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)

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

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

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

*Monday, September 29, 2025*

# Info Capsule

*President*
**CS Dhananjay Shukla**

*Vice President*
**CS Pawan G Chandak**

## ❖ *Reserve Bank of India*

### Reserve Bank of India (Settlement of Claims in respect of Deceased Customers of Banks) Directions, 2025(September 26, 2025)

The nomination facility in deposit accounts, safe deposit lockers and articles in safe custody under the provisions of Sections 45ZA to ZF of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 read with Section 56 of the Act ibid is intended to facilitate expeditious settlement of claims by banks upon death of a deceased customer and to minimise hardship caused to the family members. Further, in cases where nomination is not registered, the extant instructions require banks to adopt a simplified procedure for settlement of the claims up to a threshold limit. However, it is observed that divergent practices are being followed by banks.

Hence, Reserve Bank of India (Settlement of Claims in respect of Deceased Customers of Banks) Directions, 2025 are issued to provide a harmonized framework and to standardise the documentation for settlement of claims in respect of deposit accounts, safe deposit locker and articles in safe custody of a deceased customer and to minimise the difficulties faced by the nominees, survivors and legal heirs.

***For details:***
*https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12901&Mode=0*

## ❖ *Goods and Service Tax*

### GST Rationalisation: Boosting Growth and Livelihood in Madhya Pradesh (September 28, 2025)

The recent GST rate rationalisation is expected to ease costs across these diverse sectors, making essentials more affordable for households and improving competitiveness for producers. Known for its rich diversity, ranging from GI-tagged snacks and sarees to tribal crafts, stonework and cement, Madhya Pradesh now stands to gain from lower tax rates on a wide range of goods. The reforms are expected to support farmers, artisans, MSMEs and large industries alike, opening new opportunities for growth and livelihoods

- Madhya Pradesh, India's second-largest soybean producer, is also an important hub for agro-mechanisation. Clusters in Indore, Bhopal, Dewas, Gwalior, Ujjain and Vidisha are largely MSME-driven, producing seed drills, threshers, harvesters and irrigation pumps for farmers across MP, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh.
- The sector employs about 25,000 workers directly and 60,000 indirectly through dealerships, mechanics and spare-part suppliers. With GST on tractors, pumps and implements reduced from 12/18% to 5%, equipment costs are expected to fall by 7–13%. This makes modern farm tools more affordable for small and marginal farmers, while improving the competitiveness of local MSMEs against imports.
- A GI-tagged art form since 2015, Gond paintings are produced in Mandla, Dindori, Umaria and Seoni, largely in household-based units. Rooted in folklore and mythology, the paintings portray local flora, fauna and legends, with women playing an equal role in the craft. Domestically, they are sold in craft fairs, galleries and urban décor stores, while international demand comes from collectors, museums and online buyers in Europe and the US. Gond art has also been showcased at international exhibitions in Paris and London, highlighting its global appeal.
- With GST reduced from 12% to 5%, artworks are expected to be about 6% cheaper, giving artists a stronger edge in galleries, e-commerce and export markets, while supporting stable incomes for tribal families.
- Produced mainly in Budhni (Sehore), Ujjain and Gwalior, this hereditary craft is sustained by about 2,000–2,500 artisans, with women contributing significantly in painting and finishing. Made on traditional hand-turned lathes and often coloured with non-toxic vegetable dyes, these toys are valued as eco-friendly alternatives to plastic.
- Madhya Pradesh is India's largest cement producer, with major hubs in Satna, Katni, Damoh and Rewa. With GST reduced from 28% to 18%, the price of a 50-kg cement bag is expected to drop by ₹25–30. This will boost demand in housing and infrastructure projects while improving the competitiveness of local producers.

***For details:***
*https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2172363*

## ❖ *Views/Comments sought by Regulator*

### The Draft Of The Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Bill, 2025 (September 27, 2024)

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India, has released the draft Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2025 for public consultation on 25 Sep 2025. Over the years, four Review Committees have examined the functioning of ISI. The most recent, chaired by Dr. R.A. Mashelkar in 2020, recommended major reforms to strengthen governance, expand academic programmes, and make ISI globally competitive. The Committee recommended that ISI must reimagine, reinvent and reposition itself to regain its leadership position and remain relevant in changing times as it reaches its centenary year in 2031.

To address the issue, a new legislation for ISI by upscaling the existing Act to the level of other existing INI legislations is being proposed, putting in place a revamped governance structure, making the Board of Governance a leaner and more empowered body for policy, administrative and financial matters.

The draft Bill and the prescribed format for sending comments are available on the Ministry's website (https://new.mospi.gov.in). Suggestions may be sent by email to *capisi-mospi[at]gov[dot]in* in MS Word or PDF format by *24 October 2025*.

***For details:***
*https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2172078*

## ❖ *Business and Economy*

### FSSAI, Australia's DAFF Sign MoU to Strengthen Cooperation in Food Safety (September 26, 2024)

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Australia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the area of Food Safety in New Delhi. The MoU will strengthen cooperation in the field of food safety, through the exchange of best practices, knowledge sharing, import procedures and other technical collaboration, including capacity-building initiatives. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in a statement, said that the MoU was signed by the Chief Executive Officer of FSSAI, Rajit Punhani and the First Assistant Secretary, DAFF, Australia, Tom Black. Both sides also expressed confidence that the MoU will foster stronger institutional ties and contribute in advancing food safety standards in both nations.

***For details:***
*https://www.newsonair.gov.in/fssai-australias-daff-sign-mou-to-strengthen-cooperation-in-food-safety/*

## ❖ *ESG Update*

### bp p.l.c.

- Approximately 262ktCO2e in emission savings made through energy efficiency improvements in production processes and flaring process optimization projects.
- Methane emissions reductions totalled around 39ktCO2e, and came from multiple projects. For example, bpx energy reduced methane emissions through investment in pipeline infrastructure, central delivery points, tankless upstream facilities, and electric-driven instrument air and electric gas compression.
- The company has made contributions totalling £100,000 to charities, including RefuAid which provides language tuition and financial and employability advice to help people given refuge in the UK restart their lives.
- In India, bp launched an attraction campaign called 'bp works for women' aimed at increasing job applications from women who want to build a career in the energy industry
- Increased the recycled content to 50%, in a range of the high-density polyethylene (HPDE) plastic bottles for Castrol branded products, supplied by Castrol India.

***For details:***
*https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/pdfs/sustainability/group-reports/bp-sustainability-report-2024.pdf*

## ❖ *Pronouncement*

| September 01, 2025 | Roger Shashoua & Others (Petitioners)<br>Versus<br>Mukesh Sharma & Others<br>(Respondents) | Delhi High Court<br>O.M.P. (COMM) 88/2020 &<br>I.As.16586/2010, 903/2014,<br>12734/2017, 13271/2017,<br>13273/2017, 13341/2021 |
|---|---|---|

***Arbitral Tribunal's Award to Transfer of Shares in Joint Venture Cannot be Contrary to the Public Policy of India***

**Brief Facts**

The above case arose out of a Shareholders Agreement (SHA) dated 1st July, 1998 executed between three parties-Petitioner, Respondent and the ITE India Private Limited. They created a joint venture, International Trade Expocentre Limited (ITEL), to build an exhibition center in Noida. The SHA promised equal shareholding and board control. Over time, Petitioner claimed that his control was diluted from 50 per cent to about 25 per cent through new allotments to entities linked to Respondent. Relations broke down between Petitioner and Respondent, when Petitioner set up a competing company. ITEL filed a suit to block his move, but the dispute was referred to arbitration under the ICC Rules, as stated in the agreement. Arbitral Tribunal in London issued four awards. It found Respondent in breach of contract and directed transfer of his Shares. Tribunal also imposed costs.

When Petitioner sought enforcement of the awards in Delhi, Respondent objected and submitted that issues pertaining to oppression and mismanagement of company and within the jurisdiction NCLT. He also submitted that Arbitral Tribunal order for share transfer in Joint Venture was against Indian public policy.

**Judgement**

Hon'ble High Court inter alia observed that in the instant case, there was clearly a breach of faith and trust between Petitioner No.1 and Respondent No.1, resulting in a complete deadlock. There was no other effective modality by which the said deadlock could have been resolved. The Arbitral Tribunal, in fact, has taken the most pragmatic course of action, considering the facts and the extent of investment made by the Petitioners. Further, the Arbitral Tribunal considered in detail the conduct of Respondent No.1, which, according to the Tribunal, was lacking in probity, fairness, and bona fides. The Tribunal also observed that Respondent No.1 had misled the Arbitral Tribunal and had been an unreliable witness. The Respondents had also indulged in forum shopping by filing various proceedings, including those before the District Judge, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, the Delhi High Court, etc. These included proceedings challenging the jurisdiction of the Arbitral Tribunal, the arbitral awards rendered by it as also a suit challenging the transfer of shares of the Respondent No. 3 company by the Petitioner No. 1 to the Petitioner No.3, etc. Insofar as the allegation of competing business was concerned, the same is denied by the Petitioners.

High Court said that in view of the foregoing, the conduct of Respondent No.1 clearly demonstrates a deliberate attempt to frustrate the arbitral process and evade the binding directions of the Tribunal. The Arbitral Tribunal's findings were the result of a comprehensive evaluation of the parties' conduct, contractual obligations, and the factual matrix, and were aimed at providing a resolution, to what had become a commercially unworkable and irreconcilable deadlock. There is no ground to suggest that the awards rendered are in conflict with the fundamental policy of Indian law or against the interests of justice.

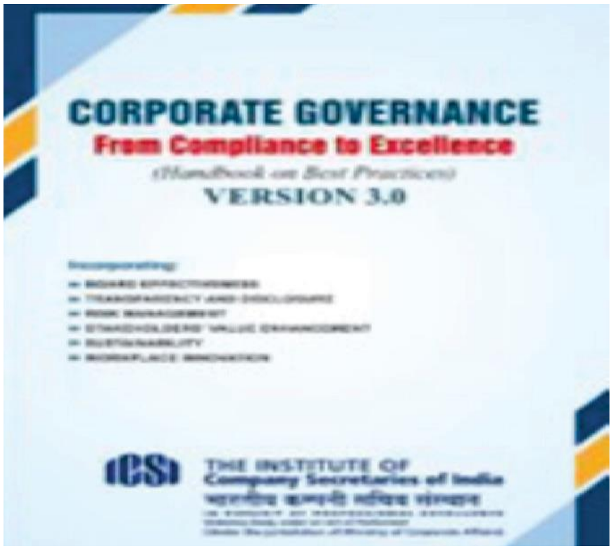
This evolving jurisprudence, thus reflects a broader shift towards ensuring that arbitral awards are not only legally sound but also commercially meaningful. Arbitral decision-making is increasingly expected to balance legal principles with commercial sensibilities, thereby reinforcing arbitration as an effective and realistic mechanism for dispute resolution. If arbitral tribunals cannot grant effective relief, the same may even pose a threat to Arbitration being an effective Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism.

The solutions and reliefs in arbitral proceedings must account for market realities and commercial consequences. Any arbitral award which does not consider market realities and commercial consequences, would render itself in rendering mere paper awards with only theoretical meaning with no practical consequences. If arbitration, particularly international arbitration, has to be an effective remedy, such reliefs, which would ensure continuation of businesses in the most equitable manner would be the need of the hour. If Arbitral Tribunals cannot keep fairness and equity in mind, while granting relief, the same would be contrary to fundamental tenets of law.

Hon'ble High Court held that the relief granted by the Arbitral Tribunal is completely justified and cannot be held to be contrary to the public policy of India. The public policy in India, is for ease of doing business and not for winding up businesses especially, which have had considerable foreign investment.

For Details: https://delhihighcourt.nic.in/app/showFileJudgment/PMS01092025OMPCOMM882020_181809.pdf

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE - FROM COMPLIANCE TO EXCELLENCE




### About the Book

The ICSI in its endeavour to identify, foster and reward the best practices of corporate governance among Indian companies had instituted "The ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance" in the year 2001. Based on the analysis of the governance practices adopted by the companies which participated in these Awards in 2021, ICSI rolled out a publication titled 'Corporate Governance – From Compliance to Excellence (Handbook on Best Practices)' in the year 2022.

The publication highlights the governance practices adopted in aspects like Board effectiveness, Transparency and Disclosure, Risk Management, Stakeholders' Value Enhancement, Sustainability and Workplace Innovation.

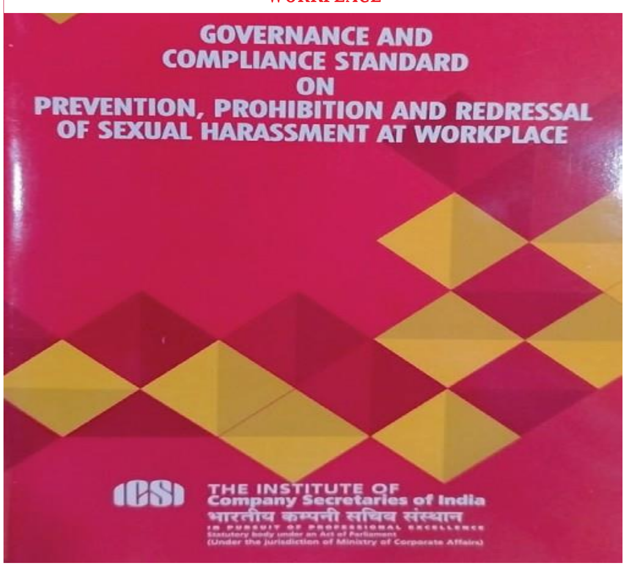
**Year of Publication: 2024**

**Price: Rs. 1250/-**

***For Subscription:***

*https://smash.icsi.edu/Scripts/ECart/Default/ItemWiseECartSearchOnlineBooks.aspx?ItemId=317*

## GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE STANDARD ON PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL OF SEXUAL HARRASSMENT AT WORKPLACE




### About the Book

This Standard aims to enhance the implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 ("PoSH Act"), by harmonizing workplace practices.

It provides standardized procedures for Internal Committee meetings, complaint and inquiry processes, and training/ capacity building programs for employees/ Internal Committee members. The Standard also offers guidance on drafting gender-neutral PoSH policy, promoting inclusivity.

**Year of Publication: 2024**

**Price: Rs 90/-**

***For Subscription:***

*https://smash.icsi.edu/Scripts/ECart/Default/ItemWiseECartSearchOnlineBooks.aspx?ItemId=346*

## *Market Watch*

| Stock Market Indices as on 29.09.2025 | |
|---|---|
| S & P BSE Sensex | 80364.94(-0.08%) |
| Nifty 50 | 24634.90(-0.08%) |

**Foreign Exchange Rates as on 29.09.2025**

*https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/referenceratearchive.aspx*

| INR / 1 USD | INR / 1 EUR | INR / 1 GBP | INR/ 1 JPY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 88.75 | 104.04 | 119.27 | .59 |

***Prepared by Directorate of Academics***

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