overseas merchant or acquirer.

These directions shall be complied with by April 01, 2026, unless indicated otherwise for any particular direction.

For details: https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=61282

❖ *Pronouncement*

July 15, 2025	Kattavellai @ Devakar {Appellant(s)} Vs. State Of Tamil Nādu {Respondent(s)}	Supreme Court of India Criminal appeal no. 1672 of 2019 2025 INSC 845

SC Guidelines for the Handling of DNA Evidence in Criminal Investigations

Judgement

In this notable judgment, the Hon'ble Supreme Court quoting H.R Khanna J., in the *Case of State of Punjab v. Jagir Singh1 (1974) 3 SCC 277 states that:*

"A criminal trial is not like a fairy tale wherein one is free to give flight to one's imagination and phantasy. It concerns itself with the question as to whether the accused arraigned at the trial is guilty of the crime with which he is charged. Crime is an event in real life and is the product of interplay of different human emotions. In arriving at the conclusion about the guilt of the accused charged with the commission of a crime, the court has to judge the evidence by the yardstick of probabilities, its intrinsic worth and the animus of witnesses. Every case in the final analysis would have to depend upon its own facts. Although the benefit of every reasonable doubt should be given to the accused, the courts should not at the same time reject evidence which is ex facie trustworthy on grounds which are fanciful or in the nature of conjectures."

Further in the above case, Supreme Court (SC) acquitted a man sentenced to death in a criminal case and issued the following Uniform Guideline for the collection, preservation, and presentation of DNA Evidence is involved:

1. The collection of DNA samples once made after due care and compliance of all necessary procedure including swift and appropriate packaging including a) FIR number and date; b) Section and the statute involved therein; c) details of I.O., Police station; and d) requisite serial number shall be duly documented. The document recording the collection shall have the signatures and designations of the medical professional present, the investigating officer and independent witnesses. Here only we may clarify that the absence of independent witnesses shall not be taken to be compromising to the collection of such evidence, but the efforts made to join such witnesses and the eventual inability to do so shall be duly put down in record.
2. The Investigating Officer shall be responsible for the transportation of the DNA evidence to the concerned police station or the hospital concerned, as the case may be. He shall also be responsible for ensuring that the samples so taken reach the concerned forensic science laboratory with dispatch and in any case not later than 48- hours from the time of collection. Should any extraneous circumstance present itself and the 48-hours timeline cannot be complied with, the reason for the delay shall be duly recorded in the case diary. Throughout, the requisite efforts be made to preserve the samples as per the requirement corresponding to the nature of the sample taken.
3. In the time that the DNA samples are stored pending trial appeal etc., no package shall be opened, altered or resealed without express authorisation of the Trial Court acting upon a statement of a duly qualified and experienced medical professional to the effect that the same shall not have a negative impact on the sanctity of the evidence and with the Court being assured that such a step is necessary for proper and just outcome of the Investigation/Trial.
4. Right from the point of collection to the logical end, i.e., conviction or acquittal of the accused, a Chain of Custody Register shall be maintained wherein each and every movement of the evidence shall be recorded with counter sign at each end thereof stating also the reason therefor. This Chain of Custody Register shall necessarily be appended as part of the Trial Court record. Failure to maintain the same shall render the I.O. responsible for explaining such lapse.

The Directors General of Police of all the States shall prepare sample forms of the Chain of Custody Register and all other documentation directed above and ensure its dispatch to all districts with necessary instruction as may be required.

For details: https://api.sci.gov.in/supremecourt/2019/35590/35590_2019_13_1501_62329_Judgement_15-Jul-2025.pdf

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❖ *Market Watch*

Stock Market Indices as on 26.09.2025	
S & P BSE Sensex	80426.46 (-0.90%)
Nifty 50	24654.70 (-0.95%)

Foreign Exchange Rates as on 26.09.2025
(https://m.rbi.org.in//scripts/ReferenceRateArchive.aspx)

INR / 1 USD	INR / 1 EUR	INR / 1 GBP	INR/ 1 JPY
88.72	103.61	118.49	0.59

Prepared by Directorate of Academics

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