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Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

INFO CAPSULE

Series - 11

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Motto

सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर।

“इष्टकारं कृतं तृप्तं कर्तव्यं कृतं क्व”

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Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Info Capsule Series 11

The Companies (Accounts) Amendment Rules, 2022 (Notification dated February 11, 2022)

The Central Government has notified Form CSR-2, a report on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and rule 12(1B) and provided that every company covered under the provisions of sub-section (1) to section 135 shall furnish a report on Corporate Social Responsibility in Form CSR-2 to the Registrar for the preceding financial year (2020-2021) and onwards as an addendum to Form AOC-4 or AOC-4 XBRL or AOC-4 NBFC (Ind AS), as the case may be. Provided that for the preceding financial year (2020-2021), Form CSR-2 shall be filed separately on or before 31st March 2022, after filing Form AOC-4 or AOC-4 XBRL or AOC-4 NBFC (Ind AS), as the case may be.

For details:

<https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mcs=adQPpN3U8Y7LlcmY0C8FvA%253D%253D&type=open>

The Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Rules, 2022 (February 11, 2022)

The Central Government notified the Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Rules, 2022, which will come into effect from April 01, 2022. The rules inter-alia contains provisions pertaining to insertion of new rules viz: 19A-Allotment of new name to existing LLP, 37A-Adjudication of penalties, 37B-appeal against order of adjudicating officer, 37C-registration of appeal, 37D-Disposal of appeal by regional director (RD), New Form 16A-Certificate of incorporation pursuant to change of name due to Order of RD not being complied and Form No. 33-LLP ADJ-memorandum of appeal. The rules further amended rule 5 to include the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal Rules, 2016 shall be applicable for filing an appeal; rule 18 for the proposed name of LLP not to be similar or nearly resemble with name of other LLP or company and rule 19- LLP/company/proprietor of registered trade mark which already have name similar or name which has near resemblance with name of new/subsequently incorporated LLP to apply with Regional Director for giving directions to change name of new/subsequently incorporated LLP.

For details: <https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/233375.pdf>

Notification under section 67 of LLP Act, 2008 (February 11, 2022)

The Central Government directs that, from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the provisions of section 90, 164, 165, 167, 206(5), 207(3), 252 and section 439 of the Companies Act, 2013, shall apply to limited liability partnership, except where the context otherwise requires, with the modifications as specified.

For details:

<https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mds=s3NAd1DMJP%252Bb4D3KxSkX1Q%253D%253D&type=open>

Notification for delegation of powers under section 17 of LLP Act 2008 to Regional Directors (February 11, 2022)

The Central Government, vide this notification, delegates to the Regional Directors at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Guwahati, the powers and functions vested in it under section 17 (change of name of limited liability partnership) of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, subject to the condition that the Central Government may revoke such delegation of powers or may itself exercise the powers under the said section, if in its opinion such a course of action is necessary in the public interest. This notification shall come into force with effect from 01st April, 2022.

For details:

<https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mds=vWLykzVPipoKm8Nr17uPCA%253D%253D&type=open>

Commencement notification for section 1 to 29 of LLP (Amendment) Act, 2021 (February 11, 2022)

The Central Government, vide this notification, appoints the 01st day of April, 2022 as the date on which the provisions of sections 1 to 29 of the Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Act, 2021 shall come into force.

For details:

<https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mds=vkSqd8xttaHgc57aBt3FcQ%253D%253D&type=open>

Relaxation on levy of additional fees in filing of e-forms AOC-4, AOC-4 (CFS), AOC-4 XBRL, AOC-4 Non-XBRL and MGT-7/MGT-7A for the financial year ended on 31.03.2021 under the Companies Act, 2013 (General Circular No. 01/2022 dated February 14, 2022)

MCA has relaxed the levy of additional fees for annual financial statement/return filings required to be done for the financial year ended on 31.03.2021. It has been provided that no additional fees shall be levied upto 15.03.2022 for the filing of e-forms AOC-4, AOC-4 (CFS), AOC-4 XBRL, AOC-4 NonXBRL and upto 31.03.2022 for filing of e-forms MGT-7/MGT-7A in respect of the financial year ended on 31.03.2021 respectively. During the said period, only normal fees shall be payable for the filing of the aforementioned eforms.

For details:

<https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mds=dJwPZuhvXhaSatUCw9YnZA%253D%253D&type=open>

Appointment of Chairperson in National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (February 22, 2022)

Pursuant to powers conferred by section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, the Central Government appointed Justice (Retd.) Shri. Ashok Bhushan, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India as Chairperson in the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) for a period of four years from the date of assumption of charge of the post i.e. with effect from 08th November, 2021, or till he attains the age of seventy years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/233655.pdf>

Appointment of Members in National Company Law Tribunal (February 22, 2022)

Pursuant to powers conferred by section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013, the Central Government appointed 20 persons as Judicial Member and Technical Member in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for a period of five years with effect from the date of joining or till the attaining the age of sixty-five years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/233656.pdf>

Appointment of President in National Company Law Tribunal (February 22, 2022)

Pursuant to powers conferred by section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013, the Central Government appointed Justice (Retd.) Shri. Ramalingam Sudhakar, former Chief Justice of Manipur High Court as President in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for a period of five years from the date of assumption of charge of the post i.e. with effect from the 1st November, 2021, or till he attains the age of sixty-seven years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/233657.pdf>

Ministry of Corporate Affairs moves NCLT to recover Rs. 2,320 cr siphoned off by Amtek Auto promoters (February 22, 2022)

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has asked the Serious Fraud Investigation Office to investigate the books and dealings of Amtek Auto with its group companies. The decision by the MCA was conveyed to NCLT Chandigarh demanding that the former promoters of Amtek Auto return ₹2,320 crore siphoned off from the company. The MCA's petition to the NCLT comes up for hearing on February 23.

For details:

<http://theoutreach.in/corporate-affairs-ministry-movesnclt-to-recover-%E2%82%B92320-cr-siphoned-off-byamtek-auto-promoters/>

MCA to enter all complaints against cos in electronic registry; seeks to curb possible unauthentic communications (February 27, 2022)

In efforts to curb possible instances of unauthentic communications targeting stakeholders, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has directed Registrars of Companies and Regional Directors to enter all complaints received against companies and LLPs in the ministry's electronic registry. Once the details are entered in the electronic registry MCA21, then a Service Request Number (SRN) is generated for the particular complaint and going forward, the same will be used in all communications related to that case. The ministry has informed all stakeholders that Registrars of Companies (RoCs) and Regional Directors (RDs) at all locations have been directed to enter all cases of complaints against companies and LLPs, inspections, inquiries, investigations and prosecutions in the MCA21 before issuing any letter, notice or order.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/mca-to-enter-all-complaints-against-cos-in-electronic-registry-seeks-to-curb-possible-unauthentic-communications/articleshow/89867489.cms>

The Limited Liability Partnership (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022 (March 04, 2022)

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) vide its Notification dated 04th March, 2022 has notified Limited Liability Partnership (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022 which shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette. The amendments inter alia provide that-

- If an individual required to be appointed as designated partner does not have a DPIN or DIN, application for allotment of DPIN shall be made in Form FiLLiP. Provided further that the application for allotment of DPIN shall not be made by more than five individuals in Form FiLLiP. [Substitution: Rule 11(1) Second proviso]
- The Certificate of Incorporation of limited liability partnership shall be issued by the Registrar in Form 16 and shall mention Permanent Account Number and Tax Deduction Account Number issued by the Income Tax Department. [Insertion: Rule 11(3)]
- Statement of Account and Solvency shall be signed on behalf of the limited liability partnership by its designated partners. In cases where Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process has been initiated against an LLP then the Statement of Account and Solvency may be signed by interim resolution professional or resolution professional, or liquidator or limited liability partnership administrator. [Substitution: Rule 24(6)]
- Where the Registrar finds it necessary to call further information, he shall direct the person or LLP to furnish such information or to re-submit such application or eForm or document in Form 32. [Insertion: Rule 36(6)]
- Vide this notification, various forms such as RUN LLP, FiLLiP, Form 3, Form 4, Form 5 etc. are also amended.

For details:

<https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mds=iorXjBHYBr94XltGw2NNBA%253D%253D&type=open>

Login related Informational Message for the existing V2 users having V2 login IDs and Passwords (March 12, 2022)

The Login related Informational Message is placed below: (1) No need to re-register on V3 portal; (2) To login : The existing users may use their respective V2 user IDs and Password for the first time; (3) After Login : To access the services of filing LLP forms in V3, the users need to upgrade their profile from Registered to Business user (option available on top right corner); (4) For Company related filings in V2: the Users are required to use Login to 'Company Filings' option on the login page with their existing V2 credentials only.

For details:

<https://www.mca.gov.in/content/mca/global/en/notifications-tender/news-updates/updates.html>

Stakeholders concerns over Associating DSC in V3 (March 12, 2022)

Certain Stakeholders have raised concerns over Associating DSC in V3. They are advised to follow the below simple steps: (1) They can associate your DSC as a Business user in V3. (2) Login using their credentials. (3) Go to MCA Services ->FO LLP Services ->Associate DSC.(4) Download & run embridge - 2nd option provided on the screen. (5) Change the DSC password/PIN (for 1st time users on V3). (6) In the Token field, select ePass option from the available drop downs. (7) Select Certificate Details from the drop down and enter the DSC password. (8) Click on Register. (9) You will receive confirmation message on portal.

For details:

<https://www.mca.gov.in/content/mca/global/en/notifications-tender/news-updates/updates.html>

More than 3.82 lakh companies struck off till financial year 2020- 21 in Special Drives taken by Registrar of Companies (March 15, 2022)

Under the Special Drives taken by Registrar of Companies, 3,82,875 number of companies were struck off u/s 248 (1) of the Companies Act till the financial year 2020-21. This was stated by Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Shri Rao Inderjit Singh in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha. Explaining further, the Minister stated that there is no definition of the term "Shell Company" in the Companies Act, 2013 (the Act). It normally refers to a company without active business operation or significant assets, which in some cases are used for illegal purpose such as tax evasion, money laundering, obscuring ownership, benami properties etc. The Special Task Force set up by the Government to look into the issue of "Shell Companies" has, inter-alia, recommended the use of certain red flag indicators as alerts for identification of suspected Shell Companies.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1806188>

Appointment of Government Nominees in the Appellate Authority (March 17, 2022)

Ministry of Corporate Affairs vide its notification dated March 17, 2022 appointed two members; Shri Praveen Garg (Retd. IAS) and Shri Anand Mohan Bajaj (Additional Secretary-Department of Economic Affairs) in the Appellate Authority under section 22A of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, under section 22A of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 and under section 22A of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/234307.pdf>

Extension of validity period under the Competition Act, 2002 (March 16, 2022)

Ministry of Corporate Affairs vide its notification dated March 16, 2022 and in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of section 54 of the Competition Act, 2002, the Central Government, in the public interest, hereby extends the validity of the exemptions for a period of 5 years.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/234300.pdf>

Companies (Accounts) Second Amendment Rules, 2022 (March 31, 2022)

MCA has notified the Companies (Accounts) Second Amendment Rules, 2022 which came into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. Vide this notification, the date of applicability for the requirement relating to feature of recording audit trail in the Accounting Software has been extended from 01st April 2022 to 01st April, 2023. Further, MCA has extended the timeline for filing of Form CSR-2 for FY 2020-21 from 31st March, 2022 to 31st May, 2022.

For details:

<https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mds=3kjEo3H12bPQqpt2k18OTw%253D%253D&type=open>

The Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2022 (April 06, 2022)

The Central Government notified the Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2022, the said amendment rules inter-alia consist provisions pertaining to inspection of registers and returns as mentioned under rule 14 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 by inserting sub rule 3; “Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rules (1) and (2), the following particulars of the register or index or return in respect of the members of a company shall not be made available for any inspection under sub-section (2) or for taking extracts or copies under sub-section (3) of section 94, namely-address or registered address (in case of a body corporate); e-mail ID; Unique Identification Number; PAN Number.”

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/234911.pdf>

The Companies (Incorporation) Amendment Rules, 2022 (April 08, 2022)

The Central Government notified the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2022, the said amendment rules inserted the proviso to Rule 12 (Application for Incorporation of Companies) : “Provided further that in case of a Company being incorporated as a Nidhi, the declaration by the Central Government under section 406 of the Act shall be obtained by the Nidhi before commencing the business and a declaration in this behalf shall be submitted at the stage of incorporation by the company.” Further, the amendment rules substituted the Form INC-20A and inserted a declaration under Part B of Form INC-32 (SPICE+) pertaining to, all necessary approvals have been obtained before commencing business of Nidhi, the said forms are specified under the annexure to the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/234994.pdf>

MCA registers highest ever 1.67 lakh companies in FY 2021- 22 (April 18, 2022)

During the Financial Year 2021-22, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) registered more than 1.67 Lakh company incorporations as compared to 1.55 Lakh companies during FY 2020-21. The increase is significant considering that number of companies incorporated during Financial Year 2020-21 were the highest in any of the previous years. The incorporations during FY 2021- 22 are 8% more than the incorporations during FY 2020-21. While MCA had registered 1.24 lakh companies during FY 2018-19 and 1.22 lakh companies in 2019-20 respectively, it had registered 1.55 Lakh companies during FY 2020- 21. As part of Government of India’s drive for Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), the MCA has taken many initiatives thereby saving as many procedures, time and cost for starting a business in India.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1817773>

The Nidhi (Amendment) Rules, 2022 (April 19, 2022)

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) vide its Notification dated April 19, 2022 has notified the Nidhi (Amendment) Rules, 2022 which shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette. The said amendments inter-alia provide that:

No company, which has not complied rule 3A pertaining to Declaration of Nidhis, shall raise any deposit from its members or provide any loan to its members under the provisions of these rules from the date of such noncompliance, or from the date of the commencement of the above said rules, or the date of rejection of the application in Form NDH-4, whichever is later. Further, if any deposit raised by a company after the date of noncompliance, the said deposit shall be deemed to have been raised in pursuance of Acceptance of Deposits by Companies (Chapter V). (Insertion: Fourth and Fifth Proviso to Rule 3A)

Public company desirous to be declared as a Nidhi shall apply, in Form NDH-4, within a period of one hundred twenty days of its incorporation for declaration as Nidhi, if it fulfils the following conditions, namely:-(I) it has not less than two hundred members; and (II) it has Net Owned Funds of twenty lakh rupees or more etc. (Insertion: Rule 3B)

A Nidhi shall be a public company and shall have a minimum paid up equity share capital of ten lakh rupees and shall comply with this requirement within a period of eighteen months of commencement of amendment rules. [Substitution: Rule 4(1)]

Under General Restrictions and Prohibitions - no Nidhi shall acquire or purchase securities of any other company or control the composition of the Board of Directors of any other company in any manner whatsoever or enter into any arrangement for the change of its management. [Substitution: Rule 6(d)]

Every Nidhi shall maintain Net Owned Funds of not less than twenty lakh rupees or such higher amount as the Central Government may specify from time to time and shall comply with this requirement within a period of eighteen months of commencement of amendment rules. (Substitution: Rule 9)

For details:

<https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mids=LtZyclKMNK0LX6JwM%252BaPeA%253D%253D&type=open>

Notice inviting comments on the report of the company law committee (April 21, 2022)

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs inviting comments /suggestions on the Company Law Committee Report (2022) through e-consultation platform at : <https://www.mca.gov.in/content/mca/global/en/econsultation.html>

For details:

<https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mids=CltrvFMytCdMed6rdlu5XA%253D%253D&type=open>

Ministry of Finance

Info Capsule Series 11

Govt. of India, World Bank sign loan agreement of \$115 million for implementation of “Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development” (REWARD) Project (February 18, 2022).

The Government of India, the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank have signed a \$115 million (INR 869 crore) Programme (Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development Programme) that will help national and state institutions adopt improved watershed management practices to help increase farmers’ resilience to climate change, promote higher productivity and better incomes.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1799348>

Press Release

Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman interacts with leaders of financial & capital markets (February 21, 2022)

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman interacted with the leaders of the financial & capital markets in Mumbai on February 21, 2022. She asked the industry leaders to explore ways to further strengthen the sector. In her opening remarks, the Finance Minister expressed satisfaction about the resilience displayed by the financial markets even during the pandemic times. Smt. Sitharaman urged the market participants to strive for efficiency and transparency to help to channelise the resource for productive investment in the most effective manner. The Finance Minister emphasised that trust and confidence in the financial market are critical to gain traction amongst investors. Smt. Sitharaman also highlighted the important role of market participants in institution building and for making financial market stronger and investor-friendly. Various ideas and suggestions related to investor awareness, KYC norms, mutual fund penetration, deepening of corporate bonds, commodity derivatives and effectiveness of the market system were also discussed in detail.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1800076>

25th Meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council held in Mumbai FSDC notes need for constant vigil on financial conditions and functioning of financial institutions (February 22, 2022)

The 25th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in Mumbai on 22nd February, 2022 under the Chairpersonship of Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. The Finance Minister is on a two-day post-Budget outreach visit to the city, where she is meeting with representatives of industry, financial market functionaries and bankers. The Council deliberated on the various mandates of the FSDC and major macrofinancial challenges arising in view of global and domestic developments. The Council noted that Government and all regulators need to maintain constant vigil on the financial conditions and functioning of important financial institutions, especially considering that it could expose financial vulnerabilities in the medium and long-term. The Financial Stability and Development Council has been set up by the government in consultation with financial market regulators, to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhance inter-regulatory coordination and promote financial sector development.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1800262>

Notification (February 23, 2022)

The Central Government appoints Smt. Meera Swarup as Technical Member of the Securities Appellate Tribunal for a period of four years with effect from the date of assumption of charge or till she attains the age of sixtyseven years, or until further orders, whichever is the earlier.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/233698.pdf>

Ministry of Finance to organise Post-Budget Webinar on ‘Financing for growth and aspirational economy’ to accelerate implementation of Union Budget 2022 announcements (March 06, 2022)

In order to facilitate efficient and speedy implementation of Budget announcements, the Government of India is holding a series of webinars across various key sectors. The objective is to brainstorm with experts from the public and private sectors, academia and industry and identify strategies on how best to move forward towards implementation of various issues under different sectors.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1803350>

More than 37,000 users joined UPI123Pay since its launch on 8th March 2022 (March 28, 2022)

Various steps have been taken by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to expand the reach of UPI outside India. The steps area) NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is devoted for internationalisation of UPI. NIPL has undertaken various initiatives across nations to enable cross-border acceptance of BHIM UPI QR at merchant establishment. These partnerships will facilitate Indian travellers to make payments using the BHIM UPI QR for all their retail purchases at international merchant establishments. b) Currently, BHIM UPI QR has gained acceptance in Singapore (March, 2020), Bhutan (July, 2021) and recently with partners in UAE and Nepal (February, 2022). However, travel restrictions owing to the pandemic over the last two years have impacted overseas use of this facility. c) In this regard, RBI has been facilitating engagements for the expansion of UPI in countries which have potential for collaboration.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1810601>

Issue of commemorative coin of Rs. 400 (April 11, 2022)

The Central Government notified the Coinage (Issue of Commemorative Coin on the occasion of 400th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji) Rules, 2022. According to the amendment, the coin of Four Hundred Rupees denomination shall be coined at the Mint for issue under the authority of the Central Government to commemorate on the occasion of 400th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

For details: <https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/235043.pdf>

Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Amendment) Rules, 2022 (April 12, 2022)

The Central Government amended the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019. Rule 8 of the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Amendment) Rules, 2022 inter alia provides that an Indian company may issue “employees’ stock option”, “sweat equity shares”, and “Share Based Employee Benefits” to its employees or directors or employees or directors of its holding company or joint venture or wholly owned overseas subsidiary or subsidiaries who are resident outside India. Provided that. - (a) the scheme has been drawn either in terms of regulations issued under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 or the Companies (Share Capital and Debentures) Rules, 2014 or as per other applicable law, as the case may be; (b) the “employee’s stock option” or “sweat equity shares” or “Share Based Employee Benefits” so issued under the applicable rules or regulations are in compliance with the sectoral cap applicable to the said company; (c) the issue of “employee’s stock option” or “sweat equity shares” or “Share Based Employee Benefits” in a company where foreign investment is under the approval route shall require prior government approval; (d) issue of “employee’s stock option” or “sweat equity shares” or “Share Based Employee Benefits” to a citizen of Bangladesh or Pakistan shall require prior government approval. It may be noted that an individual who is a person resident outside India exercising an option which was issued when he or she was a person resident in India shall hold the shares so acquired on exercising the option on a non-repatriation basis.

For details: <https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/235070.pdf>

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman to embark late tonight on official visit to USA to attend Spring Meetings of the IMF-World Bank (April 17, 2022)

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman will be traveling to the USA on an official visit beginning April 18, 2022. During her visit, Smt. Sitharaman will be attending the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) & World Bank, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governor Meeting (FMCBG) meetings.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1817591>

Auction for Sale (Re-issue) of (i) '5.74% GS 2026', (ii) 'Gol Floating Rate Bond 2034', and (iii) '6.67%GS 2035' (iv) '6.99% GS 2051' (April 18, 2022)

The Government of India (GoI) has announced the Sale (reissue) of (i) "5.74% Government Security, 2026" for a notified amount of Rs 9,000 crore (nominal) through price based auction using uniform price method; (ii) "Gol Floating Rate Bonds, 2034" for a notified amount of Rs 4,000 crore (nominal) through price based auction using uniform price method; (iii) "6.67% Government Security 2035" for a notified amount of Rs 10,000 crore (nominal) through price based auction using uniform price method and (iv) "6.99% Government Security 2051" for a notified amount of Rs 9,000 crore (nominal) through price based auction using multiple price method. GoI will have the option to retain additional subscription up to Rs 2,000 crore against each security mentioned above. The auctions will be conducted by the Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai Office, Fort, Mumbai on Friday i.e. April 22, 2022.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1817855>

Ministry of Law & Justice

Info Capsule Series 11

Online courts for ensuring fair trial (March 21, 2022)

In the pre-covid period, the virtual hearing setup was being used by most of the courts primarily for conducting remand matters without movement of prisoners between court and jails. This experience helped in expanding the video-conferencing (VC) of court hearings in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. To bring about uniformity and standardization in the conduct of VC, an overarching order was passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on April 6, 2020 which gave legal sanctity and validity to the court hearings done through VC. Further, Model VC rules were framed by a 5-judge committee which was circulated to all the High Courts for adoption after local contextualization. Further, to bridge digital divide, Government has released Rs. 12.54 crore for setting up eSewa Kendras. As on 31.01.2022, 475 eSewa Kendras have been made functional under 25 High Courts. Rs. 12.12 cr has been allocated for creating 1732 Help Desk counters for e-Filing in Court Complexes; Judicial Service Centres have been established at all computerized courts to serve as a single window for filing petitions and applications by litigants / lawyers and for disseminating judicial information related to cause lists and other case related information to the lawyers and litigants through Info Kiosks.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1807613>

The Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Act, 2022 (April 18, 2022)

The Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Act, 2022 received the assent of the President on the 18th April, 2022. The Act amended the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 and the Company Secretaries Act, 1980.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/235187.pdf>

Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 (April 18, 2022)

Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 received the assent of the President on the 18th April, 2022. The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 to authorise government agency for taking measurements of convicts and other persons for the purposes of identification and investigation in criminal matters and to preserve records and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/235184.pdf>

Ministry of Labour and Employment

Info Capsule Series 11

Electronic Employment Exchange (March 21, 2022)

The Government is implementing National Career Service (NCS) Project to provide a variety of employment related services like job search and matching, career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, etc. The services are available online on the National Career Service Portal (www.ncs.gov.in). The portal also allows jobseekers to add their skill certificates on NCS through Digilocker. The certificate of candidates undertaking Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) training is also accessible to NCS through integrating with Skill India Portal. The candidate registered on NCS portal can also provide information related to their key skills and education etc. based on which they can find relevant jobs.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1807730>

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Info Capsule Series 11

Review of FDI Policy for permitting foreign investment in Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) (March 14, 2022)

The Government of India has reviewed the extant FDI policy for permitting foreign investment in Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and other modifications for consistency and further clarity of the existing FDI Policy 2020.

For details:

https://dpiit.gov.in/sites/default/files/Press_Note_1_2022_14March2022.pdf

Amendments in Chapter 5 of the Handbook of Procedures 2015-20, related to Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme to reduce 'Compliance Burden' and enhance 'Ease of doing Business' - reg (April 13, 2022)

In exercise of powers conferred under Paragraph 1.03 of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-2020, as amended from time to time, the Director General of Foreign Trade hereby amended in Chapter 5 of the Handbook of Procedures (2015-20) with immediate effect. These amendments are applicable for EPCG authorizations issued under FTP 2015-20. The amendments are pertaining to Block-wise Fulfilment of EO; Annual reporting of EO fulfilment; Automatic Reduction/ Enhancement upto 10% Duty saved amount and pro rata Reduction/ Enhancement in export obligation; Extension in Export Obligation Period; Maintenance of Annual Average Export Obligation; Export Obligation Discharge Certificate (EODC) and Regularization of Bonafide Default and Exit from EPCG Scheme.

For details : <https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/235136.pdf>

Securities Laws and Capital Markets

Info Capsule Series 11

SEBI Board Meeting

SEBI Board Meeting (March 29, 2022)

The SEBI Board met on March 29, 2022 where it, *interalia*, approved the following:

- The amendments to SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 for simplification of procedure for transmission of securities. The existing threshold limit for simplified documents has been revised from Rupees Two Lakhs to Rupees Five Lakhs for securities held in physical mode per listed issuer and Rupees Five Lakhs to Rupees Fifteen Lakhs for securities held in dematerialized mode for each beneficiary account.
- The amendments to SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999 to strengthen the regulatory framework for Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) in line with Mutual Fund regulations to remove regulatory arbitrage.
- The amendments to SEBI (Custodian) Regulations, 1996, to enable SEBI registered Custodians to provide custodial services in respect of silver or silver related instruments held by silver ETFs of Mutual Funds.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/mar-2022/sebi-board-meeting_57326.html

SEBI Circulars

Standard Operating Guidelines for the Vault Managers and Depositories - Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) segment (February 14, 2022)

In order to ensure ease of compliance for the market participants in the EGR ecosystem, SEBI has issued Standard Operating Guidelines under Regulation 28 of SEBI (Vault Managers) Regulations, 2021 read with Regulation 97 of SEBI (Depositories and Participants) Regulations, 2018. The Standard Operating Guidelines are laid down in Annexure-1 to this circular. Further, as per Chapter IV of the Vault Managers Regulations, the Vault Managers are mandated for creation and extinguishment of EGR. The modalities for deposit of gold, creation of EGR, withdrawal of gold and extinguishment of EGR are stipulated in Annexure-2 to this circular.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2022/standard-operating-guidelines-for-the-vault-managers-and-depositories-electronic-gold-receipts-egr-segment_56064.html

Trading features pertaining to the Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) segment (February 14, 2022)

SEBI in its Board meeting held on September 28, 2021 approved the framework for Gold Exchange and SEBI (Vault Managers) Regulations, 2021. With a view to specifying the details of various aspects of the trading of EGR on the recognized stock exchange/s, SEBI has prescribed the guidelines on the various subjects covering the trade timings, transaction charges by stock exchanges, call auction in pre-open session, block and bulk Deal etc. in the Annexures to this circular.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2022/trading-features-pertaining-to-the-electronic-gold-receipts-egr-segment_56063.html

Corrigendum to Master Circular for Depositories dated February 05, 2021 on Opening of demat account in case of HUF (February 17, 2022)

SEBI has issued a Corrigendum to its Master Circular for Depositories dated February 05, 2021 on Opening of demat account in case of HUF. It has been provided that “In the event of death of Karta of HUF, the name of the deceased Karta in the Beneficial Owner (BO) account shall be replaced by the new Karta appointed by the member of the HUF who in such a case shall be senior most member of the family”. It may be noted that the other provisions of the Master Circular will remain unchanged.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2022/corrigendum-to-master-circular-for-depositories-dated-february-05-2021-on-opening-of-demat-account-in-case-of-huf_56130.html

Nomination for Eligible Trading and Demat Accounts - Extension of timelines and relaxations for existing account holders (February 24, 2022)

SEBI, vide its circular dated July 23, 2021 had mandated submission of nomination details/declaration for opting out of nomination for investors opening new trading and or demat accounts. The circular also prescribed mandatory furnishing of the aforesaid information for all existing eligible trading and demat account holders on or before March 31, 2022, failing which the trading accounts shall be frozen for trading and demat account shall be frozen for debits. SEBI has extended the timeline till March 31, 2023 for existing trading and demat account holders to provide choice of nomination or opt out of nomination. Further, re-submission of nomination details shall be optional for the existing investors who have already provided the nomination details. The revised format of the nomination form is given in Annexure -A to this circular.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2022/nomination-for-eligible-trading-and-demat-accounts-extension-of-timelines-and-relaxations-for-existing-account-holders_56399.html

Segregation and Monitoring of Collateral at Client Level - Extension of timeline (February 24, 2022)

SEBI extended the deadline for implementation of segregation and monitoring of collateral at client level to May 2, 2022. The previous timeline was February 28, 2022. In July last year, SEBI came out with guidelines on client-level segregation amid instances of misuse of client collateral by trading member/ clearing member. SEBI has received requests from various stakeholders to further extend the aforesaid timeline.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2022/segregation-and-monitoring-of-collateral-at-client-level-extension-of-timeline_56393.html

Extension to SEBI Circular on “Relaxation in adherence to prescribed timelines issued by SEBI due to Covid 19” dated April 13, 2020 (February 25, 2022)

SEBI has given the relaxation to intermediaries / market participants w.r.t. compliance with the prescribed timelines which has been extended to June 30, 2022 in view of the Covid19 situation. The aforesaid relaxation shall be applicable for processing of the demat requests, processing of Remat requests, processing of transmission requests, processing of request for issue of duplicate share certificates etc. Accordingly, the intermediaries / market participants are advised to take an additional 30 days over the prescribed timelines for completion of service requests as mentioned above.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2022/extension-to-sebi-circular-on-relaxation-in-adherence-to-prescribed-timelines-issued-by-sebi-due-to-covid-19-dated-april-13-2020_56425.html

Swing pricing framework for mutual fund schemes - Extension of timeline (February 25, 2022)

Based on the request received from Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), SEBI has extended the implementation date of swing pricing framework for mutual fund schemes to May 1, 2022. In September 2021, SEBI introduced the swing pricing framework for open ended debt mutual fund schemes (except overnight funds, Gilt funds and Gilt with 10-year maturity funds), to protect investors in debt mutual funds. Swing pricing is a mechanism that imposes certain cost on exiting investors (since they are contributing to a downward spiral in NAV) while incentivizing entering investors (since they are helping to stem the downward spiral in NAV).

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2022/swing-pricing-framework-for-mutual-fund-schemes-extension-of-timeline_56423.html

Approach to securities market data access and terms of usage of data provided by data sources in Indian securities market (February 25, 2022)

In order to further enhance the quantum as well as the ease of accessibility and usability of data disseminated in public by various data sources in Indian securities market, including the MIs (Stock and Commodity Exchanges, Clearing Corporations and Depositories etc.), SEBI, through its Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC), reviewed the extent of free access and usage of data being provided in the public domain or otherwise by the respective sources of data in Indian securities market. Keeping in view the deliberations and recommendations of MDAC on this issue, all market intermediaries including the other data sources in Indian securities markets are advised that such data should be made available to users, 'free of charge' both for 'viewing' the data as also for download in the format as specified by regulatory mandate for reporting, as well as their usage for the value addition purposes.

For details :

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2022/approach-to-securities-market-data-access-and-terms-of-usage-of-data-provided-by-data-sources-in-indian-securities-market_56420.html

Automation of disclosure requirements under SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011-System Driven Disclosures - Ease of doing business (March 07, 2022)

In order to streamline the capture and dissemination of the information related to "encumbrances" and thus bring in more transparency, it has been decided that all types of encumbrances as defined under Regulation 28 (3) of Takeover Regulations shall necessarily be recorded in the depository system. With effect from June 30, 2022, the depositories shall also devise an appropriate mechanism to record all types of outstanding encumbrances in the depository system. For the purpose of dissemination of this information, the stock exchanges shall also devise an appropriate mechanism for dissemination of disclosures under System Driven Disclosures in a simple readable pdf format. Reconciliation of data shall be conducted by listed companies, stock exchanges and depositories at least once in a quarter or immediately

whenever any discrepancy is noticed. The provisions of this circular shall come into effect from July 01, 2022.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/mar-2022/automation-of-disclosure-requirements-under-sebi-substantial-acquisition-of-shares-and-takeovers-regulations-2011-system-driven-disclosures-ease-of-doing-business-_56655.html

Revision to Operational Circular for issue and listing of Non-convertible Securities, Securitised Debt Instruments, Security Receipts, Municipal Debt Securities and Commercial Paper (March 08, 2022)

SEBI vide its circular dated August 10, 2021, provided the procedures pertaining to issue and listing of Nonconvertible Securities, Securitised Debt Instruments, Security Receipts, Municipal Debt Securities and Commercial Paper. The said Circular, inter-alia, provides an option to investors to apply in public issues of debt securities with the facility to block funds through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) mechanism for application value upto Rs. 2 lakh. In order to bring about uniformity in the requirements and for ease of investment for investors, it has been decided to increase the limit for investment through UPI mechanism to Rs. 5 lakh. The provisions of this circular shall be applicable to public issues of debt securities which open on or after May 1, 2022.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/mar-2022/change-in-upi-limits-revision-to-operational-circular-for-issue-and-listing-of-non-convertible-securities-securitised-debt-instruments-security-receipts-municipal-debt-securities-and-commercial-p-_56665.html

Revision in Orders Per Second limit for algorithmic trading in Commodity Derivatives Segment of the Stock Exchange (March 17, 2022)

The limit on number of orders per second (OPS) from a particular CTCL ID/ATS User-ID is relaxed upto one hundred and twenty (120) OPS from hundred (100) OPS, for algorithmic trading in Commodity Derivatives Segment of the Stock Exchange. The limit on OPS may be further relaxed by the Stock Exchanges based on the increased peak order load observed and corresponding upgrade of infrastructure capacity to ensure that the capacity of trading system of the Stock Exchange remains at least four times the peak order load. The relaxation in limit shall be subject to approval of SEBI. The circular shall be effective from April 01, 2022.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/mar-2022/revision-in-orders-per-second-limit-for-algorithmic-trading-in-commodity-derivatives-segment-of-the-stock-exchange_56977.html

Change in control of Sponsor and/or Manager of Alternative Investment Fund involving scheme of arrangement under Companies Act, 2013 (March 23, 2022)

SEBI has streamlined the process for approval with respect to change in control of Sponsor and Manager of Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) involving a scheme of arrangement which needs sanction of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in terms of the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013. SEBI has prescribed that the application seeking approval for the proposed change in control of the Sponsor and Manager of the AIF under Regulation 20(13) of the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012 shall be filed with SEBI prior to filing the application with the NCLT. Upon being satisfied with compliance of the applicable regulatory requirements, in-principle approval will be granted by SEBI.

The validity of such in-principle approval shall be three months from the date of issuance, within which the relevant application shall be made to NCLT. The provisions of this Circular shall be applicable to all the applications for change in control of Sponsor and Manager of the AIF for which the scheme(s) of arrangement is filed with NCLT on or after April 01, 2022.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/mar-2022/change-in-control-of-sponsor-and-or-manager-of-alternative-investment-fund-involving-scheme-of-arrangement-under-companies-act-2013_57064.html

Introduction of Options on Commodity Indices - Product Design and Risk Management Framework (March 24, 2022)

In an endeavour to have more products in the Commodity Derivatives Market, SEBI has permitted recognised Stock Exchanges having a Commodity Derivative segment, to introduce options on commodity indices. The product design and risk management framework should be in conformity with the guidelines prescribed in the Annexure to this circular. The recognised Stock Exchanges with a Commodity Derivative segment, willing to introduce trading in options on commodity indices shall take prior approval of SEBI for the same.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/mar-2022/introduction-of-options-on-commodity-indices-product-design-and-risk-management-framework_57122.html

Product specifications pertaining to the Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) segment in India (March 28, 2022)

SEBI vide this circular has prescribed that any person desirous of dealing in EGR on the stock exchange shall deposit the gold with the registered Vault Managers, in the 'deposit unit', which shall be specified by the stock exchanges. The trading of EGR shall take place on stock exchanges, in the 'trading unit', which shall be specified by the stock exchanges. The stock exchanges shall ensure that trading unit is not smaller than 10th part of the corresponding deposit unit. For example: On deposit of 100gm gold bar, 1 EGR may be created of 100 gm trading unit or 10 EGRs may be created of 10gm each trading unit. Further, the 'settlement unit' of EGR shall be same as 'trading unit', which shall be specified by the stock exchanges

For details: https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/mar-2022/circular-on-product-specifications-pertaining-to-egr-segment-in-india_57235.html

Calculation of investment concentration norm for Category III AIFs (March 28, 2022)

Regulation 15(1)(d) of SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012 (“AIF Regulations”) provides the flexibility to Category III AIFs, including large value funds for accredited investors of Category III AIFs, to calculate investment concentration norm based either on investable funds or net asset value (“NAV”) of the scheme while investing in listed equity of an investee company. In this regard, it is specified that the existing Category III AIFs may opt for calculating investment concentration norm based on investable funds with the approval of their trustees or board of directors or designated partners, as the case may be, and inform the same to their investors within 30 days from the date of the issuance of this circular. Further provided that all Category III AIFs shall disclose the basis for calculation of investment concentration norm in the placement memorandum of their schemes.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/mar-2022/circular-on-calculation-of-investment-concentration-norm-for-category-iii-aifs_57249.html

Clarification on applicability of regulation 23 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 in relation to Related Party Transactions (March 30, 2022)

SEBI vide this circular has clarified that for an related party transaction (RPT) that has been approved by the audit committee and shareholders prior to April 1, 2022, there shall be no requirement to seek fresh approval from the shareholders. The RPT that has been approved by the audit committee prior to April 1, 2022 which continues beyond such date and becomes material as per the revised materiality threshold shall be placed before the shareholders in the first General Meeting held after April 1, 2022. Further, provided that the explanatory statement contained in the notice sent to the shareholders for seeking approval for an RPT shall provide relevant information so as to enable the shareholders to take a view whether the terms and conditions of the proposed RPT are not unfavorable to the listed entity, compared to the terms and conditions, had similar transaction been entered into between two unrelated parties.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/mar-2022/clarification-on-applicability-of-regulation-23-of-sebi-listing-obligations-and-disclosure-requirements-regulations-2015-in-relation-to-related-party-transactions_57398.html

Standardization of industry classification Applicability to credit rating agencies (April 01, 2022)

To bring in uniformity in the classifications being used across sectors and in securities market, SEBI has issued standardized industry classification which will be used by credit rating agencies (CRAs) for the purpose of rating exercise and research activities. It is provided that the industry classification will be applicable to CRAs with effect from October 01, 2022. In the meantime, any feedback and suggested changes by credit rating agencies shall be recalibrated by exchanges, wherever feasible.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/apr-2022/standardization-of-industry-classification-applicability-to-credit-rating-agencies-cras-_57531.html

Standardisation of Ratings Scales Used by credit rating agencies - Extension of timeline for implementation (April 01, 2022)

SEBI has extended the date of applicability of the section B of its circular no. SEBI/HO/MIRSD/MIRSD_CRADT/P/CIR/2021/594 dated July 16, 2021. It is provided that the Credit rating agencies shall ensure compliance with the requirements/ provisions of the section B of the aforesaid circular on or before June 30, 2022. In order to standardise the usage of rating scales, SEBI vide its circular dated July 16, 2021 had advised the credit rating agencies to either align their rating scales with the rating scales prescribed under the guidelines of respective financial sector regulator or in absence of the same, follow rating scales prescribed by the SEBI, by March 31, 2022.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/apr-2022/standardisation-of-ratings-scales-used-by-credit-rating-agencies-extension-of-timeline-for-implementation_57529.html

Execution of 'Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction' (DDPI) for transfer of securities towards deliveries / settlement obligations and pledging / repledging of securities (April 04, 2022)

To curb possible misuse of Power of Attorney (PoA) given by clients to stock brokers and depository participant, SEBI vide this circular has provided that the execution of DDPI will be made compulsory under which the clients shall explicitly agree to authorize the stock broker and depository participant to access their BO account for the limited purpose of meeting pay-in obligations for settlement of trades executed by them. The DDPI shall serve the same purpose of PoA and significantly mitigate the misuse of PoA. The provisions of this circular shall be applicable with effect from July 01, 2022.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/apr-2022/execution-of-demat-debit-and-pledge-instruction-ddpi-for-transfer-of-securities-towards-deliveries-settlement-obligations-and-pledging-re-pledging-of-securities_57546.html

Revision of UPI limits in Public Issue of Equity Shares and convertibles (April 05, 2022)

SEBI vide this circular has provided that all Individual Investors applying in Public Issues where the application amount is upto 5 Lakhs shall use Unified Payment Interface (UPI) and shall also provide their UPI ID in the bid-cum application form submitted with a syndicate member, stock broker, depository participant ('DP') and registrar to an issue and share transfer agent. The provisions of this circular shall come into force for Public Issues opening on or after May 01, 2022.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/apr-2022/revision-of-upi-limits-in-public-issue-of-equity-shares-and-convertibles_57589.html

Guidelines in pursuance of amendment to SEBI KYC Registration Agency (KRA) Regulations, 2011 (April 06, 2022)

SEBI has issued additional guidelines for KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs) and provided that KRAs shall continue to act as repository of KYC data in the securities market and shall be responsible for storing, safeguarding and retrieving the KYC documents and submit to the SEBI or any other statutory authority as and when required. KRAs shall independently validate records of those clients (existing as well as new) whose KYC has been completed using Aadhaar as Officially Valid Document (OVD). The validation of all KYC records (new and existing) shall commence from July 01, 2022.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/apr-2022/guidelines-in-pursuance-of-amendment-to-sebi-kyc-registration-agency-kra-regulations-2011_57676.html

Clarification on applicability of Regulation 23(4) read with Regulation 23(3)(e) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 in relation to Related Party Transactions (April 08, 2022)

In order to facilitate listed entities to align their processes to conduct AGMs and obtain omnibus shareholders' approval for material related party transactions (RPTs), it has been specified that the shareholders' approval of omnibus RPTs approved in an AGM shall be valid upto the date of the next AGM for a period not exceeding fifteen months. In case of omnibus approvals for material RPTs, obtained from shareholders in general meetings other than AGMs, the validity of such omnibus approvals shall not exceed one year.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/apr-2022/clarification-on-applicability-of-regulation-23-4-read-with-regulation-23-3-e-of-the-sebi-listing-obligations-and-disclosure-requirements-regulations-2015-in-relation-to-related-party-transactio-_57807.html

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for dispute resolution available under the stock exchange arbitration mechanism for disputes between a listed company and its shareholder(s)/ investor(s) (April 08, 2022)

SEBI advised stock exchanges to put in place, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) by June 01, 2022, for operationalizing the resolution of all disputes pertaining to or emanating from investor services such as transfer/transmission of shares, demat/remat, issue of duplicate shares, transposition of holders, etc. and investor entitlements like corporate benefits, dividend, bonus shares, rights entitlements, credit of securities in public issue, interest /coupon payments on securities, etc. Further, in respect of disputes in above matters where Registrar and Share Transfer Agents (RTA) are offering services to shareholder(s)/ investor(s) on behalf of listed companies, the RTAs shall continue to be subjected to the stock exchange arbitration mechanism.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/apr-2022/standard-operating-procedures-sop-for-dispute-resolution-available-under-the-stock-exchange-arbitration-mechanism-for-disputes-between-a-listed-company-and-its-shareholder-s-investor-s-_57805.html

Comprehensive Risk Management Framework for Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) segment (April 11, 2022)

SEBI has prescribed the risk management framework applicable to the EGR segment on the recognized Stock Exchange in Annexure A to this circular. Government of India vide Gazette notification S.O. 5401 (E) dated December 24, 2021, has notified “electronic gold receipts” as ‘securities’ under Section 2(h)(iia) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act 1956, and vide Gazette notification dated December 31, 2021, SEBI (Vault Managers) Regulations, 2021, have been notified, paving the way for operationalization of Gold Exchange.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/apr-2022/comprehensive-risk-management-framework-for-electronic-gold-receipts-egr-segment_57925.html

Risk value of commodities for risk-o-meter (April 11, 2022)

SEBI has prescribed a new framework for evaluating risk value of commodities - gold and gold related instruments in which mutual funds are permitted to invest. It is provided that investment in commodities by mutual fund schemes shall be assigned a risk score corresponding to the annualized volatility of the price of the said commodity. The annualized volatility shall be computed quarterly based on past 15 years’ prices of benchmark index of the said commodity and risk score for the commodity will be categorized in four levels ranging from “moderate” to “very high”.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/apr-2022/circular-on-risk-value-of-commodities-for-risk-o-meter_57913.html

SEBI News

LIC IPO: DHRP filed with SEBI, govt to offload 5% stake (February 14, 2022)

The government will sell 5 per cent of its stake in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), through an initial public offering (IPO), of which 100 per cent is offer for sale. LIC filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the market regulator SEBI, thus setting the wheels in motion for the country's largest-ever IPO. In the DRHP filed with the market's regulator SEBI, LIC has said that the government will offload 316.25 million shares of its over 6,325 million shares. The government owns 100 percent of LIC.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/the-big-bet-lic-files-ipo-papers-with-sebi-govt-to-offload-5-stake-122021400034_1.html

MoF officials meet NSE chief, discuss SEBI order on lapses, Ramkrishna's role (February 17, 2022)

National Stock Exchange (NSE) chief Vikram Limaye met senior finance ministry officials to discuss recent probe findings of the market watchdog on various lapses at the exchange. In its final order on February 11, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) held that NSE's former MD and CEO Chitra Ramkrishna shared "confidential information" with a spiritual guru (also referred to as Himalayan yogi) and sought his advice on crucial decision.

For details:

<https://vivetimes.com/national-stock-exchange-mof-officials-meet-nse-chief-discuss-sebi-order-on-lapses-ramkrishnas-role/>

NSE's 2016 DRHP filing made only a brief reference to Anand Subramanian (February 17, 2022)

The country's largest bourse NSE had filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in December 2016. The filing for its Rs 10,000-crore IPO came in less than two months of Anand Subramanian stepping down as Group Operating Officer and Advisor to MD and within weeks of then MD & CEO Chitra Ramkrishna's resignation. She quit in the wake of the colocation scandal and due to alleged irregularities over appointment and elevation of Subramanian. The DRHP, which is supposed to enlist all the key risk factors, has only a brief mention about Subramanian. The DRHP is silent on the frequent reminders sent by SEBI to NSE seeking a report on Subramanian.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/nse-s-2016-drhp-filing-made-only-a-brief-reference-to-anand-subramanian-122021701050_1.html

SAT quashes SEBI order against HDFC Bank for invoking pledged shares (February 21, 2022)

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has quashed an order issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) against HDFC Bank for invoking shares pledged by broker BRH Wealth Advisor. On January 21, 2021, the market regulator imposed a penalty of Rs. 1 crore on the private sector lender for flouting directions passed in an interim order dated October 07, 2019. SEBI also directed HDFC Bank to deposit Rs. 159 crore along with 7 per cent interest. HDFC Bank had challenged the SEBI directions before SAT. The SAT judgement is critical as there are other lenders who have filed appeals in identical cases.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sat-quashes-sebi-order-against-hdfc-bank-for-invoking-pledged-shares-122022101268_1.html

NSE case: Hunt for final beneficiaries begins (February 23, 2022)

Government agencies would attempt to unravel the Ultimate Beneficial Ownerships (UBOs) of favoured brokerages and their big clients to trace the men who made a killing when the co-location system of the India's largest bourse National Stock Exchange (NSE) was gamed. This would require identifying the last natural person behind the brokerages and investment entities whose money they were handling. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Income Tax department are currently probing the matter. Other agencies may join if there are hints of possible money laundering transactions.

For details:

<https://theoutreach.in/nse-case-nse-case-hunt-for-final-beneficiaries-begins/>
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/hunt-for-final-beneficiaries-begins-in-nse-case/articleshow/89760787.cms>

Tech cos going public, ESG key challenges to capital markets: SEBI chief (February 24, 2022)

SEBI chief Mr. Ajay Tyagi said that the increasing trend of new age technology companies, which are generally loss making, accessing public market is a key challenge to the capital markets. In addition, the flourishing landscape of ESG (environment, social, governance) investments is another major challenge to the capital markets due to absence of uniform ESG evaluation matrices. Also, the regulator is in the process of notifying the detailed modalities for the proposed Social Stock Exchange, a platform for listing social enterprises and voluntary organisations so that they can raise capital.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/tech-cos-going-public-esg-key-challenges-to-capital-markets-sebi-chief-122022400937_1.html

Madhabi Puri Buch appointed as SEBI chairperson (February 28, 2022)

Madhabi Puri Buch has been named the chairperson of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the first woman to head the capital market regulator as the tenure of incumbent Ajay Tyagi ends on February 28. Madhabi Puri Buch, a former SEBI Whole Time Member, was previously nominated to lead a new technology committee set up by the market regulator. She was not only the first woman as WTM of SEBI, but also the first person from the private sector as well. She started her career with ICICI Bank, went on to become MD and CEO at ICICI Securities from Feb 2009 to May 2011.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/markets/madhabi-puri-buch-appointed-as-sebi-chairperson-8172711.html>

SEBI has made representations to the Government on Crypto Regulations (March 02, 2022)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has made representations to the Government on the regulation of cryptocurrencies in India, former Chairman Shri. Ajay Tyagi said at a media briefing on March 2, 2022. He has vacated the post of SEBI chairman after a five-year stint and is succeeded by former whole-time director Madhabi Puri Buch. The former chairman said that starting from November, the capital market regulator was in discussion with the government and has made several representations. The government has been working on a bill on cryptocurrencies. According to media reports, the bill may pave the way for treating cryptocurrencies as digital assets to be regulated by the capital market regulator but may ban them as a medium of exchange.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/cryptocurrency/sebi-has-made-representations-to-government-on-crypto-regulations-former-chief-8183791.html>

SEBI Seeks Clarity on Foreign Participation in Social Stock Bourse (March 07, 2022)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has sought clarity from the Ministry of Home Affairs on the participation of foreign entities in the proposed Social Stock Exchange (SSE). People with direct knowledge of the matter said the market regulator has asked the ministry if foreign entities can invest in SSE-listed entities. It has also asked whether such investment will be construed as “speculative activity”. Currently, there is no restriction on foreign fund participation in the regular stock markets. However, entities listed on the SSE deal in voluntary work and other social projects. Foreign contributions for such organisations normally fall under the purview of Foreign Contribution Regulations (FCRR), which places various curbs and additional compliance requirements on entities receiving donations from foreign institutions. SEBI has now asked the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) if the same restrictions will apply on entities listed on social stock exchanges.

For details:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-61444444>

SEBI orders Dish TV to declare AGM voting results within 24 hours (March 07, 2022)

Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on March 7, ordered Dish TV India Ltd to declare its annual general meeting (AGM) voting results, held on December 30, in the next 24 hours. The regulator also directed depositories to freeze Demat accounts of the directors and compliance officer of the company immediately until AGM voting results are disclosed to stock exchanges or till further orders, whichever is earlier. The regulator also issued show cause notice to its promoter and directors of the company. The order came after SEBI received complaints from Yes Bank and other shareholders, alleging that Dish TV has wrongfully withheld the results of voting on various proposals put forth in the AGM.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/companies/sebi-orders-dish-tv-to-declare-agm-voting-results-within-24-hours-8203511.html>

Dish TV India to challenge in SAT the SEBI order to disclose outcome of December AGM (March 08, 2022)

Dish TV India Ltd told exchanges that it will challenge in the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) order on disclosing the outcome of the annual general meeting held in December. The market regulator on March 7, 2022 ordered Dish TV India to disclose the results of the annual general meeting (AGM) voting held on December 30 within the next 24 hours. The regulator directed depositories to freeze demat accounts of the directors and compliance officer of the company immediately until AGM voting results were disclosed to exchanges or till further orders, whichever was earlier. The regulator said that the company had to show cause also why further appropriate directions should not be issued against it for alleged nondisclosure to stock exchanges and ignoring SEBI's advisory and the Bombay High Court order.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/markets/dish-tv-india-to-challenge-in-sat-the-sebi-order-to-disclose-outcome-of-december-agm-8206271.html>

SAT declines to stay SEBI's observations against Dish TV, asks for reply by March 20 (March 09, 2022)

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), on March 9, declined to stay the prima facie observations by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) against satellite service provider Dish TV's independent directors, board and compliance officer. SAT said that, since the company's annual general meeting (AGM) voting results got declared, appeal on that ground had become infructuous and that it did not find any reason to stay such remarks. The tribunal also asked Dish TV to file its reply by March 20 in the matter against SEBI's March 7 order that directed Dish TV India Ltd to declare its annual general meeting (AGM) voting results, held on December 30.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/companies/sat-declines-to-stay-sebis-observations-against-dish-tv-asks-for-reply-by-march-20-8210911.html>

SBI Managing Director Ashwani Bhatia appointed SEBI whole-time member (March 09, 2022)

Ashwani Bhatia, who is the managing director of State Bank of India (SBI) has been appointed as a whole-time member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a period of three years. In August 2020, Bhatia was appointed as the Managing Director of SBI till the date of his superannuation, i.e., May 31 2022. Before that, he was working as the managing director and chief executive officer of SBI Mutual Fund.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/sbi-managing-director-ashwani-bhatia-appointed-sebi-whole-time-member-8213311.html>

Government has time till May 12 to float LIC issue without fresh SEBI nod (March 13, 2022)

LIC is yet to decide on the offer price for the listing, but the IPO is poised to be the largest in Indian stock market history and is crucial for the Centre to meet its Rs 78,000 crore divestment target for FY22. The government has time till May 12 to launch the initial public offering (IPO) of LIC without filing fresh papers with market regulator SEBI, an official said. The government's sale of about 31.6 crore shares or 5 per cent stake in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), which was estimated to fetch around Rs 60,000 crore to the exchequer, was originally planned to be launched in March, but the Russia-Ukraine crisis has derailed the plans as stock markets are highly volatile. On February 13, the government filed the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) for the IPO with SEBI, which granted its approval for the same last week.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/ipo/government-can-launch-lic-ipo-before-may-12-without-seeking-fresh-sebi-approval-8226521.html>

SEBI slaps Rs 5 lakh penalty on Future Enterprises over disclosure norms (March 14, 2022)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Future Enterprises (FEL) for violation of disclosure norms pertaining to arbitration proceedings before the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC). On October 5, 2020, Amazon initiated arbitration proceedings against the Future Group before the SIAC with respect to its deal with Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries. Later on October 25, 2020, the SIAC passed an interim order in favour of Amazon. FEL, which is listed both on NSE and BSE, on both occasions didn't make any stock exchange disclosure.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/sebi-slaps-rs-5-lakh-penalty-on-future-enterprises-over-disclosure-norms-122031401346_1.html

SEBI comes out with clarifications on transactions in mutual funds units (March 15, 2022)

SEBI came out with certain clarifications on transactions in the units of mutual funds and has also given guidelines for authentication in case of redemption of units. The clarifications pertain to transactions in units of mutual funds on stock exchange platforms and also for entities including online platforms other than exchanges. A circular issued in October 2021 had said that stock brokers and clearing members shall not accept payment through one-time mandate or issuance of mandates or instruments in their name for mutual fund transactions. However, now the regulator has said onetime mandates in favour of SEBI-recognised clearing corporations may be accepted. It further said existing mandates being used for mutual fund transactions can continue to remain in the name of the stock brokers / clearing members, subject to the condition that they ensure that payment aggregators (PA) put in place mechanisms wherein the beneficiary of the mandate can only be an approved account.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/markets/sebi-comes-out-with-clarifications-on-transactions-in-mutual-funds-units-8235791.html>

TV anchor gets interim relief as SAT stays SEBI order on Rs 3.9 cr deposit (March 15, 2022)

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has stayed directions passed by market regulator SEBI against television anchor Hemant Ghai to deposit Rs 3.9 crore, allegedly made unlawfully. The order dated February 3, 2022 directing the appellant to deposit a further amount towards the alleged unlawful gains amounting to Rs 3,90,67,921 shall remain stayed till the next date of listing, the tribunal said while adjourning the matter to March 24. It was observed that Jaya Hemant Ghai (wife) and Shyam Mohini Ghai (mother) have undertaken a large number of Buy-Today-Sell-Tomorrow (BTST) trades during the relevant period in synchronisation with the recommendations made in the Show. Shares were bought on the previous day to the recommendations being made on the stock 20-20 show and sold immediately on the recommendation day, said SEBI in an order last year.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/tv-anchor-gets-temporary-relief-as-sat-stays-sebi-order-on-rs-3-9-cr-deposit-122031501052_1.html

SEBI bars DCHL promoters, 2 others from securities market for up to 2 years (March 24, 2022)

Capital markets regulator SEBI has barred the promoters of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd (DCHL) from the securities market for a period ranging from one year to two years as well as imposed penalties totalling Rs. 8.20 crore for various violations. The directions passed against them through an order for fraudulent activities, understatement of loans by DCHL in its financial statements for the fiscal year 2008-09 to 2011-12 and violations of regulations. DCHL and its promoters have kept the investors in the dark about the increase in their shareholding on account of buyback of shares of the firm.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-bars-dchl-promoters-2-others-from-securities-market-for-up-to-2-yrs-122032300983_1.html

SEBI imposes Rs 5 lakh penalty on Axis Bank for violating merchant banking norms (March 24, 2022)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on March 24, 2022 imposed a Rs 5-lakh fine on Axis Bank for violating merchant banking norms. SEBI conducted an examination of debt market operations of Axis Bank between August 2016 to August 2019 and found the bank to be in violation of provisions of Regulation 27 of SEBI (Merchant Bankers) Regulations, 1992. The market regulator said Axis Bank during the course of a three-year period, while acting as a merchant banker for 22 entities, subscribed to debt papers of nine companies without informing SEBI about the same 15 days from date of investment, as is the norm.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/banks/sebi-imposes-rs-5-lakh-penalty-on-axis-bank-for-violating-merchant-banking-norms-8271271.html>

SEBI penalises three individuals for violations in Titan share trades (March 25, 2022)

Markets regulator SEBI on March 25, 2022 imposed penalties of Rs 1 lakh each on three individuals for violation of insider trading norms in the shares of Titan Company Ltd during the April, 2018 to March, 2019 period when they were designated employees. SEBI had conducted an investigation into the shares of Titan after it was intimated about contravention of prohibition of insider trading regulations and the company's code of conduct for prevention of insider trading by some of its designated persons/ employees. During their employment with Titan, they had transacted in the securities of Titan Company Ltd but failed to make the requisite disclosures to the firm as required under the prohibition of insider trading norms.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/sebi-penalises-three-individuals-for-violations-in-titan-share-trades-122032500999_1.html

SMSes pertaining to FPO not issued by the company, says Ruchi Soya (March 29, 2022)

Ruchi Soya Industries has said that the SMSes pertaining to investments in its follow-on public offering (FPO) have not been issued by the company or its promoters. The company has filed a first information report to investigate the origin of the messages doing the rounds on social media. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed Ruchi Soya Industries to give the investors who participated in its Rs 4,300-crore follow-on public offering (FPO) the option to withdraw their bids due to “circulation of unsolicited SMSes advertising the issue”.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/smses-pertaining-to-fpo-not-issued-by-the-company-says-ruchi-soya-122032900102_1.html

CII urges SEBI to defer rules for related party transactions (March 30, 2022)

Industry body the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) urged the market regulator SEBI to defer the introduction of amendments to the related party transaction rules by at least six months and sought a detailed deliberation on the regulations given their far-reaching impact on the business environment. The new rules are set to come into effect from April 1. One of the key concerns raised by the industry body is over the threshold being changed to mean that listed entities need to seek prior approval of the shareholders for all related party transactions exceeding ` 1,000 crore or 10% of the firm's consolidated annual turnover, whichever is lower.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/cii-urges-sebi-to-defer-rules-for-related-party-transactions/articleshow/90529942.cms>

SEBI issues operational guidelines for covenant monitoring with DLT (March 29, 2022)

Markets watchdog SEBI issued the operational guidelines for security and covenant monitoring using Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT). In August 2021, the regulator had specified the manner of recording of charges by issuers and manner of monitoring by Debenture Trustees (DTs) and Credit Rating Agencies, among others. The DLT system would provide an alert to the issuer and the DT by having appropriate validation/ duplicate checks in the system for identifying possible duplicate entries for assets of an issuer.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-issues-operational-guidelines-for-covenant-monitoring-with-dlt-122032901511_1.html

Frequently Asked Questions on SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 (March 30, 2022)

SEBI has issued Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 (SAST Regulations, 2011). These FAQs offer a simplistic explanation/clarification of terms/concepts related to the SAST Regulations, 2011.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebi_data/faqfiles/mar-2022/1648620806406.pdf

SEBI issues timelines for rebalancing portfolios of mutual fund schemes (March 30, 2022)

Markets regulator SEBI on March 30, 2022 came out with timelines for rebalancing of portfolios of mutual fund schemes in order to bring uniformity. Issuing a circular, the watchdog said the rebalancing period will be applicable in the event of deviation from mandated asset allocation mentioned in the Scheme Information Document (SID) due to passive breaches. Passive breaches are generally that have not arisen due to omission and commission of Asset Management Companies (AMCs). The mandated rebalancing period for all mutual fund schemes, except Index Funds and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) is 30 business days.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-issues-timelines-for-rebalancing-portfolios-of-mutual-fund-schemes-122033001152_1.html

SEBI bans mutual fund scheme launches till pool accounts are discontinued (April 01, 2022)

The capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred the launch of mutual fund schemes till at July 01, 2022. The markets watchdog had asked mutual fund houses to ensure that no distributor, online platform, stockbroker or investment advisor pools investors' money in a bank account and then transfer it to the fund house for purchasing units of schemes for those investors. This is to ensure that the money does not get misused. The regulator asked the mutual fund industry to implement this from April 1, 2022.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/personal-finance/sebi-bans-mutual-fund-scheme-launches-till-pool-accounts-are-discontinued-8304451.html>

SEBI slaps Rs. 51 lakh penalties on 18 entities in ATL case (March 31, 2022)

SEBI imposed penalties totalling Rs. 51 lakh on 18 entities, including individuals, for misutilisation of IPO funds and certain other lapses with respect to the shares of Acropetal Technologies Ltd (ATL). ATL raised Rs 170 crore through an Initial Public Offering (IPO) in February 2011. SEBI initiated a preliminary investigation into the company's IPO in February 2012 and later an extensive probe was conducted to ascertain whether there were any violations of regulations.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-slaps-rs-51-lakh-penalties-on-18-entities-in-atl-case-122033101539_1.html

SEBI invites application to hire digital forensic services provider (April 05, 2022)

Capital markets regulator SEBI is planning to hire an agency that will provide assistance to its search team for onsite data acquisition during search and seizure operations. In this regard, SEBI has invited applications from eligible service providers experienced in digital forensic services for acquisition, extraction and analysis of digital evidence from mobile, computers, and tablets, among others, on an ongoing basis. This comes in the backdrop of the SEBI crackdown against entities allegedly involved in a front-running scam using messaging app Telegram. Recently, the regulator carried out a search and seizure operation at the premises of several entities in multiple locations across the country in the matter.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-invites-application-to-hire-digital-forensic-services-provider-122040500693_1.html

Cabinet approves signing of Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Securities and Exchange Board of India and Financial Regulatory Commission, Mongolia (April 08, 2022)

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on April 08, 2022, has approved the proposal for signing a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Financial Regulatory Commission, Mongolia (FRC). FRC, like SEBI, is a co-signatory to International Organization of Securities Commissions' Multilateral MoU (IOSCO MMoU). However, the IOSCO MMoU does not have under its scope the provision for technical assistance. The proposed bilateral MoU would, in addition to contributing towards strengthening the information sharing framework leading to effective enforcement of securities laws, also help in establishing a technical assistance programme. The technical assistance programme would benefit the Authorities by way of consultations on matters relating to capital markets, capacity building activities and training programmes for the staff.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1814819>

PACL case: SEBI panel asks investors to submit original registration certificates for refund (April 12, 2022)

A high-powered SEBI committee on April 12, 2022 asked investors in illegal schemes of PACL to submit their original registration certificates till June 30, 2022 only after receiving an SMS from the panel. This is applicable only for those investors whose claim money is between Rs 10,001 and Rs 15,000 and whose applications have been verified. The markets regulator had set up a committee headed by former Chief Justice of India R M Lodha following a Supreme Court order to refund money to investors in the matter of PACL Group.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/pacl-case-sebi-panel-asks-investors-to-submit-original-registration-certificates-for-refund/articleshow/90801681.cms>

SEBI rejigs advisory panel on leveraging regulatory, technology solutions (April 20, 2022)

SEBI has reconstituted its advisory committee, which provides guidance on enhancing the regulator's technological capabilities and on exploring appropriate technological solutions for early detection of market anomalies. The Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALERTS) will now be headed by Sunil Bajpai, former Principal Advisor (Information Technology) at the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The terms of reference for the committee include recommending future roadmaps and improvements in the various on-going technology projects along with guiding the regulator in designing and framing requirements for the various in-house systems.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sebi-rejigs-advisory-panel-on-leveraging-regulatory-and-technology-solutions-122041900936_1.html

SEBI Press Releases

Union Finance Minister addresses Board Members of SEBI (February 15, 2022)

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, interacted with the members of the SEBI Board at New Delhi on February 15, 2022. Shri Ajay Tyagi, Chairman, SEBI, welcomed the Hon'ble Finance Minister and briefed about the major trends and outlook of Indian securities market, including fund raising activity, increased participation of individual investors, etc. Hon'ble Finance Minister, in her address, while appreciating the initiatives taken by SEBI emphasized the need for the regulator to take further steps to reduce compliance burden, reduce cost of market intermediation, take more investor protection measures, further develop the corporate bond market, develop green bond market in the context of increasing focus on ESG investment, initiate next generation of reforms to improve ease of doing business and be prepared for the possible market turbulence on account of US Fed actions.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/feb-2022/union-finance-minister-addresses-board-members-of-sebi_56074.html

Separation of role of Chairperson and MD/CEO (February 15, 2022)

Considering constraints posed by the prevailing pandemic situation and with a view to enabling the companies to plan for a smoother transition, as a way forward, SEBI Board, in its meeting decided that the provision for separation of role of Chairperson and MD/CEO may not be retained as a mandatory requirement and instead be made applicable to the listed entities on a "voluntary basis". Earlier, the top 500 listed companies by market capitalisation had to mandatorily separate the role of the Chairperson and MD/CEO from April 01, 2022, following the two years extension given by the SEBI. The SEBI Board, in its meeting of March 2018, had considered and approved the proposal relating to separation of the role of Chairperson and MD/CEO of listed companies.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/feb-2022/sebi-board-meeting_56076.html

SEBI conducts search and seizure operations in multiple locations across country; SEBI cautions investors not to rely on unsolicited investment tips received through Social Media platforms (March 10, 2022)

SEBI established that the administrators of a Telegram channel having a large subscriber base enticed the subscribers to act upon recommendations that were circulated by those administrators on the channel, leading to significant price and volume impact in various scrips. These administrators had built substantial positions in these scrips prior to the circulation of recommendations and offloaded their positions subsequent to rise in price of these scrips making significant profits at the expense of unsuspecting investors. In this backdrop, SEBI, once again, cautions investors not to rely on such investment tips / advice received through social

media platforms. It is also advised that investors should exercise utmost caution while taking investment decisions while dealing in the securities market.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/mar-2022/sebi-conducts-search-and-seizure-operations-in-multiple-locations-across-country-sebi-cautions-investors-not-to-rely-on-unsolicited-investment-tips-received-through-social-media-platforms_56745.html

“Manthan” - SEBI Ideathon to promote innovation in the Securities Market (March 30, 2022)

Ms. Madhabi Puri Buch, Chairperson, SEBI launched “Manthan” - SEBI Ideathon, at a function held in Mumbai on March 30, 2022. Launching the Ideathon, Ms. Buch highlighted that adoption of Financial Technology (FinTech) in the securities market presents significant opportunities for stakeholders. The focus of Manthan is on ideation, that it is SEBI’s belief that every single idea is worth evaluating - participants are encouraged to bring out any idea, even those which may not be achievable immediately. As part of the Ideathon, interactive knowledge sharing sessions will be organized for registered participants through webinars to facilitate the submission of strong and truly innovative ideas. The event is open for registration from March 30, 2022 to May 14, 2022. All interested participants are invited to register at <https://manthan.devfolio.co/>

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/mar-2022/-manthan-sebi-ideathon-to-promote-innovation-in-the-securities-market_57401.html

SEBI constitutes committee on Strengthening of Governance of Market Infrastructure Institutions (April 04, 2022)

SEBI has constituted an ad-hoc committee on April 04, 2022, for reviewing and making recommendations for further strengthening of governance norms at Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs). The terms of reference of the Committee include making recommendations on measures for strengthening the role played by the Governing Board and Committees of MIIs, reviewing the requirements related to appointment and role & responsibility of Directors on the Board and Key Managerial Persons (KMPs), developing effective metrics for monitoring various aspects of the functioning of MIIs and KMPs, enhancing accountability and transparency, reviewing the policy on safekeeping and sharing of information held by MIIs, revisiting the Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics for Directors of the Governing Board and KMPs and any other measures that the committee may consider appropriate.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/apr-2022/sebi-constitutes-committee-on-strengthening-of-governance-of-market-infrastructure-institutions_57564.html

SEBI Constitutes Working Groups for Mutual Funds (April 08, 2022)

SEBI has constituted a Working Group under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. Balasubramanian, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Limited and Chairman, AMFI. The terms of reference of the Working Group, inter alia, are to recommend an alternative set of eligibility criteria for entities to act as Sponsor; to review the existing eligibility requirements for being a Sponsor; to recommend mechanisms for addressing conflict of interest that may arise if pooled investment vehicles/ private equity act as Sponsor; and to examine the need for sponsor to dilute its stake in asset management company from the existing requirement of holding at least 40% of the net worth and the alternative pathways that may be adopted by the sponsors in this regard.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/apr-2022/sebi-constitutes-working-groups-for-mutual-funds_57780.html

SEBI issues operational guidelines for “Security and Covenant Monitoring using Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)” (April 18, 2022)

In order to strengthen the process of security creation and monitoring of security created, asset cover and covenants of the non-convertible securities, SEBI vide circular dated August 13, 2021 had specified the manner of recording of charges by Issuers and manner of monitoring by Debenture Trustees (DTs), Credit Rating Agencies, etc. and responsibilities thereof. Accordingly, with effect from April 01, 2022, the recording of asset details (and their verification), allotment, listing and payment of interest or redemption shall be available in the DLT system. Operational guidelines in this regard have been issued vide SEBI circular dated March 29, 2022. To ensure uniqueness of the assets of the issuer offered as security, appropriate validation/ duplicate checks based on parameters identified for each asset type have been put in place in the system. The said system is applicable to all the issuers proposing to issue non-convertible securities on or after April 01, 2022 and they shall record the details in the system before activation of ISIN.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/apr-2022/sebi-issues-operational-guidelines-for-security-and-covenant-monitoring-using-distributed-ledger-technology-dlt-_58133.html

SEBI Consultation Paper

Disclosures for ‘Basis of Issue Price’ section in offer document under SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018 (February 18, 2022)

SEBI has placed a consultation paper for public comments on Disclosures for ‘Basis of Issue Price’ section in offer document under SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018. Apart from disclosing the financial ratios as per the extant requirements, the Issuer Company shall also make the disclosures on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of the business of the Issuer Company that have been considered / have a bearing for arriving at the basis of issue price. The comments may be sent latest by March 05, 2022.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/reports-and-statistics/reports/feb-2022/consultation-paper-on-disclosures-for-basis-of-issue-price-section-in-offer-document-under-sebi-issue-of-capital-and-disclosure-requirements-regulations-2018_56218.html

Extension of timeline for submission of public comments on the Consultation Paper for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Rating Providers for Securities Markets (March 10, 2022)

SEBI has extended the timeline for submission of comments on the consultation paper for ESG Rating Providers for Securities Markets. The said comments may be offered in the prescribed format upto April 10, 2022.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/reports-and-statistics/reports/mar-2022/extension-of-timeline-for-submission-of-public-comments-on-the-consultation-paper-for-environmental-social-and-governance-esg-rating-providers-for-securities-markets_56747.html

Review of determination of Offer Price in case of disinvestment of PSU Companies (March 25, 2022)

SEBI has placed a consultation paper for public comments on Review of determination of Offer Price in case of disinvestment of Public Sector Undertaking companies (“PSU”). The objective of this consultation paper is to seek comments from the public on the proposal to relax certain provision with regard to determination of open offer price in case of divestment of PSU by the Central Government and/or State Government. The comments may be sent latest by April 15, 2022 in the prescribed format.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/reports-and-statistics/reports/mar-2022/review-of-determination-of-offer-price-in-case-of-disinvestment-of-psu-companies_57186.html

Streamlining the Timelines followed in Open Offers and Buy-back Tender offers (March 25, 2022)

SEBI has placed a consultation paper to seek comments / views from various stakeholders on procedure followed with respect to the timelines of various activities involved in Open Offers and Buy-back offers in terms of SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 and SEBI (Buyback of Securities) Regulations, 2018 respectively. The proposed changes in the timelines of procedural activities would help reduce the overall time taken for completion of Open Offer from 62 working days to 42 working days and overall time for completion of Buyback from 43 working days to 36 working days, which would be investor-friendly and make the process more efficient. The comments may be sent latest by April 15, 2022 in the prescribed format.

For details:

https://www.sebi.gov.in/reports-and-statistics/reports/mar-2022/streamlining-the-timelines-followed-in-open-offers-and-buyback-tender-offers_57185.html

Notifications

SEBI (Stock Brokers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022 (February 23, 2022)

SEBI vide its notification dated February 23, 2022, has notified the SEBI (Stock Brokers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022, which shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. Vide this amendment, a new clause “professional clearing member” has been inserted in regulation 2(1)(ca) which means a member having clearing and settlement rights in any recognized clearing corporation, but not having trading rights in any recognized stock exchange.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/233700.pdf>

SEBI (Depositories and Participations) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022(February 23, 2022)

SEBI vide its notification dated February 23, 2022, has notified the SEBI (Depositories and Participants) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022, which shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. In regulation 35(a)(viii) of the SEBI (Depositories and Participants) Regulations, 2018, related to consideration of application for grant of certificate of registration of depository participant, the first, second and third provisos have been substituted. It has been provided that the stock broker shall have a net worth of rupees three crores {within one year of the date of notification of the SEBI (Depositories and Participants) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022}, which shall be increased to rupees five crores {within two years of the date of notification of the SEBI (Depositories and Participants) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022}. Provided further that a self-clearing member fulfilling the net worth requirements as provided under the SEBI (Stock Brokers) Regulations, 1992 shall also be eligible to register as a depository participant.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/233692.pdf>

SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2022 (March 16, 2022)

SEBI has notified the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2022, which shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. Vide this notification, it is provided that Category III Alternative Investment Funds shall invest not more than ten per cent of the investable funds in an Investee Company, directly or through investment in units of other Alternative Investment Funds and the large value funds for accredited investors of Category III Alternative Investment Funds may invest up to twenty per cent of the investable funds in an Investee Company, directly or through investment in units of other Alternative Investment Funds.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/234253.pdf>

SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2022 (March 22, 2022)

SEBI, vide its notification dated March 22, 2022, has amended the provisions of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, which shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. SEBI vide this notification has omitted the regulation 17(1B) related to separation of role of Chairperson and MD/CEO. It is provided that this provision may not be retained as a mandatory requirement and instead be made applicable to the listed entities on a voluntary basis.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/234379.pdf>

1. **SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022**
2. **SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2022**
3. **SEBI (Debenture Trustees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022**

SEBI, vide its notifications, has amended the provisions of SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021, SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and SEBI (Debenture Trustee) Regulations, 1993, to align the framework and terminology with respect to 'security cover' wherein the term 'asset cover' has been substituted with term 'security cover' in SEBI (Debenture Trustee) Regulations, 1993, and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. Further, it is prescribed that the maintenance of security cover is sufficient to discharge both principal and interest thereon in SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. Furthermore, references with respect to disclosure of credit ratings have been rationalized and due diligence certificate for unsecured debt securities has been prescribed in SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/235031.pdf>

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/235034.pdf>

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/235035.pdf>

Appointment of Shri Ashwani Bhatia as Whole Time Member, Securities and Exchange Board of India (March 22, 2022)

The Central Government appointed Shri Ashwani Bhatia, Managing Director, State Bank of India as Whole Time Member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, initially for a period of 03 years from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/234381.pdf>

General Law

Info Capsule Series 11

Parliament passes criminal procedure (identification) bill (April 06, 2022)

The Parliament on Wednesday passed a bill that seeks to make the investigation of crime more expeditious and increase the conviction rate. The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022, bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on Wednesday after a reply by Home Minister Amit Shah. The bill was passed by Lok Sabha on April 4. Amit Shah said the purpose of the bill is to decrease the crime rate, increase the rate of conviction of criminals and boost the security of the country. The Minister said the bill will not compromise the privacy of any individual and that the rules of the Act will be notified after proper scrutiny. "Our law is 'bachha' (nothing) in terms of strictness as compared to other nations. There are more stringent laws in countries like South Africa, UK, Australia, Canada and the US, which is why their conviction rate is better," he said. Shah said the Bill is about safeguarding the "human rights of the victims of crimes, and not just criminals."

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/parliament-passes-criminal-procedure-identification-bill-122040601437_1.html

NCLT

Info Capsule Series 11

Amazon dispute : Supreme Court allows Future to move Delhi High Court for Reliance merger proceedings (February 16, 2022)

The Supreme Court allowed Future Retail (FRL) to approach the Delhi High Court for seeking approval to resume proceedings for its Rs. 24,731 crore merger deal with Reliance Retail before the National Company Law Tribunal beyond the stage of meeting of shareholders and creditors. A bench led by Chief Justice NV Raman granted this liberty in view of FRL's submissions that continuation of the NCLT proceedings for grant of final approval to the proposed merger scheme will not adversely affect Amazon in any manner. Accordingly, it asked the single judge of the HC to consider all the contentions and pass appropriate order as to continuation of the NCLT proceedings and other regulatory approvals expeditiously.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/amazon-dispute-supreme-court-allows-future-to-move-delhi-high-court-for-reliance-merger-proceedings/2435049/>

Insolvency and Bankruptcy

Info Capsule Series 11

HDIL insolvency: RP gets 16 resolution plans from 9 bidders (February 18, 2022)

Crisis-hit realty firm Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd. (HDIL), which is facing insolvency proceedings, on February 18, 2022 said its resolution professional has received 16 bids from nine applicants to acquire the company. HDIL is under Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) pursuant to the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. The Mumbai bench of NCLT had directed to initiate insolvency proceedings against HDIL, after allowing the plea filed by Bank of India, claiming default of a loan of Rs. 522 crore by the realty firm.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/hdil-insolvency-rp-gets-16-resolution-plans-from-9-bidders-122021801271_1.html

Sintex lenders to seek extra time from NCLT to complete resolution process (February 21, 2022)

Lenders of Sintex Industries will approach the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to seek an extension of time for the completion of the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) and select a bidder for the debt-ridden textiles maker. The Committee of Creditors (CoC) in a meeting held on February 21, 2022 "discussed and approved the proposal for extension of CIRP period beyond 330 days", Sintex Industries said in a regulatory filing.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/sintex-lenders-to-seek-extra-time-from-nclt-to-complete-resolution-process-122022101172_1.html

Zee asks NCLT to dismiss IndusInd's insolvency plea (February 23, 2022)

Zee Entertainment Enterprises (Zee) has filed an application in the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), seeking dismissal of IndusInd Bank's insolvency petition against the company. Zee said it is seeking an "outright dismissal/rejection" of the petition at the threshold inter alia on the ground that "filing of the said company petition by IndusInd Bank is an act in breach/violation" of the orders dated February 25, 2021, and December 03, 2021, passed by the Delhi High Court in proceedings instituted by the company against the private bank.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/media/entertainment/media/zee-asks-ncltto-dismiss-indusinds-insolvency-plea/articleshow/89757941.cms>

Bankrupt firms: Third-party litigation funds eyeing interim finance space (February 26, 2022)

Third-party litigation financing is increasingly becoming a new instrument in the hands of the resolution professionals (RPs) of bankrupt companies, as they explore ways to fund operations till a new owner takes over the company or the assets get liquidated. During the CIRP period, to keep the bankrupt company a 'going-concern', RP has to make payments such as professional fees, payments to workmen and towards the maintenance of the plant and machinery among others. In most cases, such expenses are taken care of by the lenders. However, when the lenders are unwilling to allocate funds to run the bankrupt company, the RP leans on third parties for interim finance. When the resolution plan is approved or a company goes into liquidation, such costs, including the remuneration of the insolvency professional, take precedence for payment over secure financial creditors or any other lenders.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/bankrupt-firms-thirdparty-litigation-funds-eyeing-interim-finance-space/articleshow/89856594.cms>

Suspended Board of Directors has no power to replace RP Under IBC: NCLAT, Chennai (March 02, 2022)

The NCLAT, Chennai in a Bench consisting of Justice M. Venugopal, Judicial Member and Kanthi Narahari, Technical Member in the case of Anil Kumar Ojha v. Chandramouli Ramasubramaniam Resolution Professional of SLO Industrial Ltd. & Anr. held that the suspended Board of Directors has no power under the IBC to appoint a Resolution Professional. The power to do so has only been vested in the Committee of Creditors (CoC) and then the Adjudicating Authority (AA). The NCLAT dismissed the appeal filed by the Appellant filed u/s 60(5) of the IBC, challenging the order of the Adjudicating Authority which refused to admit the Application of the Appellant u/s 60(5) and held that the suspended Board of Directors has no right to change the RP and imposed a cost of Rs. 1 Lakh on the Appellant.

For details:

<https://www.livelaw.in/ibc-cases/nclat-chennai-ibc-resolution-professional-committee-ofcreditors-coc-193138>

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022 (April 05, 2022)

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 196(1)(t) read with section 240 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India amended the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022 inter alia provides that the liquidator shall endeavour to complete the liquidation process of the corporate person and submit the Final Report under regulation 38 within : (a) two hundred and seventy days from the liquidation commencement date where the creditors have approved the resolution under section 59(3)(c) or regulation 3(1)(c) and (b) ninety days from the liquidation commencement date in all other cases. Further, the liquidator shall submit the Final Report and the compliance certificate in Form-H along with the application under section 59(7) to the Adjudicating Authority.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/234852.pdf>

Clarifications with respect to Temporary Surrender of Professional Membership (April 12, 2022)

In view of the provisions relating to 'temporary surrender of professional membership' contained in clause 26 of the Schedule to the IBBI (Model Bye-Laws and Governing Board of Insolvency Professional Agencies) Regulations, 2016, have been substituted vide Notification No. IBBI/2019- 20/GN/REG043, dated 23rd July, 2019 (w.e.f. 23-07-2019) and in pursuant to the introduction of provision of 'Authorisation for Assignment', it is clarified that the process of 'Temporary Surrender of Professional Membership,' ceases to exist with issuance of above mentioned notification This clarification is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under clause (aa), (g) and (p) of subsection (1) and sub-section (2) of section 196 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

For details:

<https://www.ibbi.gov.in/uploads/legalframework/ea6f70f852d6c2ad103efcf5d5b158c8.pdf>

IBBI - Consultation paper on issues related to reducing delays in the corporate insolvency resolution process (April 13, 2022)

Consultation paper presents in detail four issues which contribute, directly or indirectly to delays in the corporate insolvency resolution process and suggests changes to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016 (CIRP Regulations). The issues are as under: Part 1 : Substantiating default in admitting applications by operational creditors Part 2 : Facilitating information availability for the preparation of information memorandum and preparation of avoidance applications Part 3: Dealing with avoidance applications after closure of a CIRP Part 4: Significant difference in valuations during a CIRP and appointment of a third valuer. IBBI accordingly solicits comments on the consultation paper on issues related to reducing delays in the corporate insolvency resolution process. Comments may be submitted electronically by 03rd May, 2022.

For details:

<https://www.ibbi.gov.in/uploads/whatsnew/72a560ce5697bbaeef62ce5893a3f1ad.pdf>

Direct Tax

Info Capsule Series 11

Condonation of delay under section 119(2)(b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 in filing of Form 10-IC for Assessment Year 2020-21 [Circular No. 6 Dated March 17, 2022]

CBDT issues Income Tax Circular 06/2022 Dated: 17th March, 2022 to condone the default in filing Form 10-IC to avail lower tax rate of 22% under section 115BAA for AY 2020-21. Form 10-IC can now be filed till 30 June 2022, if Income Tax return was originally filed within due date and the option to avail lower rate was opted in ITR 6.

For details:

<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/circular/circular-no-6-2022.pdf>

Clarification with respect to relaxation of provisions of rule 114AAA of Income-tax Rules, 1962 prescribing the manner of making Permanent Account Number (PAN) inoperative (Circular No. 7 Dated March 30, 2022)

The Ministry of Finance has extended the deadline for linking PAN Card with Aadhaar number till March 31, 2023. The deadline was otherwise set to end by 31.03.2022. However, a penalty up to Rupees 1000 will be payable for late linking of PAN Aadhaar after March 31, 2022. A fee of Rs 500 will be payable for giving Aadhaar details for up to three months from April 1, 2022 and a fee of Rs.1000 after that. A Press Release issued by the Ministry has said that "till 31st March, 2023 the PAN of the assessee who have not intimated their Aadhaar, will continue to be functional for the procedures under the Act, like furnishing of return of income, processing of refunds etc".

For details:

<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/circular/circular-no-7-2022.pdf>

Faceless Inquiry or Valuation Scheme, 2022 [Notification No. 19 Dated March 30, 2022]

The Central Government hereby makes the Faceless Inquiry or Valuation Scheme, 2022. In this Scheme, unless the context otherwise requires,

- a) “Act” means the Income-tax Act, 1961;
- b) “Automated allocation” means an algorithm for randomised allocation of cases, by using suitable technological tools, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, with a view to optimise the use of resources.

Scope of the Scheme

- a) issuing notice under sub-section (1) of section 142 of the Act,
- b) making inquiry before assessment under sub-section (2) of section 142 of the Act,
- c) directing the assessee to get his accounts audited under sub-section (2A) of section 142 of the Act, (d) estimating the value of any asset, property or investment by a Valuation Officer under section 142A of the Act, shall be in a faceless manner, through automated allocation, in accordance with and to the extent provided in section 144B of the Act with reference to making faceless assessment of total income or loss of assessee

For details:

<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/notification/notification-19-2022.pdf>

e-Assessment of Income Escaping Assessment Scheme, 2022 [Notification No. 18 Dated March 29, 2022]

The Central Government hereby makes the e-Assessment of Income Escaping Assessment Scheme, 2022. In this Scheme, unless the context otherwise requires,

- (a) “Act” means the Income-tax Act, 1961;
- (b) “Automated allocation” means an algorithm for randomised allocation of cases, by using suitable technological tools, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, with a view to optimise the use of resources.

Scope of the Scheme

- (a) assessment, reassessment or recomputation under section 147 of the Act,
- (b) issuance of notice under section 148 of the Act, shall be through automated allocation, in accordance with risk management strategy formulated by the Board as referred to in section 148 of the Act for issuance of notice, and in a faceless manner, to the extent provided in section 144B of the Act with reference to making assessment or reassessment of total income or loss of assessee.

For details :

<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/notification/notification-18-2022.pdf>

Income-tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 2022 [Notification No. 17 Dated March 29, 2022]

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on March 29, 2022 has issued the Income-tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 2022 to further amend the Income-tax Rules, 1962. This has come into force on April 1, 2022. The following has been amended namely:

- In Rule 114 which specify “Application for allotment of a permanent account number.” the following sub-rule (5A) has been inserted namely: “Every person who, in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 139AA, is required to intimate his Aadhaar number to the prescribed authority in the prescribed form and manner, fails to do so by the date referred to in the said subsection, shall, at the time of subsequent intimation of his Aadhaar number to the prescribed authority, be liable to pay, by way of fee a prescribed amount”
- In Rule 114AAA which specify “Manner of making permanent account number inoperative” the following proviso will be inserted after clause (2) namely: “Provided that the provisions of this sub-rule shall have effect from the date specified by the Board”

For details:

<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/notification/notification-17-2022.pdf>

Income tax 5th Amendment Rules, 2022 [Notification No. 23 Dated: 1st April, 2022]

CBDT notifies Form ITR-7 for Assessment Year 2022-23 / Financial Year 2021-22 vide Notification No. 23/2022.

For details:

<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/notification/notification-23-2022.pdf>

Income tax 6th Amendment Rules, 2022 [Notification No. 24 Dated 4th April, 2022]

CBDT notifies Income Tax Rule 21AAA i.e. Taxation of income from retirement benefit account maintained in a notified country and FORM No. 10-EE vide Notification No. 24/2022.

For details:

<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/notification/notification-24-2022.pdf>

CBDT notifies 4 Countries under section 89A of Income-tax Act, 1961 [Notification No. 25 Dated 4th April, 2022]

CBDT notifies Canada, United Kingdom of Great Britain, Northern Ireland and United States of America under section 89A of the Income-tax Act, 1961 vide Notification No. 25/2022.

For details:

<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/notification/notification-no-25-2022.pdf>

Income tax 7th Amendment Rules, 2022 [Notification No. 26 Dated April 5, 2022]

The Central Board of Direct Taxes hereby makes the Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2022 as per which after PART IX-A, PART IX-AA related to Dispute Resolution Committee shall be inserted as follows: PART IX-AA DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE Rule 44DAA - Constitution of Dispute Resolution Committee Rule 44DAB - Application for resolution of dispute before the Dispute Resolution Committee Rule 44DAC - Power to reduce or waive penalty imposable or grant immunity from prosecution or both under the Act Rule 44DAD - Definitions (Dispute Resolution Committee, Specified Order, Specified Condition, Specified Person) FORM NO. 34BC - Application to the Dispute Resolution Committee

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/234848.pdf>

e-Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2022 [Notification No. 27 dated April 5, 2022]

The Central Government hereby makes e-Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2022. The scheme specifies the following: Scope and Procedure Application for Dispute Resolution and Screening of Application by Committee Procedure to be followed by Dispute Resolution Committee Powers of the Dispute Resolution Committee Waiver of penalty imposable and Immunity from prosecution Appeal or revision Authorisation to be filed Exchange of communication exclusively by electronic mode Authentication and Delivery of electronic record No personal appearance before the Dispute Resolution Committee Proceedings not open to the public Language of the Dispute Resolution Committee Power to specify format, mode, procedure and processes

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/234851.pdf>

Income tax 8th Amendment Rules, 2022 [Notification No. 28 Dated April 6, 2022]

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued the Income-tax (8th Amendment) Rules, 2022 to further amend the Income-tax Rules, 1962. This has come into force on April 6, 2022. The following has been amended namely: -

- In Rule 2F which specify “Guidelines for setting up an Infrastructure Debt Fund for the purpose of exemption under clause (47) of section 10” the following sub-rules has been substituted namely: 1. Sub-rule (3) which now states “The Infrastructure Debt Fund shall issue - Rupee denominated bonds or foreign currency bonds in accordance with the directions of Reserve Bank of India and the relevant regulations under the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident outside India) Regulations, 2000, as amended from time to time. 2. Sub-rule (4) which now states “The terms and conditions of a bond issued by the Infrastructure Debt Fund, – under clause (i) of sub-rule (3) shall be in accordance with the directions of the Reserve Bank of India and the regulations referred to in the said clause.”
- In Rule 8B (1) which specify “Application by an infrastructure capital company or infrastructure capital fund or a public sector company for notification under any zero coupon bond” the proviso has been substituted as follows: “Provided that an application shall not be made for notification of a bond which is to be issued beyond a period of two financial years following the financial year in which such application is made.”
- In Rule 8B(2) which specify “Documents required” clause (i) has been substituted, as per which “Where the application is made by any infrastructure capital company or infrastructure debt fund or a public sector company, being a Government company defined under clause (45) of

section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013, a copy of certificate of incorporation under the Companies Act, 2013”.

- Rule 8B(8) has been introduced as per which “The application in Form No. 5B referred to in sub-rule (1) and the certificate of accountant in Form 5BA referred to in sub-rule (6) shall be furnished electronically either under digital signature or electronic verification code”.

For details:

<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/notification/notification-no28-2022.pdf>

Notification No. 31 [Dated April 18, 2022]

The Central Government hereby notifies the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development, established under section 3 of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021, for the purposes of clause (48D) of section 10 of the Incometax Act, 1961 for a period of ten consecutive assessment years beginning from the assessment year 2022-2023.

For details:

<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/notification/notification-31-2022.pdf>

Notification No. 33 [Dated April 19, 2022]

The Central Government hereby approves ‘Sri Sharada Institute of Indian Management Research Foundation Trust, New Delhi, (PAN: AAJTS0088H)’ as ‘other Institution’ under the category of ‘University, College or other institution’ for research in social science or statistical research for the purposes of clause (iii) of subsection (1) of section 35 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 read with rules 5C and 5E of the Income-tax Rules, 1962.

For details:

<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/notification/notification-33-2022.pdf>

Notification No. 35 [Dated April 20, 2022]

The Central Government hereby notifies for the purposes of clause (46) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, ‘Gujarat Real Estate Regulatory Authority’ (PAN AAAGG1260R), an Authority constituted by the State Government of Gujarat, in respect of the certain specified income arising to that Authority, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

For details:

<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/notification/notification-35-2022.pdf>

Notification No. 36 [Dated April 20, 2022]

The Central Government hereby notifies for the purposes of (46) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, ‘SEEPZ Special Economic Zone Authority’ (PAN AAALS4995G), an Authority constituted under the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005 by the Government of India, in respect of the certain specified income arising to that Authority, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

For details:

<https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/notification/notification-36-2022.pdf>

Indirect Tax

Info Capsule Series 11

GST and Customs

GST overhaul likely soon; 3 tax slabs, exemption cuts, rate hikes on the cards (February 16, 2022)

The GST regime could get the most comprehensive makeover since it was introduced in 2017. The revision may simplify the rate structure and seek to lift revenue for states. The GST restructuring, which will be rolled out in a phased manner, may cut down tax slabs to three from the current four slabs of 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%. The textile sector may see a rate hike, which was due in January 2022.

For details:

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/finance/gst-overhaul-likely-soon-3-tax-slabs-exemption-cuts-rate-hikes-on-the-cards-12514552.htm>

Setup of 'GST Refund Help Desk' in the office of Pr. CCA, CBIC (February 17, 2022)

The office of Pr. CCA, CBIC has setup a 'GST Refund Help Desk' for addressing payment related problems faced by the taxpayers. Contact details of the Help Desk is as under: Name of Nodal Officer : Ms Anita Rawat, Accounts Officer Toll Free Helpline Number : 1800-11-1424 Mail ID : gstrefunds-helpdesk@gov.in

For details: <https://www.gst.gov.in/newsandupdates/read/523>

GST Composition Scheme: GSTN enables Window to Opt-in for FY 2022-23 (February 20, 2022)

The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) has enabled the window to opt in for composition scheme for the Financial Year 2022-23. The eligible taxpayers who avail the composition scheme may opt in for composition before March 31, 2022.

For details: <https://www.taxscan.in/gst-composition-scheme-gstn-enables-window-to-opt-in-for-fy-2022-23/155454/>

GSTN enables facility for filing LUT for FY 2022-23 on GST Portal (February 21, 2022)

The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) has enabled the facility for filing Letter of Understanding (LUT) for Financial Year 2022-23 on the GST Portal. The LUT application is required to be completed before March 31, 2022, or before supply for Exports and SEZ.

For details:

<https://www.taxscan.in/gstn-enables-facility-for-filing-lut-for-fy-2022-23-on-gstportal/155753/>

Correcting inverted duty structure: GST Council likely to revisit plan to hike rate for textiles (February 22, 2022)

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that correcting the inverted duty structure in the textiles value chain is essential to attract investment in the sector. “The correction is required for the production-linked incentive scheme for the sector. Or else, investments are not going to come into certain areas,” she said, addressing a post-Budget meeting with industry and trade representatives in Mumbai.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/correcting-inverted-duty-structure-gst-council-likely-to-revisit-plan-to-hike-rate-for-textiles/2440951/>

Improvements in GSTR-1 - Phase-II (February 23, 2022)

The statement of outward supplies in FORM GSTR-1 is to be furnished by all normal taxpayers on a monthly or quarterly basis, as applicable. Quarterly GSTR-1 filers have also been provided with an optional Invoice Furnishing Facility (IFF) for reporting their outward supplies to registered persons (B2B supplies) in the first two months of the quarter. The previous phase of GSTR-1/IFF enhancement was deployed on the GST Portal in November 2021. In that phase, new features like the revamped dashboard, enhanced B2B tables, and information regarding table/tile documents count were provided. In continuation to the same, the next Phase of the GSTR-1/IFF improvements would be implemented shortly on the GST Portal.

For details:

https://tutorial.gst.gov.in/downloads/news/gstr1_enhancement_phase_2.pdf

Shipping Bill (Post export conversion in relation to instrument based scheme) Regulations, 2022 (Notification No. 11/2022- Customs (N.T.) dated February 22, 2022)

Shipping Bill (Post export conversion in relation to instrument based scheme) Regulations, 2022 shall apply to shipping bills or bills of export filed on or after the date of publication of these regulations in the Official Gazette. The application for conversion shall be filed in writing within a period of one year from the date of order for clearance of goods under sub-section (1) of section 51 or section 69 of the Act.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/233661.pdf>

CBIC : Coaching centres must pay 18% GST on composite supply (February 24, 2022)

Coaching Institutes are liable to pay 18% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on their composite supply, or bundled services and supplies to students, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has said.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/cbic-coaching-centres-must-pay-18-gst-on-compositesupply/articleshow/89783613.cms>

E-invoicing will be mandatory for taxpayers whose aggregate turnover is more than ₹20 crores (Notification No. 01/2022 - Central Tax dated February 24, 2022)

CBIC made E-invoicing mandatory for registered persons having aggregate turnover above ₹20 crores in any of the previous years from 2017- 18 till 2021-22 with effect from April 01, 2022. The existing limit of ₹50 crores has been reduced to ₹20 crores.

For details:

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/gst/notfctn-01-central-tax-english-2022.pdf>

GST collection crossed Rs. 1.30 lakh crore mark for the 5th time (March 01, 2022)

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of February 2022 is Rs. 1,33,026 crore of which CGST is Rs. 24,435 crore, SGST is Rs. 30,779 crore, IGST is Rs. 67,471 crore (including Rs. 33,837 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs. 10,340 crore (including Rs. 638 crore collected on import of goods). The revenues for the month of February 2022 are 18% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year and 26% higher than the GST revenues in February 2020. During the month, revenues from import of goods was 38% higher and the revenues from domestic transaction (including import of services) are 12% higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1802040>

GST evasion: CBIC cautions against sharing Aadhaar, PAN details without valid reasons (March 03, 2022)

Over the past years, Goods and Services Tax (GST) officers have busted several bogus firms, which were used to raise fake invoices without any actual supply of goods. The sole intention is to fraudulently claim Input Tax Credit (ITC). The CBIC on March 03, 2022 cautioned the public against sharing Aadhaar and PAN details without a valid reason or for monetary gains, saying that the information could be misused by fraudsters for GST evasion.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/gst-evasion-cbic-cautions-against-sharing-aadhaarpan-details-without-validreasons/articleshow/89968057.cms>

Auto-population of e-invoice details into GSTR-1 (March 03, 2022)

Generation of e-invoice is mandatory for certain class of taxpayers, as notified by the Government. These taxpayers are required to prepare and issue their invoices by reporting their invoice data in the prescribed format (e-invoice schema in FORM GST INV-01) and reporting the same on the Invoice Registration Portal (IRP). Invoices reported successfully on the IRP are given a unique Invoice Reference Number (IRN). After issuance, the e-invoices could be cancelled on the IRP within a specified period after the generation the e-invoice. The documents (Invoices, Debit Notes, Credit Notes) reported on the IRP are transmitted electronically to the GST system two days after generation & are auto-populated in the respective tables of the GSTR-1 of such taxpayers.

For details:

https://tutorial.gst.gov.in/downloads/news/einovice_to_gstr1.pdf

GST Council may consider proposal to raise lowest slab to 8%, rationalise tax slabs (March 07, 2022)

The GST Council in its next meeting may look at raising the lowest tax slab to 8 per cent, from 5 per cent, and prune the exemption list in the Goods and Services Tax regime as it looks to increase revenues and do away with states' dependence on Centre for compensation, sources said on March 06, 2022. A panel of state finance ministers is likely to submit its report by this month end to the Council suggesting various steps to raise revenue, including hiking the lowest slab and rationalising the slab.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/gst-council-may-consider-proposal-to-raise-lowest-slab-to-8-pc-rationalise-tax-slabs/articleshow/90027776.cms>

GST fraud probe into BharatPe finds deals with non-existent vendors (March 06, 2022)

The Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence has widened its probe on BharatPe after its earlier investigation had found the merchant-focused fintech firm had issued invoices to non-existent vendors, said officials aware of the development. Last October, BharatPe had accepted that it had issued invoices to non-existent vendors and paid about Rs. 11 crore in dues and penalty to the tax department. An audit conducted by professional services firm Alvarez and Marsal had pointed out the fintech firm's dealings with fake or non-existent vendors.

For details:

<https://www.rediff.com/business/report/gst-fraud-probe-into-bharatpe-finds-deals-with-non-existent-vendors/20220306.htm#:~:text=GST%20fraud%20probe%20into%20BharatPe%20finds%20deals%20with%20non%2Dexistent%20vendors,-By%20Nikunj%20Ohri&text=An%20audit%20conducted%20by%20professional,fake%20or%20non%2Dexistent%20vendors>

Toolkit for Anti-evasion/Preventive teams (Circular No. 05/2022- Customs dated March 04, 2022)

With a view to enhance the efficiency and professionalism of officers/teams deployed for carrying out anti-evasion/anti-smuggling work, particularly when they are required to search premises, vehicles; verify a stock of goods; draw up a panchnama or to arrest a person away from their office premises, a standard toolkit may be provided.

For details:

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2022/Circular-No-05-2022.pdf>

Enhanced Registration application User Interface (UI) (March 10, 2022)

- User Interface (UI) with respect to the address fields in the Registration Application GST REG-01 has been enhanced as follows:-
- Incorporation of a map tile along with a drag and drop facility of address pinhead on to the exact location of the applicant's address.
- Once selected, the details will automatically fill in the various address input fields given in the application.
- Address fields have been linked so as to auto- fill other macro level address entry fields based on the entry in one of such fields particularly PIN Codes. For example; on entering the PIN code, the corresponding State and Districts will get auto- filled.
- The user can also directly fill-up the address input fields which are now aided with suggestive address input dropdowns from which the user can select the appropriate/relevant address field(s). This action will reduce errors in the address texts and will also ease the filling up of the appropriate address input fields by the user.
- The address fields have been segregated appropriately to reduce confusions while entering the relevant inputs under various address heads.
- Based on the address entries given by the user, the Latitude/ Longitude of the address will get auto populated which is non-editable.

For details:

<https://www.gst.gov.in/newsandupdates/read/530>

Appointment of Common Adjudicating authority for adjudicating the show cause notices issued by DGGI under GST (Notification No. 02/2022 - Central Tax dated March 11, 2022)

CBIC has issued a notification for delegating powers to Additional Commissioner (AC) or Joint Commissioner (JC) of Central Tax for passing an order or decision in relation to notices issued by officers of Director General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DGGSTI). The specified AC or JC of Central Tax shall be vested with powers for passing an order or decision in respect of notices issued by the officers of DGGSTI under sections 67, 73, 74, 76, 122, 125, 127, 129 and 130 of Central Goods and Services Tax Act 2017. The officers (Additional Commissioner or Joint Commissioner), as the case may be, who are subordinate to the specified Principal Commissioner /Commissioner of Central Tax have been given this power to adjudicate and such power shall be exercisable throughout the territory of India.

For details:

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/gst/notfctn-02-central-tax-english-2022.pdf>

Proper officer under sections 73 and 74 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 and under the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (Circular No. 169/01/2022- GST dated March 12, 2022)

The Central Tax officers of Audit Commissionerates and Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (hereinafter referred to as “DGGI”) shall exercise the powers only to issue show cause notices. A show cause notice issued by them shall be adjudicated by the competent Central Tax officer of the executive Commissionerate in whose jurisdiction the noticee is registered when such cases pertain to jurisdiction of one executive Commissionerate of Central Tax only.

For details:

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/gst/Circular-169-2022-GST.pdf>

GST reduced from 18% to 5% for domestic Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services (March 14, 2022)

The average number of the passenger carried in the pre-Covid financial year (2019-20) was around 4 lakh per day. On March 06, 2022, domestic airlines in India carried around 3.7 lakh passengers. The number of daily air passengers may cross pre-COVID levels in a few months. The Government has taken several steps to meet the increasing demand in aviation sector in future, which include the following: Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate has been reduced from 18% to 5% for domestic Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1805765>

States panel may propose a single 15% GST levy by merging 12% and 18% slabs (March 21, 2022)

A panel of state ministers set up to suggest changes to the GST rate structure may propose a single 15% levy by merging the 12% and 18% slabs, but is wary of proposing an increase in the threshold rate to 8%, from 5%, given growing inflation concerns.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/states-panel-may-propose-a-single-15-gst-levy-by-merging-12-and-18-slabs/articleshow/90342687.cms>

CBIC has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Scrutiny of GST Returns for FY 2017-18 and 2018-19 (March 22, 2022)

Section 61 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 read with rule 99 of Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017 provides for scrutiny of returns and related particulars furnished by the registered person. Till the time a Scrutiny Module for online scrutiny of returns is made available on the CBIC-GST application, as an interim measure, the following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is being issued by the Board in order to ensure uniformity in selection/identification of returns for scrutiny, methodology of scrutiny of such returns and other related procedures. Selection of returns for scrutiny is to be based on specific risk parameters. For this purpose, the Directorate General of Analytics and Risk Management (DGARM) has been assigned the task to select the GSTINs registered with Central tax authorities, whose returns are to be scrutinized, and to communicate the same to the field formations from time to time through the DDM portal (to the nodal officer of the Commissionerate concerned) for further action.

For details:

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/gst/instruction-no-022022-gst-dated-22032022.pdf;jsessionid=E79710DEA1DECAD04E94E204CFEFB8A3>

CBIC introduces facility of restoration of cancelled GST registration (March 25, 2022)

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has introduced the facility of restoration of cancelled registration under Goods and Services Tax (GST) on its online portal. The move will provide relief to many taxpayers whose registrations were cancelled suo moto and the time period of application for revocation of cancellation already lapsed. In a communication to its field officers, CBIC said that a functionality in the name of 'Restoration of Cancelled Registration' has been developed and deployed w.e.f. March 23, 2022, to facilitate the jurisdictional Range officers to restore the registrations in pursuance of judicial or appellate orders.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/cbic-introduces-facility-of-restoration-of-cancelled-gst-registration/articleshow/90413044.cms>

Payments received in cryptocurrencies set to face GST complications (March 24, 2022)

Individuals who had provided services to clients outside India and were paid in cryptocurrencies are rushing to their tax advisors seeking clarity over applicability of the goods and services tax (GST). Many individuals have claimed that they got paid in cryptocurrency after they did some work such as graphic designing or advisory for clients based in the US or Singapore. The question is whether this is supply of services or an export, and what is the GST applicable on it. After this year's government announcement of taxing crypto assets, many individuals have disclosed their income from cryptocurrencies and claimed that this was payment for some work they did during the year.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/payments-received-in-cryptocurrencies-set-to-face-gst-complications/articleshow/90412297.cms>

Government says Rs. 95.86 crore recovered from 11 cryptocurrency exchanges for GST evasion (March 28, 2022)

The government on March 27, 2022 said that Rs 95.86 crore has been recovered from 11 cryptocurrency exchanges for evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST). The total amount includes penalty and interest. Zanmai Labs (WAZIRX), Coin DCX, CoinSwitch Kuber, Buy Ucoin, UnoCoin and Flitpay were among the exchanges that were involved in GST evasion cases.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/govt-says-rs-95-86-crore-recovered-from-11-cryptocurrency-exchanges-for-gst-evasion/articleshow/90495053.cms>

Special composition scheme for Brick Kilns (Notification No. 03/2022- Central Tax and Notification No. 04/2022 -Central Tax dated March 31, 2022)

These notifications seeks to amend notification no. 10/2019-Central Tax and notification no. 14/2019-Central Tax dated March 07, 2019 to implement special composition scheme for Brick Kilns, as recommended by 45th Goods and Services Tax Council meeting. These notifications are applicable from April 01, 2022.

For details:

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/gst/notfctn-03-central-tax-english-2022.pdf>
<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/gst/notfctn-04-central-tax-english-2022.pdf>

New GST rates for Fly Ash Bricks, Building Bricks etc. (Notification No. 01/2022- Central Tax (Rate) and Notification No. 02/2022- Central Tax (Rate) dated March 31, 2022)

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has issued notifications to increase GST rates for Fly Ash Bricks, Bricks of fossil meals or similar siliceous earths, Building Bricks and roofing tiles to 12% with ITC and 6% without ITC from existing rate of 5%. These notification seeks to provide for a concessional rate on intra state supply of bricks conditional to not availing the ITC, as recommended by 45th Goods and Services Tax Council meeting.

For details:

<https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/content-page/explore-notification>

GST rate for COVID-19 medicines pegged at 5% GST: Government (April 04, 2022)

COVID-19 medicines and instruments are being sold at a GST rate of five per cent while other medicines are sold at a GST rate between five and 12 per cent ever since the pandemic started, Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in the Lok Sabha on April 04, 2022.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/gst-rate-for-covid-19-medicines-pegged-at-5-gst-govt-8314811.html>

CBIC Chairman releases National Time Release Study, 2022 (April 11, 2022)

Shri Vivek Johri, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), presented a set of Time Release Studies (TRS) conducted by the department. TRS are essentially a performance measurement tool for assessing the cargo clearance process of the international trade, as recommended by the World Trade Organization (WTO) under the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and the World Customs Organization (WCO). It adopts average cargo release time, i.e. the time taken from the arrival of the cargo at the customs station to its eventual release for import or export, as the case may be.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1815747>

Banking and Insurance

Info Capsule Series 11

ABG Shipyard, its directors booked by CBI in Rs. 22,842-cr bank fraud case (February 12, 2022)

In its biggest bank fraud case, the CBI has booked ABG Shipyard Ltd. and its former Chairman and Managing Director Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal along with others for allegedly cheating a consortium of banks led by State Bank of India of over Rs. 22,842 crore, officials said on February 12, 2022. Besides Agarwal, the agency has also named the then Executive Director Santhanam Muthaswamy, directors Ashwini Kumar, Sushil Kumar Agarwal and Ravi Vimal Nevetia and another company ABG International Pvt. Ltd. for alleged offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and abuse of official position under the IPC and the Prevention of Corruption Act.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/abg-shipyard-its-directorsbooked-by-cbi-in-rs-22-842-cr-bank-fraud-case-122021200845_1.html

Govt. files draft papers with SEBI for LIC IPO (February 13, 2022)

The government on February 13, 2022 filed the draft papers with regulator SEBI for LIC IPO, which is expected to hit the capital market in March. The government will sell over 31 crore equity shares of LIC, according to the draft red herring prospectus filed with SEBI. A portion of the IPO would be reserved for anchor investors. Also, up to 10 per cent of the LIC IPO issue size would be reserved for policyholders.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/lic-to-file-drhp-in-couple-of-daysgets-board-approval/articleshow/89548582.cms?from=mdr>

ICICI Bank's Sandeep Bakhshi is Business Standard Banker of the Year (February 14, 2022)

Sandeep Bakhshi, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank, is the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21 for turning around the private sector lender and changing the perception about it during his tenure of the past three and a half years. Bakhshi took charge in October 2018 amid a controversy around his predecessor, who had to step down over corporate governance issues. Since then, he has not just unhinged the bank from the controversy but also delivered growth on almost all parameters.

For details:

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/icici-bank-s-sandeep-bakhshi-is-business-standard-banker-of-the-year-122021400039_1.html#:~:text=%20of%20ICICI%20Bank-,Sandeep%20Bakhshi%2C%20managing%20director%20%20\(MD\)%20and%20chief%20executive%20officer,three%20and%20a%20half%20years](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/icici-bank-s-sandeep-bakhshi-is-business-standard-banker-of-the-year-122021400039_1.html#:~:text=%20of%20ICICI%20Bank-,Sandeep%20Bakhshi%2C%20managing%20director%20%20(MD)%20and%20chief%20executive%20officer,three%20and%20a%20half%20years)

e-Rupi limit hike to promote offline digital payment push (February 14, 2022)

On February 10, 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the cap on e-Rupi vouchers issued by the government to `1 lakh per voucher from `10,000 and allowed one voucher to be used multiple times until fully redeemed. Launched in August 2021 as a cashless payment product, e-Rupi vouchers allow users to redeem them without a card, digital payments app or internet banking access at select merchants.

For details:

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/erupi-limit-hike-to-promote-offline-digitalpayment-push-11644770833083.html>

Finance Minister addresses the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India (February 14, 2022)

The 593rd meeting of the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India was held on February 14, 2022 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, addressed the Directors of the Central Board. The Hon'ble Finance Minister in her address outlined the thinking behind the Union Budget 2022-23 and the priorities of the Government. The Board in its meeting reviewed the current economic situation, global and domestic challenges.

For details: https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53268

EY likely to be key prosecution witness in Rs. 22,482-crore ABG Shipyard fraud case (February 15, 2022)

EY is likely to be a key prosecution witness in the probe against ABG Shipyard, which has been booked by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for allegedly duping banks of over `22,482 crore, said people in the know. The London-headquartered professional services company had conducted a forensic audit of ABG Shipyard and submitted its report in January 2019 to a consortium of 28 banks allegedly defrauded by the Surat-based ship builder in what is termed as the country's biggest bank fraud.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/ey-likely-to-be-key-prosecutionwitness-in-rs-22482-crore-abg-shipyard-fraud-case/articleshow/89579507.cms>

RBI DG Rabi Sankar asks for complete ban on cryptocurrencies in India (February 15, 2022)

Days after the Union Budget proposed taxing cryptocurrencies, which gave rise to apprehensions of legitimising them, an Reserve Bank of India (RBI) official has asked for a complete ban on such virtual currencies citing threat to macroeconomic stability. In a speech to bankers on February 14, 2022, RBI deputy governor T Rabi Sankar demolished all the arguments for allowing cryptocurrencies in India as none of them pass basic scrutiny.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/rbi-dg-rabi-sankar-asks-forcomplete-ban-on-cryptocurrencies-in-india-122021401710_1.html

Proposed Amendments to IRDAI (Third Party Administrators - Health Services) Regulations, 2016 (February 15, 2022)

Taking into consideration the experience gained while reviewing the dynamic needs of the insurance industry, the TPA Regulations 2016 were comprehensively reviewed in order to examine the scope for allowing operational freedom to both insurers and TPAs. The extant regulations are also reviewed from the perspective of allowing further facilitations that can be considered. All the stakeholders are requested to forward their comments / suggestions, if any, on the proposed modifications in the specified format by March 06, 2022, to saurabh.vinayak@irdai.gov.in.

For details:

https://www.irdai.gov.in/ADMINCMS/cms/whatsNew_Layout.aspx?page=PageNo4643&flag=1

More capital support to IDBI Bank may have adverse impact on LIC: DRHP (February 15, 2022)

Any additional fund infusion by LIC in its associate, IDBI Bank, may have an adverse effect on the financial condition of the insurance behemoth, according to the recently filed Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP). LIC had infused Rs. 4,743 crore into IDBI Bank on October 23, 2019 using policyholders' funds while the bank further raised Rs. 1,435.1 crore on December 19, 2020 by way of a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP).

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/more-capital-support-to-idbibank-may-have-adverse-impact-on-lic-drhp-122021501129_1.html

ABG Shipyard fraud case: CBI issues look out notices against former CMD, 8 others (February 15, 2022)

Days after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) booked ABG shipyard, its former Chairman and Managing Director Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal and others allegedly cheating a consortium of two dozen lenders led by ICICI Bank, the agency on February 15, 2022 issued a look out notice against them.

For details:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/look-out-circular-issuedagainst-abg-shipyard-directors-in-rs-22842-crore-loan-fraudcase/articleshow/89595180.cms>

Government to kick start roadshow for IDBI Bank by next week (February 15, 2022)

After filing the DRHP for LIC IPO, the government is ready to speed up the disinvestment of IDBI bank. ET Now has learnt from sources that roadshows for IDBI Bank's divestment process is going to start in the next few days. Roadshows will be conducted through virtual mode and it will commence from the last week of this month.

For details:

<https://www.timesnownews.com/businesseconomy/companies/government-to-kick-startroadshow-for-idbi-bank-by-next-week-article-89594172>

ED to launch money laundering probe against ABG former brass (February 16, 2022)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is set to launch a money laundering probe against ABG Shipyard's erstwhile management and directors under the Prevention of Money Laundering Laws (PMLA) for allegedly diverting "significant funds" out of the total Rs. 22,842 crore fraud amount.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/ed-to-launch-money-launderingprobe-against-abg-former-brass/articleshow/89600718.cms>

Reliance Capital's lenders agree on Eoi document for bidders (February 16, 2022)

Reliance Capital's (RCap) lenders have reached on an agreement on an Expression of Interest (Eoi) document to be floated by the company's administrator to prospective bidders, people briefed on the matter said. The lenders, at a meeting on February 15, 2022, decided to give potential buyers two options to bid for the company. Under the first, potential buyers will be allowed to bid for the company, including RCap's lending book, its subsidiaries and investments in joint ventures.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/reliance-capital lenders-agree-on-eoi-document-for-bidders/articleshow/89600855.cms>

RBI allows NBFCs time till September 30 to comply with new NPA norms (February 16, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on February 15, 2022 extended the deadline for NonBanking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to comply with new asset classification norms issued on November 12. Non-bank lenders will now be allowed to move to the new rules for recognising bad loans by September 30, 2022, as against March 31, 2022.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/rbi-allows-nbfc s-time-till-september-30-to-comply-with-new-npa-norms/2435091/>

Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, nominated on RBI Central Board (February 16, 2022)

The Central Government has nominated Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India vice Shri Debasish Panda. The nomination of Shri Sanjay Malhotra is effective from February 16, 2022 and until further orders.

For details:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53285

Bad bank to ease stress, aid credit offtake : RBI bulletin (February 17, 2022)

The formation of a bad bank in India is likely to help reduce stress in the banking system and give an impetus to the credit cycle, according to an article in Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) February bulletin. The cross-country evidence, RBI said, suggests that if the logistical and financial challenges are carefully navigated, experiments of such bad banks can have more hits than misses. It said that while some experts have hailed the formation of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (NARCL) as a panacea for all ills, others pointed out the existence of multiple avenues of stressed asset resolution and their challenges.

For details:

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/bad-bank-to-reduce-stress-in-banks-nudgecredit-offtake-rbi-bulletin-11645018444996.html>

Holding more than one Certificate of Registration to one group - IRDAI (Registration and Operations of Branch Offices of Foreign Reinsurers other than Lloyd's) Regulations, 2015 (February 16, 2022)

Clause (d) of sub section (9) of Section 2 of Insurance Act, 1938 provides that a "foreign company" engaged in reinsurance business can transact the business of reinsurance through a branch in India. Accordingly, it is clarified that where the 'applicant' as defined under Regulation 2(b) of the IRDAI (Registration and Operations of Branch Offices of Foreign Reinsurers other than Lloyd's) Regulations, 2015 falls within a group, no other entity of that group shall be eligible to apply for Certificate of Registration to act as Foreign Reinsurance Branch in India. The above instruction comes into force from the date of this Circular.

For details:

https://www.irdai.gov.in/ADMINCMS/cms/whatsNew_Layout.aspx?page=PageNo4647&flag=1

Banking sector in best of health in decades, says India Ratings (February 17, 2022)

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) on February 17, 2022 said it has revised the outlook on the overall banking sector for FY23 to 'improving' from 'stable', as the banking system's health is at its best in decades. The improving health trend that began in FY20 is likely to continue into FY23, it said, adding that key financial metrics are likely to continue to show improvement in FY23, backed by strengthened balance sheets and an improving credit demand outlook.

For details:

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/banking-sector-in-best-of-health-indecades-says-india-ratings-11645082071643.html>

ABG Shipyard allegedly used 38 overseas companies to divert funds (February 18, 2022)

ABG Shipyard allegedly used 38 related overseas companies and 60 Indian firms to divert funds borrowed from banks, said people aware of investigation into what is being pegged as country's biggest bank fraud of Rs. 22,842 crore. As per available information, the agencies will write to foreign countries seeking information of the said 38 overseas related companies used for alleged diversion of funds.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/shipping/-transport/abg-shipyard-allegedly-used-38-overseas-firms-to-divertfunds/articleshow/89649530.cms>

Bank loans to industries get momentum after 21 months (February 18, 2022)

Bank loans to industries crossed the Rs. 29 lakh crore mark for the first time in 21 months and settled at Rs. 29.85 lakh crore at the end of December, with an improvement in consumer and business confidence that laid the pitch for sustained economic revival. Top bankers expect the momentum to continue, with an increase in demand and the government placing its thrust on infrastructure spending and capacity expansion.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/bank-loansto-industries-gets-momentum-after-21-months/articleshow/89644675.cms>

Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) - Interim Recommendations- Second tranche move (February 18, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India has set up a Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) with an objective to reduce the compliance burden on Regulated Entities (REs). RRA had recommended withdrawal of 150 circulars in the first tranche of recommendations. In continuation of the exercise, RRA has now recommended withdrawal of additional 100 circulars in the second tranche of recommendations. The RRA has recommended elimination of paper-based returns and has identified 65 regulatory returns which would either be discontinued/ merged with other returns or would be converted into online returns. The RRA has also recommended creation of a separate web page "Regulatory Reporting" in the RBI website to consolidate information relating to regulatory reporting and return submission by the regulated entities at a single source. These recommendations are expected to ease regulatory compliance for the regulated entities while improving the accuracy, speed and quality of data submission.

For details:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53293

National Asset Reconstruction Company begins search for senior executives (February 18, 2022)

The National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL), operationalised in January, has begun its search for senior executives in investment and operational roles. The bad bank is looking to hire 13 full-time employees, including a Chief Investment Officer (CIO) and a Chief Operating Officer (COO).

For details:

financialexpress.com/industry/narcl-begins-search-for-senior-executives/2438241/

IDFC Ltd., IDFC First Bank merger may get pushed to FY24 (February 20, 2022)

There is little progress on the proposed merger of IDFC First Bank and its ultimate holding company IDFC Limited. In October 2021, IDFC Limited, through its step-down subsidiary - IDFC Financial Holding Company Limited which holds 36.51 per cent stake in IDFC First Bank, sought the bank's consent for merger, to which the bank agreed in December 2021.

For details:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/idfc-ltd-idfc-first-bank-merger-may-get-pushed-to-fy24/article65068890.ece>

Monday, February 21, 2022 One Chairman for two insurers: IRDAI raises red flags over new Government move (February 21, 2022)

The insurance regulator has raised Corporate Governance concerns over the Government's move to appoint one person as Chairman of two state-run insurers. The Government had sought Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) approval to appoint Anjan Dey as acting Chairman of New India Assurance, a charge he already holds at New Delhi-based Oriental Insurance. IRDAI shared its concerns last week after the Government sought its formal nod for the appointment. Section 203 of the Companies Act, 2013 says a Whole-Time Managerial Personnel shall not hold office in more than one company except in its subsidiary.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/irdai-red-flags-one-chairman-for-2-insurers/articleshow/89712876.cms>

Banks may not wait for regulation to adopt decentralised finance (February 22, 2022)

Decentralised Finance or DeFi is fast catching up with bankers and technologists around the globe even as regulations around it are still not in place. Decentralised Finance offers a number of new opportunities to banks to expand their scope and cut costs. The recent decision by JP Morgan to step up efforts in the field of decentralised finance by opening a branch in Metaverse is going to encourage others to take up the opportunities it presents. The launch of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) will also fuel the move by banks to take up decentralised finance in a big way.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-may-not-wait-for-regulation-to-adopt-decentralised-finance/articleshow/89740097.cms>

Loan fraud: ABG Shipyard's ex-CMD quizzed again (February 22, 2022)

The CBI on February 21, 2022 questioned Rishi Agarwal, former promoter and Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of ABG Shipyard, for the second time in connection with the Rs. 22,800-crore loan default by the company. The agency had questioned him last week as well. Following the registration of a case against ABG Shipyard and Agarwal, the CBI had opened Lookout Circulars (LoC) against Agarwal and other accused to prevent them from fleeing abroad.

For details:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/delhi/loan-fraud-abg-shipyards-ex-cmd-quizzed-again-7784383/>

RBI cautions public against Prepaid Payment Instruments (non-closed) issued by unauthorised entities (February 22, 2022)

It has come to the notice of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that sRide Tech Private Limited, a company having its registered office at Gurgaon, Haryana, is operating a semi-closed (nonclosed) pre-paid instrument (wallet) through its car-pooling app (application) 'sRide' without obtaining the required authorisation from RBI under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. Members of public are urged to exercise utmost caution while using such application/s, dealing with and before parting with their money to any such unauthorised entity. In their own interest, members of public should verify and satisfy themselves that the application used or the entity they are dealing with is authorised to carry out the activity it performs or assures to perform. The list of authorized payment system providers/ authorized payment system operators are displayed on RBI website at <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/PublicationsView.aspx?id=12043>.

For details:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53305

Centre to infuse 15,000 crore into PSBs in March (February 23, 2022)

The government is likely to infuse 15,000 crore into state-run banks in the second half of March to help the lenders meet tighter capital-reserve requirements, according to two people privy to the development. Punjab and Sind Bank and Central Bank of India—the only lender that still faces lending curbs—are likely to be the biggest beneficiaries of the latest funding plan, though the exact quantum of support is to be decided, the people said, requesting anonymity.

For details:

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/centre-to-infuse-15-000-cr-into-psbs-inmarch-11645556958914.html>

Implementation of 'Core Financial Services Solution' by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) (February 23, 2022)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on February 23, 2022 asked certain class of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) to mandatorily implement 'Core Financial Services Solution (CFSS)' by September 30, 2025 in order to provide seamless customer interface as well as have a centralised data base. In a circular, RBI said it has been decided that NBFCs - Middle Layer and NBFCs - Upper Layer with 10 and more 'fixed point service delivery units' as on October 01, 2022 shall be mandatorily required to implement CFSS.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/reserve-bank-asks-nbfc-to-implement-core-financial-services-solution-by-september-2025/2443057/>

GDP to be just 1% above pre-pandemic level in FY22; RBI may continue with easy policy: RBI Deputy Governor M D Patra (February 23, 2022)

India's GDP will be just one per cent above the pre-pandemic level even after the estimated 9.2 per cent growth in FY22, and this factor coupled with comfort on inflation make the RBI to continue with the accommodative Monetary Policy, RBI Deputy Governor M D Patra said on February 23, 2022.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/gdp-to-be-just-1-above-pre-pandemic-level-in-fy22-rbi-may-continue-with-easy-policy-rbi-deputy-governor-m-d-patra/2442990/>

Ad watchdog ASCI frames norms for crypto ads (February 23, 2022)

If the crypto party got checked by new tax proposals in the recent Budget, here comes yet another bash breaker. From April 01, 2022 all ads of Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs) will need to carry prominent disclaimers warning consumers that these products are unregulated and highly risky. Amid growing concerns about misleading ads, the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has released guidelines for ads and promotion of VDAs that include cryptos and Non-Fungible Token (NFT) products. The guidelines state that words such as currencies, securities, custodian and depositories should not be used in such ads. Ads also cannot compare VDAs to other asset classes that are regulated and downplay the risk associated with the category.

For details:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/cryptocurrency/asci-releases-ad-guidelines-for-crypto-and-nft-products/article65076476.ece>

Government to provide capital support mostly to weak PSBs (February 27, 2022)

Weak public sector lenders like Central Bank of India and Punjab & Sind Bank will get the lion's share of the Rs. 15,000 crore earmarked for capital infusion in state-owned banks for the current fiscal. This will help these Public Sector Banks (PSBs) meet regulatory requirements. The capital infusion of Rs. 15,000 crore would go mostly to banks which had got money through non-interest-bearing bonds in the previous year as the RBI had raised some concerns on the fair valuation of these instruments, sources said.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/govt-to-provide-capital-support-mostly-to-weak-psbs/articleshow/89869274.cms>

RBI may conduct VRR auctions in March (February 27, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may conduct a series of Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auctions for the better part of March, to deal with possible liquidity outflows from the banking system arising from banks participating in a scheduled forex swap, reversal of a forex swap conducted three years back, and enhanced Treasury Bill auctions, among others.

For details:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-may-conduct-vrr-auctions-in-march/article65090514.ece>

SBI stops handling transactions with sanctioned Russian entities : Report (March 01, 2022)

India's top lender will not process any transactions involving Russian entities subject to international sanctions imposed on Russia after its invasion of Ukraine, according to a letter seen by Reuters and people familiar with the matter. "No transactions involving entities, banks, ports or vessels appearing" on a U.S., European Union or United Nations sanctions list shall be processed irrespective of the currency of the transaction, said a letter sent by State Bank of India (SBI) to certain clients.

For details:

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/sbi-stopshandling-transactions-with-sanctioned-russian-entitiesreport-11646102664255.html>

Value of UPI transactions declined to Rs 8.27 lakh crore in Feb: NPCI data (March 01, 2022)

India's cashless retail transactions on UPI platform were worth Rs. 8.27 lakh crore in February, slightly lower than the amount recorded in the previous month, data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) showed on March 01, 2022. There were a total of 452 crore (4.52 billion) transactions in February, 2022. In January, the value of cashless retail transactions on the BHIM UPI platform stood at Rs. 8.32 lakh crore while the total number of transactions was at 461 crore (4.61 billion).

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/value-of-upi-transactions-declined-to-rs-8-27-lakh-crore-in-feb-npci-data/2448029/>

Banks hold meeting on SWIFT freeze in Russia (March 03, 2022)

While the government explores alternatives to work around the SWIFT messaging ban on some Russian banks, Indian lenders held a meeting earlier this week to discuss challenges being faced following recent sanctions, said two people aware of the development. The agenda of the meeting - organized by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) was to look at the impact of the sanctions on Indian lenders and what could be done to overcome some of the issues being faced, said the first person cited above, on condition of anonymity. He added that at present banks are not in favour or any consolidated request to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the matter since the regulator has already initiated preliminary discussions with banks.

For details:

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/banks-meet-on-russia-swift-paymentsfreeze-government-explores-alternatives-11646226746035.html>

PMC Bank case: IBBI suspends registration of Registered Valuer Vishwanath Sridhar Prabhu (March 03, 2022)

Insolvency regulator IBBI has suspended the registration of Vishwanath Sridhar Prabhu as a "Registered Valuer" (RV) for his role in the misconduct committed by fraud hit Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank Limited (PMC Bank). Prabhu's registration as a RV will be suspended till he is exonerated of the charges against him, IBBI said. IBBI has also declared him not 'fit and proper' to be eligible as RV and noted that pendency of the criminal proceeding against Prabhu - who was in judicial custody—had adversely affected his integrity and reputation.

For details:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/pmc-bank-case-ibbi-suspends-registration-of-registered-valuer-vishwanath-sridhar-prabhu/article65183446.ece>

Investment in Umbrella Organization (UO) by Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (March 03, 2022)

RBI has accorded regulatory approval to National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Ltd. (NAFCUB) in June 2019 for formation of Umbrella Organization (UO) for the UCB Sector. The approval inter-alia permits UCBs to subscribe to capital of the UO on voluntary basis. It is advised that the investment made for subscribing to the capital of the UO, for acquiring its membership, shall be exempt from the prescribed limits.

For details:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12249&Mode=0>

How credit card spends connected to consumer confidence (March 04, 2022)

Consumer spending using credit cards remained robust in January and February even after the festive season ended in a sign of growing consumer confidence and pickup in consumption, at least among more affluent customers. Spending would improve more over time, trends suggest, though February numbers are a bit lower than that of January, analysts said. Aggregate credit card spending at Point-of-Sale (PoS) terminals and ecommerce websites were ₹69,113 crore in February, which, though lower than the ₹71,574 crore in January, is significantly higher than the ₹42,620 crore last February, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.

For details:

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/credit-card-spends-point-to-rising-consumer-confidence-11646332519120.html>

Lending rates on fresh loans rise 10 bps month-on-month in January (March 04, 2022)

The Weighted Average Lending Rate (WALR) on fresh loans rose by 10 basis points (bps) for the banking system to 7.82% in January from the previous month, as per data released by the Reserve Bank of India. This marks the steepest increase in fresh loan rates since April 2021, resulting from a rise in money market rates and an improvement in credit offtake.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/lending-rates-on-fresh-loans-rise-10-bps-month-on-month-in-january/2450308/>

Monetary policy is an art of managing expectations, says RBI Governor (March 04, 2022)

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on March 04, 2022 said "Monetary Policy is an art of managing expectations" as he emphasised the need for an effective communication strategy amid concerns over rising inflation fuelled by geopolitical developments. The Governor informed that price stability under the statute has been defined numerically by a target of 4 per cent for headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) with a tolerance band of +/- 2 per cent around it. The flexibility in the FIT (Flexible-Inflation Targeting) regime comes from provisions to accommodate or see-through transitory supply-side shocks to inflation.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/monetary-policy-is-an-art-of-managing-expectations-says-rbi-governor-122030400882_1.html

India Post may team up with a bank to start lending (March 05, 2022)

Government-run India Post may tie up with a commercial bank to offer various loan products to people and businesses, with a focus on the rural economy. The planned rollout of 100% Core Banking Solutions (CBS) at all the 1.5 lakh post offices in the country would facilitate the loss-making entity's transition to the new role as provider of multiple financial services.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/india-post-may-team-up-with-a-bank-to-start-lending/2451357/>

SBI appoints ex-Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO Nitin Chugh as DMD (March 06, 2022)

State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed former Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO Nitin Chugh as Deputy Managing Director (DMD) to drive digital banking operations. Prior to this appointment, Chugh was CEO and managing director of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank. He joined there from HDFC Bank where he served as the Group Head of Digital Banking.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/sbi-appointsex-ujjivan-small-finance-bank-ceo-nitin-chugh-as-dmd/articleshow/90021339.cms>

Awaiting Government, RBI advisory on SWIFT transactions with Russian assets: PNB (March 06, 2022)

The country's second-largest bank Punjab National Bank (PNB) said it was awaiting advisory from the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank with regard to SWIFT-related transactions with Russian entities. In view of the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, several countries including the US, Canada and certain European nations have blocked some Russian banks from using SWIFT, a system that is used for global banking transactions.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/awaiting-govt-rbi-advisory-on-swift-transactions-with-russian-assets-pnb-122030600203_1.html

BE(A)WARE - A Booklet on Modus Operandi of Financial Frauds (March 07, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a booklet, "BE(A)WARE" on the common modus operandi used by fraudsters and precautions to be taken while carrying out various financial transactions. The surge in the digital modes of payments witnessed in the past few years gained further momentum during the COVID-19 induced lockdowns. The booklet released by RBI, aims to enhance public awareness about various types of financial frauds perpetrated on gullible customers while carrying out digital payments and other financial transactions. The booklet emphasises the need for keeping one's personal information confidential at all times, being mindful of unknown calls / emails / messages, etc., and also outlines the due diligence measures to be followed while undertaking financial transactions.

For details:

https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53372

Airtel, Axis Bank partner for financial services; launch co-branded credit card (March 07, 2022)

Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank on March 07, 2022 announced a collaboration for offering financial services, starting with a co-branded credit card for subscribers of the telecom services company. Under the partnership, the companies will provide pre-approved instant loans, 'buy now pay later' offerings, and other services.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/airtel-axis-bank-partner-for-financial-services-launch-co-branded-credit-card/2453526/>

More credit to women, with better payback record (March 07, 2022)

The number of women borrowers is on the rise with steady growth in credit demand, according to two separate studies by TransUnion CIBIL and CRIF HighMark. Women are emerging as a strong class of borrowers, with better credit profile and lower delinquency rates, said an analysis by TransUnion CIBIL which found that there is strong credit uptake by women in both urban and rural parts of the country.

For details:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/women-emerging-as-strong-borrower-class-better-credit-profile-lower-delinquency-rates-transunion-cibil/article65200896.ece>

Reserve Bank of India launches (a) UPI for Feature Phones (UPI123pay) and (b) 24x7 Helpline for Digital Payments (DigiSaathi) (March 08, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India has launched two key initiatives on March 08, 2022 - (1) UPI123Pay - Option to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments for feature phone users, and (2) DigiSaathi - a 24x7 Helpline to address the queries of digital payment users across products. While launching the two initiatives, RBI Governor Shri Shaktikanta Das highlighted the importance of these initiatives in enhancing the diversity, utility and transformational power of digital innovations in the country.

For details:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=5338

Issue and regulation of share capital and securities - Primary (Urban) Cooperative Banks (March 08, 2022)

The extant instructions for Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs) on issue and regulation of capital funds have been reviewed. UCBs are permitted to raise share capital, as hitherto, by way of (i) issue of shares to persons within their area of operation, in accordance with the provisions of their bye-laws, and (ii) issue of additional shares to the existing members. Now UCBs are also permitted to issue the Preference Shares & Debt instruments to augment their capital.

For details:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?id=12251&Mode=0>

Interest Equalization Scheme on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit - Extension (March 08, 2022)

Government of India has approved the extension of Interest Equalization Scheme for Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit ('Scheme') up to March 31, 2024 or till further review, whichever is earlier. The extension takes effect from October 1, 2021 and ends on March 31, 2024.

For details:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?id=12252&Mode=0>

Reserve Bank clarifies on the mode of receipt of complaints under Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2021 (RB-IOS) (March 09, 2022)

Instances of misinformation being spread through certain sections of the social media about the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2021 (RB-IOS) have come to the notice of the RBI. These messages are conveying to public at large to lodge their complaints against entities regulated by RBI through third parties for a charge/fee or otherwise for early redress of grievances. It is clarified that RBI does not have any such arrangement with any entity for redress of grievances against the Regulated Entities (REs). RBI has laid down a cost free grievance redress mechanism under RB-IOS which does not involve payment of fees or charges in any form or manner. Customers having grievances against REs for deficiency in services, which is not redressed satisfactorily or in a timely manner by the REs can directly lodge their complaint on the Complaint Management System (CMS) portal (<https://cms.rbi.org.in>) or by e-mail at crpc@rbi.org.in or in physical mode at the 'Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre' (CRPC) set up at RBI, 4th Floor, Sector 17, Chandigarh - 160017.

For details:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53391

Banks Board Bureau eases eligibility criteria for NaBFID MD, reveals pay package (March 10, 2022)

The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has relaxed the eligibility criteria for the post of managing director of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID). In its latest notice, the appointment agency has also revealed that the role will have a compensation package - total of fixed pay and performance bonus - of Rs 3.36 crore per annum. The final date for sending in applications has been extended to March 25 from March 7.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/banks-board-bureau-eases-eligibility-criteria-for-nabfid-md-reveals-pay-package/2455764/>

Action against Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. under section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (March 11, 2022)

Reserve Bank of India directed Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. to stop, with immediate effect, onboarding of new customers. The bank has also been directed to appoint an IT audit firm to conduct a comprehensive System Audit of its IT system. Onboarding of new customers by Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. will be subject to specific permission to be granted by RBI after reviewing report of the IT auditors.

For details:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53405

RBI finally lifts all curbs on HDFC Bank, including new digital launches (March 12, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted restrictions on the new digital business generating activities of private lender HDFC Bank under its Digital 2.0 programme, according to an exchange filing. The Central bank in December 2020 had asked HDFC Bank to stop all launches of its upcoming digital business-generating activities and sourcing of new credit card customers after repeated outages at its data centre which impacted operations. In addition, the RBI had also directed the bank board to examine the lapses and fixes accountability. In August last year, RBI had partially lifted ban on HDFC Bank allowing it to resume issuing new credit cards. The private lender back then said it had issued a record credit cards after the partial lifting of curbs.

For details:

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/rbi-finally-lifts-curbs-on-new-digital-launches-of-hdfc-bank-11647076803820.html>

RBI removes pricing caps for microfinance lenders (March 15, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has removed caps on the pricing of small loans given by Non-Banking Financial Company-Microfinance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs), bringing them to the same level as other such lenders, including banks. With this, the underwriting of loans will be done on a risk-based analysis, and a risk premium will be charged based on the borrower.

For details:

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/rbi-removes-pricing-caps-for-microfinance-lenders-11647285373311.html>

CBI files FIR in Rs. 163 crore bank fraud case (March 14, 2022)

The CBI has filed an FIR against Cethar Limited and its Chairman K Subburaj and Managing Director N K Pothiraj for allegedly cheating Canara Bank to the tune of Rs. 163 crore in loan defaults, officials said on March 14, 2022. The company started operating in 1981 in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu and is engaged in building industrial boilers, power sector equipment among others. It had availed credit facilities worth over Rs. 1344.96 crore from a consortium of eight member banks led by Indian Bank. The account was declared a nonperforming asset in 2015 following which a forensic audit was conducted by the consortium member banks which showed that the intention of the company was to conceal its financial dealings.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/cbi-files-fir-in-rs-163-crore-bank-fraud-case/2460934/>

PNB declares IL&FS Tamil Nadu Power Company's loan as fraud (March 15, 2022)

Punjab National Bank reported a fraud of Rs. 2,060 crore in the Non-Performing Account of IL&FS Tamil Nadu Power Company Ltd. The state-owned lender said that it made a provision of Rs. 824 crore as per Reserve Bank of India's prudential norms. The company had a payment due of Rs. 7181 crore at the end of March 31, 2021, according to its annual report. It was a special purpose vehicle set up by Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd. (IL&FS) under its energy platform for implementation of thermal power projects at Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/pnbdeclares-ilfs-tamil-nadu-power-companys-loan-as-fraud/articleshow/90229872.cms>

No public sector bank faced loss in last three quarters, says Government (March 16, 2022)

No Public Sector Bank (PSB) has faced any loss in the April-December period of the current fiscal year, and clocked a collective net profit of Rs. 48,874 crore during this period, the Government said in Parliament on March 15, 2022. Responding to a query on profit earned by PSBs since 2010, the minister citing the data from the Reserve Bank, said the Public Sector Banks earned a combined net profit of Rs. 31,820 crore in 2020- 21. However, there were collective losses for five straight years during 2015-16 to 2019- 20.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/no-public-sector-bank-faced-lossin-last-three-quarters-says-govt-122031600038_1.html

NaBFID to commence operations in Q1FY23 (March 16, 2022)

The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) will commence its business operations in the first quarter of the next financial year by approving the first loan for the project. It will also finance projects that are part of the National Monetisation Pipeline. The selection of the CEO of NaBFID and other officials to run the bank is underway. Last year, the Government has set up NaBFID as a Development Financial Institution (DFI) to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/nabfid-to-commence-operations-in-q1fy23/2462411/>

RBI March bulletin: Transition to green energy may affect banks' NPAs (March 17, 2022)

The transition to a net-zero carbon emission target could have implications for incomes of industries that indirectly use fossil fuels, and consequently their Interest Coverage Ratio (ICR). This, in turn, could affect gross Non-Performing Asset (NPA) ratios of banks with exposure to such industries, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a report contained in its March 2022 bulletin.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/rbi-march-bulletin-transition-to-green-energy-may-affect-banks-npas/2464347/>

RBI Working Paper No. 06/2022: Saving Banks from a Black Swan: Options and Trade-offs (March 22, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India placed on its website a Working Paper titled, “Saving Banks from a Black Swan: Options and Trade-offs” under the Reserve Bank of India Working Paper Series. Banking sector plays a crucial role in resource allocation and economic recovery. Considering its importance, several initiatives have been taken by public policy makers across the world to ensure the resilience of the banking sector during a black swan event (including the COVID-19 pandemic). This paper looks at the role of capital infusions as they provide a cushion to banks against adverse shocks that could result in large defaults. It evaluates the efficacy of capital infusions under different scenarios that include sticky or flexible deposit rates.

For details:

https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53449

RBI Working Paper No. 07/2022: Concentration, Competition and Soundness of the Banking System in India (March 22, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India placed on its website a Working Paper titled “Concentration, Competition and Soundness of the Banking System in India” under the Reserve Bank of India Working Paper Series. This paper examines certain important aspects of market concentration, competition and soundness of banks in India during the period 1994- 95 to 2019-20. The paper finds that the banking system in India was not characterised by a high degree of market concentration during the period under study.

For details:

https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53450

Parliament panel cautions government against early euphoria over NPA reduction (March 22, 2022) Cautioning the government against “any early euphoria” with regards to reduction in NPA in the banking sector, a Parliamentary panel on March 22, 2022 said that the bad loans may go up due to some lag impact of the Covid pandemic. The Standing Committee on Finance in its report tabled in Parliament observed that the banking system appears to have weathered the pandemic shock well with respect to Non-Performing Assets (NPAs).

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/par-panel-cautions-govt-against-early-euphoria-over-npa-reduction-122032201125_1.html

Inauguration of the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (March 24, 2022)

The Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Shri Shaktikanta Das inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) on March 24, 2022 in Bengaluru. The Hub has an independent Board with Shri Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan as the Chairman and other eminent persons from industry and academia as members. RBIH aims to create an ecosystem that focuses on promoting access to financial services and products for the low-income population in the country. This is in line with the objective behind establishment of RBIH i.e., to bring world class innovation to financial sector in India, coupled with the underlying theme of financial inclusion. The Hub would bring convergence among various stakeholders (BFSI Sector, Start-up ecosystem, Regulators & Academia) in the financial innovation space.

For details:

https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53458

Banks to undertake special clearing operations on March 31 for closure of Government Accounts (March 24, 2022)

Banks will conduct special clearing operations for the annual closure of Government Accounts on March 31, which is the last day of the fiscal year, the RBI said on March 24, 2022. The Reserve Bank has issued directions to the banks for smooth clearing operation and asked them to participate in it.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-toundertake-special-clearing-ops-on-mar-31-for-closure-of-govtaccounts/articleshow/90427501.cms>

Framework for Geo-Tagging of Payment System Touch Points (March 25, 2022)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is focused on deepening of digital payments and providing inclusive access to all citizens of the country. To achieve this objective, it is imperative that robust payment acceptance infrastructure is available and accessible across the length and breadth of the country. Geo-tagging of payment system touch points will enable proper monitoring of availability of payment acceptance infrastructure like Points of Sale (PoS) terminals, Quick Response (QR) codes, etc. RBI has released the Framework for GeoTagging of payment system touch points.

For details:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53469

Lenders approve IL&FS' debt recast proposal for CNTL (March 27, 2022)

The lenders have approved IL&FS Group's proposal to restructure the Rs. 5,500 crore debt of its subsidiary Chenani Nashri Tunnelway (CNTL), which offers almost full repayment to them. The move comes after the company has revalued itself at Rs. 5,257 crore now after the deal with Cube Highways of Singapore failed last year, due to regulatory delays, for a consideration of Rs. 3,900 crore.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/lenders-approve-ilfsdebt-recast-proposal-for-cntl/articleshow/90473539.cms>

RBI Governor dedicates Varnika Ink Manufacturing Unit of BRBNMPL to the Nation (March 28, 2022)

Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), dedicated Varnika, the Ink Manufacturing Unit of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI to the nation on March 28, 2022 in Mysuru. In his address, Governor recognised the substantial progress made towards achieving self-reliance in banknote production ecosystem in India. He emphasised the importance of continuously building capacity (in terms people, process, and technology), research and development and innovation to achieve 100 per cent self-sufficiency in banknote manufacturing in the near future. BRBNMPL has set up Varnika with an annual ink manufacturing capacity of 1,500 MT to enhance the security of banknotes. It is a boost to 'Make in India' initiative.

For details:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53476

RBI's new rules for MFIs to aid profitability, says Crisil Ratings (March 28, 2022)

Reserve Bank's new rules for microlenders, who have been deeply impacted in the pandemic because of loan losses, will help widen profits by giving such entities greater flexibility in operations, a report said on March 28, 2022. Removing the interest margin cap on loans, the biggest change in regulation, will help NBFC-MFIs (Non-Banking Finance Company-Microfinance Institutions) adopt a risk-based pricing approach and hence support profitability, the report by Crisil Ratings said.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/rbi-s-new-rules-for-mfis-to-aidprofitability-says-crisil-ratings-122032801303_1.html

Banks, MFIs seek time to implement new guidelines (March 29, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India's new guidelines for MFIs, issued on 14 March and expected to come into effect from 01 April, allow MFIs to set their own interest rates for loans, provided the rates are not exorbitant. Besides, the RBI has also revised the definition of MFI loans to a collateral-free loan to households having annual income of up to Rs. 3 lakh. Earlier, the cap was at Rs.1.2 lakh for a rural household and Rs. 2 lakh for urban borrowers. MFIs and banks are seeking at least three months to implement the new guidelines that require board approval.

For details:

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/banks-mfis-seek-time-to-implement-newguidelines-11648493514480.html>

Review of Requirement of Counter-Cyclical Capital Buffer (April 05, 2022)

The framework on Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB) was put in place by the Reserve Bank in terms of guidelines issued on February 5, 2015 wherein it was advised that the CCyB would be activated as and when the circumstances warranted, and that the decision would normally be pre-announced. The framework envisages the credit-to-GDP gap as the main indicator, which may be used in conjunction with other supplementary indicators. Based on the review and empirical analysis of the CCyB indicators, it has been decided that it is not necessary to activate CCyB at this point in time.

For details:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53516

Bad loans to decline to 5.6-5.7% level by March 2023, says ICRA (April 05, 2022)

The asset quality of the Indian banking system is set to improve further with its gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) estimated to decline to 5.6-5.7 per cent by March 2023 from 6.2-6.3 per cent in March 2022, according to ICRA. The NPAs will decline to 1.7-1.8 per cent by end of the current financial year (FY23) as against an estimate of 2 per cent by March 2022.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/bad-loans-to-decline-to-5-6-5-7-level-by-march-2023-says-icra-122040500466_1.html

MPC meet: Analysts bet on rate retention, revision of forecasts (April 06, 2022)

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which begins its three-day meeting on April 06, 2022, is likely to keep the main policy rates unchanged in the first bi-monthly policy review this fiscal.

For details:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/banking-and-finance/mpc-meet-analysts-bet-on-rate-retention-revision-of-forecasts-7854594/>

Bandhan-led group to buy IDFC MF, deal valued at Rs.4,500 crore (April 07, 2022)

Bandhan Financial Holdings won the bid to buy IDFC Asset Management Company in a deal valued at Rs.4,500 crore, marking the entry of a financier that began its life as a bottom-of-the-pyramid lender into the ritzy business of asset management dominated by bulge-bracket financial groupings such as ICICI, HDFC and the State Bank of India. This is the largest deal to date in the Indian asset management space.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/bandhan-ledgroup-to-buy-idfc-mf-deal-valued-at-4500-crore/articleshow/90695810.cms>

NARCL misses deadline for first tranche of NPA acquisition; Rs. 50,000-crore pool of 15 assets may be transferred by April (April 07, 2022)

The National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) has missed its March 31, 2022 deadline for acquiring the first tranche of large stressed assets from banks, according to two bankers. The Rs. 50,000-crore pool of 15 assets is now likely to be transferred to the bad bank only by the end of April.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/narcl-misses-deadline-for-first-tranche-of-npa-acquisition-rs-50000-crore-pool-of-15-assets-may-be-transferred-by-april/2483939/>

Establishment of Digital Banking Units (DBUs) (April 07, 2022)

In recent times, digital banking has emerged as the preferred banking service delivery channel in the country along with 'brick and mortar' banking outlets. Reserve Bank has been taking progressive measures to improve availability of digital infrastructure for banking services. In furtherance of this objective and as a part of efforts to accelerate and widen the reach of digital banking services, the concept of "Digital Banking Units" (DBUs) is being introduced by the Reserve Bank. In pursuance of announcements made in the Union Budget 2022-23, guidelines have been prepared for setting up of Digital Banking Units (DBUs) by commercial banks on the basis of recommendations of a Working Group formed by RBI which included representatives of banks and Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

For details:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?id=12285&Mode=0>

RBI Monetary Policy Highlights : MPC continues with 'accommodative' stance, keeps repo rate unchanged (April 08, 2022)

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept key repo rate unchanged but hiked the reverse repo rate by 40 bps to 3.75 percent on April 08, 2022 and emphasized on the need of withdrawal of accommodation in its first policy meeting of FY23. This is the eleventh time in a row that the MPC headed by RBI Governor Shri. Shaktikanta Das has maintained the status quo of repo rate.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/rbi-monetary-policy-liveupdates-governor-shaktikanta-das-repo-rate-reverser-repo-rate-interest-rateaccommodative-neutral-inflation-growth-policy-8329931.html>

Big NBFCs to decide their own future : RBI Governor (April 09, 2022)

Big Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) backed by industrial houses like Bajaj Finance, Shriram Transport Finance, Tata Capital, Aditya Birla Capital and Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services have to find a way out of the tightening regulations as the Reserve Bank of India is unlikely to ease norms for them to convert into a bank or permitting them to merge into a bank like the way HDFC merged with HDFC Bank.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/big-nbfcstodecide-their-own-future-rbi-governor/articleshow/90735863.cms>

Finance Minister to meet PSBs heads on April 23 to nudge them for credit expansion (April 10, 2022)

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to meet heads of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) on April 23, 2022 to review performance of the lenders and progress made by them on various schemes launched by the government for revival of the economy battered by the pandemic.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/fm-to-meet-psbs-heads-on-apr-23-to-nudge-them-for-credit-expansion/2487090/>

Compliance Function and Role of Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) (April 11, 2022)

The Reserve Bank issued the guidelines on 'Scale Based Regulation (SBR): A Revised Regulatory Framework for NBFCs' on October 22, 2021. As per these guidelines, NonBanking Financial Companies in the Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) and Middle Layer (NBFCML) would be required, inter alia, to have an independent Compliance Function and a Chief Compliance Officer (CCO). As part of the overall structure for Corporate Governance, Compliance Function serves a critical role. Accordingly, it has been decided to introduce certain principles, standards and procedures for Compliance Function in NBFC-UL and NBFC-ML, keeping in view the principles of proportionality. NBFC-UL and NBFC-ML shall put in place a Board approved policy and a Compliance Function, including the appointment of a Chief Compliance Officer (CCO), based on the specified Framework latest by April 01, 2023 and October 01, 2023, respectively.

For details:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?id=12290&Mode=0>

Basel III Framework on Liquidity Standards - Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) (April 18, 2022)

In terms of the circular DOR.BP.BC.No.65/21.04.098/2019-20 dated April 17, 2020, the assets allowed as Level 1 High Quality Liquid Assets (HQLAs) for the purpose of computing the LCR, inter alia, include (a) Government securities in excess of the mandatory SLR requirement and (b) within the mandatory SLR requirement, Government securities to the extent allowed under (i) Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and (ii) Facility to Avail Liquidity for Liquidity Coverage Ratio (FALLCR) [15 per cent of the banks' Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL)]. Since MSF has been reduced to 2 per cent from 3 per cent of NDTL from January 1, 2022, the total HQLA carve out from the mandatory SLR, which can be reckoned for meeting LCR requirement, has reduced to 17 per cent of NDTL (2 per cent MSF plus 15 per cent FALLCR) from 18 per cent. On a review, it has been decided to permit banks to reckon Government securities as Level 1 HQLA under FALLCR within the mandatory SLR requirement up to 16 per cent of their NDTL. Accordingly, the total HQLA carve out from the mandatory SLR, which can be reckoned for meeting LCR requirement will be 18 per cent of NDTL (2 per cent MSF plus 16 per cent FALLCR).

For details:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?id=12291&Mode=0>

External benchmarks to further boost monetary transmission: RBI report (April 19, 2022)

The transmission of the Monetary Policy to banks' lending and deposit rates has notably improved since October 2019, facilitated by introduction of the External Benchmark Linked Lending Rate (EBLR) system, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a report published as part of its bulletin for April 2022. The earlier internal benchmark-based lending rate regimes suffered from a multitude of issues, such as arbitrariness in calculation of the Base Rate/Marginal Cost of funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR) and spreads and long reset clauses, which inhibited efficient monetary transmission.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/external-benchmarks-to-further-boost-monetary-transmission-rbi-report/2495577/>

Disclosures in Financial Statements- Notes to Accounts of NBFCs ; Loans and Advances - Regulatory Restrictions - NBFCs; Capital requirements for Non-Banking Finance Companies - Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) & Large Exposures Framework for Non-Banking Financial Company - Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) (April 19, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued circular DOR.CRE.REC.No.60/ 03.10.001/2021-22 dated October 22, 2021, on Scale Based Regulation (SBR): A Revised Regulatory Framework for NBFCs. Now RBI has issued detailed set of rules and relevant annexures for Non-Bank Financiers on Large Exposures, Capital Requirements, Lending to Directors and sought Additional Disclosures in their notes to accounts.

For details:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12292&Mode=0>

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12294&Mode=0>

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12296&Mode=0>

& <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12298&Mode=0>

Issue and regulation of share capital and securities - State Co-operative Banks and District Central Co-operative Banks (April 19, 2022)

The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020, notified in the Gazette of India on September 29, 2020, has come into force with effect from April 01, 2021 for Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs), i.e. State Co-operative Banks (StCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs). The extant instructions for RCBs on issue and regulation of capital funds have been reviewed keeping in view, inter alia, the provisions of Section 12 read with Section 56 of the amended Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

For details:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12297&Mode=0>

Opening current, cash credit/OD accounts: Banks' scope widened (April 20, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the scope of exemptions under its circular for “opening Of Current Accounts and Cash Credit (CC)/Overdraft (OD) accounts” by banks. It has given exemptions for accounts for settlement of dues related to debit card/ATM card/ credit card issuers, accounts of white label ATM operators and their agents for sourcing of currency, Cash-In-Transit (CIT) companies/Cash Replenishment Agencies (CRAs) for providing cash management services and accounts opened by a bank funding a specific project for receiving/ monitoring cash flows of that specific project, provided the borrower has not availed any CC/OD facility for that project, inter-bank accounts and accounts of All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs).

For details:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/banking-and-finance/opening-current-cash-credit-od-accounts-banks-scope-widened-7877399/>

RBL finalises next MD; seeks RBI approval (April 20, 2022)

Private sector RBL Bank on April 20, 2022 said it has finalised the name for regular MD and CEO and forwarded it to the RBI for approval. The Board at its meeting held on April 20, 2022 accepted the recommendations of the nomination and remuneration Committee, RBL said in a regulatory filing. The bank, however, did not disclose the name selected for the position.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/rbl-finalises-next-md-seeks-rbi-approval/articleshow/90963285.cms>

Business and Economic News

Info Capsule Series 11

Mr. Hemant Kanoria moves NCLT for setting aside KPMG audit at SREI (February 16, 2022)

Mr. Hemant Kanoria, founder of SREI, has moved to the Kolkata Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for setting aside a forensic audit by KPMG into the company. Lenders had, in March-April 2021, appointed KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP as an auditor for the corporate debtor (SREI Infrastructure Finance and its wholly owned subsidiary, SREI Equipment Finance). The application cited an issue of parallel auditing in the wake of the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) in SREI. It mentioned that according to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) process, the resolution professional (RP) of SREI had appointed BDO India LLP as the transaction auditor of SREI Infrastructure Finance.

For details: https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/hemant-kanoria-moves-nclt-for-setting-aside-kpmg-audit-at-srei-122021601183_1.html#:~:text=Hemant%20Kanoria%2C%20founder%20of%20SREI,by%20KPMG%20into%20the%20company.&text=Another%20issue%20raised%20in%20the,completed%20by%20June%2024%2C%202021

Settle Hero trademark row via arbitration: Delhi HC to Munjals (February 17, 2022)

The Munjal brothers were entangled in a legal battle to claim ownership of the Hero brand. Vijay Munjal, who, along with his son Naveen Munjal, owns Hero Electric, the largest electric two-wheeler company, had moved the Delhi High Court in October, 2021 against his cousin Pawan Munjal, promoter and chairman of Hero MotoCorp, seeking an injunction on Hero MotoCorp using the brand name for its upcoming electric two-wheeler products. In a boost for Hero MotoCorp's EV plans, the Delhi High Court hasn't barred the company from using Hero brand name for its electric vehicles, but has instead asked the Munjal scions to settle the dispute through an arbitration. The arbitration panel includes three retired judges. Hero MotoCorp is planning to launch its first EV product in March, 2022 which is likely to be an electric scooter. The company said that Hero's existing strength from the traditional IC engine business like in distribution, sourcing, manufacturing or logistics will help to reduce investment in EV helping to cut cost of the product, helping it to gain an upper hand over well-funded new age start-ups like Ola Electric who are entering the EV business.

For details: https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/hero-electric-retracts-injunctionnotice-against-hero-motocorp-on-brand-use-122021701223_1.html

The \$8.5 billion TVS Group splits to grow: What's changed structure-wise? (February 22, 2022)

The \$8.5 billion TVS Group received final approval for a family resettlement on February 04 from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). It is an arrangement that is noteworthy because unlike many other corporate settlements this one was sorted out amicably and without any open conflicts. The Memorandum of Family Arrangement (MFA) by four branches of the TVS Group – T S Rajam, T S Krishna, T S Srinivasan and T S Santhanam families – is seen as a move to facilitate a smooth succession for the next generation, ensuring that each family group will get complete ownership of the businesses they manage.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/automobile/the-8-5-billion-tvs-group-splits-to-grow-what-s-changed-structure-wise-122022101372_1.html

Ukraine crisis: Russia welcomes India's 'independent' position (February 23, 2022)

Russia welcomed India's "independent position" on the Ukraine crisis and said its views on the issue at the UN Security Council was reflective of the special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries. Russian Deputy Chief of Mission Roman Babushkin said India has been playing a vital role as a responsible global power and it takes an "independent and balanced" approach to world affairs. He also said that the crisis would not impact India-Russia ties including in areas of defence and that there will be a "huge" Russian participation in the DefExpo in Gujarat next month.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/ukraine-crisis-russiawelcomes-india-s-independent-position-122022301511_1.html

SC directs Amazon, Future to NCLAT for speedy disposal of CCI case (February 24, 2022)

The Supreme Court (SC) has directed Amazon and Future Group to approach National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) for speedy disposal of the US ecommerce firm's case challenging Competition Commission of India's (CCI's) order which cancelled its 2019 deal with Future Coupons. The SC has listed the case to be heard next on March 09, 2022. The NCLAT on February 25, 2022 will hear Amazon's plea seeking an interim stay on the order passed by the CCI, which suspended the more than two-year-old approval of its deal with Future Coupons (FCPL).

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/sc-directs-amazon-future-tonclat-for-speedy-disposal-of-cci-case-122022301288_1.html

SARFAESI Act has Overriding Effect on Central Excise Act; Dues of Secured Creditor has Priority Over Dues of Central Excise Dept.: Supreme Court (February 24, 2022)

The Supreme Court observed that the SARFAESI Act will have an overriding effect on the provisions of the Central Excise Act. The Commissioner Customs and Central Excise ordered the confiscation of all the land, building, plant, machinery etc. of RIL. This confiscation order was passed under rule 173Q (2) of the Central Excise Rules, 1944. One of the issues that arose in this case was whether the dues of the Excise department would have priority over the dues of the Secured Creditors? In this case, the Punjab National Bank, as the secured creditor, had issued notice to RIL under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002. The Allahabad High Court dismissed the writ petition filed by the bank.

For details:

<https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/supreme-court-sarfaesi-central-excise-act-secured-creditor-punjab-national-bank-vs-union-of-india-192757#:~:text=The%20Supreme%20Court%20observed%20that,of%20the%20Central%20Excise%20Department>

Delhi HC adjourns Amazon-Future case to February 28, 2022 (February 25, 2022)

The Delhi High Court will, on February 28, 2022, continue hearing arguments in an 18-month-long dispute between Amazon and Future Group. Meanwhile, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has set March 04, 2022 as the next date for hearing a combination of cases between Amazon and Future Retail (FRL). FRL had approached the NCLT seeking approval for a shareholder meeting to get clearance for its plan to sell assets to Reliance Retail. Amazon has opposed the shareholder meeting as well as the deal that the US-based company claims was in violation of its investment agreement in a promoter firm of FRL.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/retail/delhi-hc-adjournsamazon-future-case-to-monday/articleshow/89810407.cms>

Reliance Takes Control of Future Retail Stores, Offers Jobs to Employees (February 26, 2022)

Reliance Industries has effectively taken over the operations of Future Retail stores and has offered jobs to its employees, even as the Kishore Biyani-led group is locked in a bitter battle with e-commerce major Amazon at several judicial forums over the sale of its business to the retail arm of the oil-to-telecom conglomerate. Reliance Retail has started to take possession of the premises in which Future Retail is operating its stores such as Big Bazaar and replaced them with its brand stores, said sources close to the development.

For details:

<https://www.ndtv.com/business/reliance-takes-control-of-future-retail-stores-offers-jobsto-employees-2790787>

NCLT allows Future Group to convene shareholder's meet on RIL deal (March 01, 2022)

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) passed an order allowing Future Group companies to convene meetings of its shareholders and creditors to seek their approval for the scheme it signed in 2020 that allows Future Group to sell its retail, logistics, and warehousing businesses to Reliance Retail for about Rs. 25,000 crore. In September 2021, the tribunal (NCLT) had allowed creditors and shareholders to hold meetings over the deal. Following which Amazon filed a petition objecting to such a meeting of creditors and shareholders of Future Group. This petition has been dismissed by NCLT.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/nclt-allows-future-group-to-convene-shareholders-meet-on-ril-deal-122030100007_1.html#:~:text=The%20National%20Company%20Law%20Tribunal,Retail%20for%20ab out%20Rs%2025%2C000

Amazon, Apple, Google among 8 US stocks to trade on NSE IFSC in GIFT City from March 03 (March 01, 2022)

Domestic investors can now invest in US stocks such as Google, Amazon, and Tesla directly on the NSE IFSC (NSE International Exchange). In a circular, the NSE IFSC said that trading will commence for 8 US-based stocks from March 3. The exchange said that trading in the stocks will be in the form of Un-sponsored Depository Receipts. NSE IFSC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE). Investors in India have been exploring avenues that allow them to invest in US stocks for the last few years with the growing prominence of investment platforms that allow them to do so.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/market/amazon-apple-google-among-8-us-stocks-to-trade-on-nse-ifsc-in-gift-city-from-march-3-check-full-list/2448141/>

Ilker Ayci turns down Tata Group's offer to be new Air India CEO (March 02, 2022)

Two weeks after he was appointed Air India chief executive officer, Ilker Ayci has declined the offer to join the Tata Group-owned airline. Ayci's departure, even before taking charge, comes in the backdrop of a controversy around his security clearance prospects. Ayci, former chairman of Turkish Airlines, had earlier served as advisor to Turkey president Recep Tayyip Erdogan. His closeness to Erdogan drew criticism on social media given the frosty relations between India and Turkey. More recently, Rashtriya Swyam Sevak-backed Swadeshi Jagaran Manch opposed the appointment on grounds of national security.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/ilker-ayci-turns-down-tata-group-soffer-to-be-new-air-india-ceo-122030200018_1.html

India slips 3 spots to rank 120 on 17 SDG adopted as 2030 agenda: Report (March 02, 2022)

India has slipped three spots from last year's 117 to rank 120 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 192 United Nations member states in 2015, a new report said. With the latest rankings, India is now behind all south Asian nations except Pakistan, which stands at 129. The south Asian countries ahead of India are Bhutan ranked 75, Sri Lanka 87, Nepal 96 and Bangladesh 109. India's overall Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) score was 66 out of 100. According to the Centre for Science and Environment's State of India's Environment Report, 2022, released by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, India's rank dropped primarily because of major challenges in 11 SDGs including zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, gender equality and sustainable cities and communities.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-slips-3-spots-on-17-sdg-adopted-as-2030-agenda-says-report-122030100779_1.html#:~:text=India%20has%20slipped%20three%20spots,2015%2C%20a%20new%20report%20said

Amazon once again proposes dialogue with Future Group to end legal battles (March 04, 2022)

US e-commerce giant Amazon has again proposed a dialogue with Future Group to end their legal battles, to which the Kishore Biyani-led retailer has agreed. The parties are in dispute on Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) acquiring Future Group companies. The Supreme Court has given both sides time until March 15, 2022 to explore a settlement.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/amazon-once-again-proposesdialogue-with-future-group-to-end-legal-battles-122030300683_1.html

Reliance Industries makes debut in electronics manufacturing with US firm (March 04, 2022)

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) on March 03, 2022 entered the electronics manufacturing segment through a tie-up with US-based Sanmina Corporation and will invest Rs. 1,670 crore in the latter's Indian entity to take a 50.1% stake. The joint venture will manufacture high technology electronics hardware like 5G network products, aerospace items, healthcare systems, among others. The partnership will allow Reliance Jio to get home-made radio equipment for its 5G rollout.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/reliance-industries-makes-debut-in-electronics-manufacturing-with-us-firm/2450419/>

Future Group companies to convene shareholder, creditors meeting from April 20- 23 (March 07, 2022)

Future Group companies would convene meetings of their respective shareholders and creditors between April 20 and April 23, 2022 to get their approval for the proposed Rs. 24,713 crore deal with Reliance Retail. Listed Future Group entities such as Future Consumer Ltd. updated the exchanges about the dates of the meetings.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/future-group-cos-to-conveneshareholder-creditors-meeting-from-april-20-23-122030701332_1.html

Tata-Mistry spat : SC to hear Mistry review petitions today (March 09, 2022)

The stage is set for the final round of legal battle between the Tata group and the billionaire Mistry family with the Supreme Court hearing the review petitions filed by the Mistry family on March 09, 2022. The Mistry family has challenged the apex court's decision in March 2021 which agreed with Tata Sons board to remove Cyrus Mistry as chairman in October 2016. The SC will also hear a petition by Mistry which seeks to remove certain adverse remarks against him in the top court's order.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/tata-mistry-spat-sc-to-hear-mistry-review-petitions-on-wednesday-122030801167_1.html

Venture capitalists play a pivotal role in the Startup ecosystem and in economic growth of the country, says Shri Piyush Goyal (March 09, 2022)

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal on March 09, 2022 said the Venture capitalists have played a pivotal role in India's Startup story and in economic growth of the country. Addressing the Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association's (IVCA) Conclave, he said they have been driving innovation and bringing new ideas to the fore that is legendary. Shri Goyal said the IVCA can act as a Golden bridge between the Government, Startups, market and consumers and promote innovation. "India has carved a distinct niche for itself in the Startup map of the world. We have over 60,000 Startups and I see it as the DNA of the future of India".

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1804587>

Govt. Appoints Ex-finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey as NFRA Chief (March 10, 2022)

The government has appointed former finance secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey as Chairman of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) for a period of three years. Pandey, a 1984-batch Maharashtra cadre IAS officer, retired as revenue secretary in February last year. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of former revenue secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey as the Chairperson of NFRA for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years. Prior to becoming revenue secretary, he was chief executive of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

For details:

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/govt-appoints-ex-finance-secretary-ajay-bhushanpandey-as-nfra-chief-4862378.html>

Adani, KKR, Piramal among 14 prominent bidders for Reliance Capital (March 13, 2022)

Adani Finserve, KKR, Piramal Finance and Poonawala Finance are among the 14 prominent firms that have expressed interest to acquire debt-ridden Reliance Capital Ltd, promoted by the Anil Ambani Group. The last date for submission of bids for the debt-ridden firm was extended to March 25 from the previous fixed date of March 11 by the Reserve Bank-appointed administrator. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had on November 29 last year superseded the board of Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL) in view of payment defaults and serious governance issues.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/adani-kr-piramal-among-14-prominent-bidders-for-reliance-capital-122031300494_1.html

Tata Sons chairman Mr. Chandrasekaran takes pilot seat till Air India gets CEO (March 15, 2022)

As Tata Sons chairman, Mr. N Chandrasekaran chairs the board of several group companies. But his appointment as Air India chairman, which was made public on March 14, 2022, is somewhat different. As chairman, he will steer the operation of the recently acquired airline until a chief executive is found.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/tata-sons-chairman-chandrasekaran-takes-pilot-seat-till-air-india-gets-ceo-122031500019_1.html

Amazon accuses Future Retail, Reliance of 'fraud' in newspaper ads (March 15, 2022)

Amazon.com Inc has gone on the attack in its bitter dispute with two Indian retailers, accusing them of fraud in Indian newspaper ads after Reliance Industries suddenly took over many of Future Retail stores. Amazon has been contesting the planned \$3.4 billion sale of Future Group's retail assets to Reliance, first announced in 2020, and the case is currently before the Indian Supreme Court. In ads headlined "PUBLIC NOTICE" in leading Indian newspapers, Amazon said "these actions have been done in a clandestine manner by playing a fraud on the constitutional courts in India."

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/amazon-accuses-future-retail-reliance-of-fraud-in-newspaper-ads-122031500217_1.html

Amazon's demand for \$200 million sank settlement talks with Future (March 15, 2022)

Dispute settlement talks between Amazon.com Inc and India's Future Retail failed over the U.S. group's demand for the return of at least \$200 million it had invested in the Indian firm. Amazon has for months blocked the \$3.4 billion sale of Future's retail assets to rival Reliance, announced in 2020, citing a breach of certain contracts. Future denied any wrongdoing, and hopes had risen recently of an out-of-court settlement after Amazon and Future agreed to talks. On March 15, 2022, the two sides told India's Supreme Court, which is hearing the dispute, the talks had collapsed and Amazon took out newspaper ads criticising both Reliance and Future.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/amazon-s-demand-for-200-million-sank-settlement-talks-with-future-122031501308_1.html

Future group firms to convene shareholder, creditors meeting in April (March 19, 2022)

Listed companies of Mr. Kishore Biyani-led Future group on March 19, 2022 informed exchanges about meetings of their respective shareholders and creditors being convened on April 20 and 21 to get their approval for the Rs 24,713-crore deal with Reliance Retail. Listed entities, including Future Enterprises Ltd, Future Retail Ltd, Future Consumer Ltd and Future Supply Chain, informed exchanges about dates and other procedures for the virtual meetings of shareholders and creditors.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/retail/future-group-firms-toconvene-shareholder-creditors-meeting-in-april/articleshow/90325423.cms>

What does Air India board composition say about its future direction? (March 21, 2022)

On March 14, 2022, Tata Sons approved the appointment of Mr. Chandrasekaran as Chairman of Air India. With this, Air India, under the Tata Group, has taken off on several new notes. While Air India firms up its much needed strategic turnaround plans, the new composition of the airline's board is a sign of things to come. This is how it looks now. While Mr. Chandrasekaran is the Chairman, Mr. Sanjiv Mehta, CMD of FMCG giant Hindustan Unilever and Mr. Alice Vaidyan, former Chairman and Managing Director of General Insurance Corporation of India have been inducted as non-executive independent directors.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/podcast/companies/what-does-air-india-boardcomposition-say-about-its-future-direction-122032100037_1.html

Invesco withdraws EGM requisition for ZEE's board reconstitution, reiterates support for Zee-Sony merger (March 24, 2022)

A day after winning its appeal in the Bombay High Court against Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEE), Invesco Developing Markets Fund (Invesco) has decided to withdraw its requisition notice, which sought removal of MD and CEO Punit Goenka from the board of ZEE. In a statement, Invesco, the largest shareholder of ZEE with around 18% stake in the entertainment company, also reiterated its support for the proposed merger of ZEE with Sony Pictures Networks India (SPN).

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/media/entertainment/media/invescowithdraws-egm-requisition-for-zees-board-reconstitution-reiterates-support-for-zee-sonymerger/articleshow/90408965.cms>

Government e-Market portal touches an annual procurement of INR 1 Lakh crore within FY 2021-22 (March 24, 2022)

Government e Marketplace (GeM) has attained an annual procurement of INR 1 Lakh crore within FY 2021-22. This represents a 160% growth compared to last FY. Addressing media on the occasion, Shri Prashant Kumar Singh, CEO, GeM said that since inception the cumulative Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) reached INR 1 Lakh crore over 4 and half years, on 23rd March 2021, whereas the GMV of GeM in the current Financial Year surpassed Rs. 1 lakh crore in less than a year.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1809302>

Ola to acquire Avail Finance (March 25, 2022)

Mobility firm Ola has signed an agreement to acquire neo bank Avail Finance which provides financial services to the blue-collared workforce and has over 6 million users. The acquisition is a key step in Ola's broader push into the fintech space as it looks to build a mobility-focused financial services business under Ola Financial. "With this acquisition, Ola Financial Services will further strengthen its play in the credit underserved segments that comprise blue-collar workers such as Ola's driver partner ecosystem. The deal is subject to shareholder approval,"

For details:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/ola-to-acquire-availfinance/articleshow/90432026.cms>

Ruchi Soya board meeting to fix FPO issue price postponed to March 31, 2022 (March 29, 2022)

Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali group's Ruchi Soya Industries said it has rescheduled its board meeting on March 31, 2022 to fix issue price of its Rs 4,300 crore FPO (follow-on public offer) in view of markets regulator SEBI's direction to allow withdrawal of investors' bids till Wednesday, March 30, 2022. On Monday, March 28, 2022, SEBI asked bankers of Ruchi Soya to give an option to investors, who participated in the FPO, to withdraw their bids while also cautioning them about "circulation of an unsolicited SMS" about the share sale. Shares of Ruchi Soya surged on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 after the company, through newspaper advertisements, clarified that the SMSes pertaining to investments in its FPO have not been issued by the company or its promoters.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/ruchi-soya-board-meeting-to-fixfpo-issue-price-postponed-to-march-31-122032900983_1.html

States panel likely to bat for system tracking dealers' transactions (March 30, 2022)

The panel of state finance ministers looking at reforms in the goods and services tax (GST) system may propose putting in place an arrangement to keep track of dealers' transactions and link them with the e-way bill system so that "bogus dealers" could be traced. The move helps in tackling fake invoicing and regulating the flow of input tax credit (ITC). The panel may also suggest integrating the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to curb frauds in tax refunds.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/states-panel-likely-to-batfor-system-tracking-dealers-transactions-122032901630_1.html

Rs. 7,049 crores sanctioned to MSMEs under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (March 30, 2022)

Banks have sanctioned Rs 8,299 crore and disbursed Rs 7,049 crore to MSME beneficiaries during the current financial year under the Guaranteed Emergency Credit line of 20 per cent under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. At the 32nd State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) quarterly review meeting held on March 29, 2022, officials said that banks have sanctioned Rs. 7.38 crore under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD) and disbursed Rs 2.47 crore.

For details:

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telegana/2022/mar/30/rs-7049-croressanctioned-to-msmes-under-atma-nirbhar-2435715.html>

Ease of Doing Business (March 30, 2022)

The Government of India has undertaken a number of steps to ensure the quick registration of companies in India, namely: i) A single integrated new web form called SPICe+ along with AGILE PRO-S has been deployed. This form provides eleven services related to starting a business. ii) Zero fee is now charged for incorporation of all companies with authorized capital up to Rs. 15 lakh or with up to 20 members where no share capital is applicable. iii) A Central Registration Centre (CRC) has been set up for name reservation and incorporation of companies & Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) within 1 day. iv) The LLP Incorporation Form called FiLLiP has also been integrated with Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to provide PAN/TAN at the time of Incorporation of LLP itself. v) Provisions with regard to incorporation and functioning of One-Person Companies (OPCs) have been revised so as to incentivize incorporation of OPCs, etc.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1811559>

Budget Session: Accountancy Bill approval, vehicle safety norms, and more (March 31, 2022)

Lok Sabha on Wednesday approved a bill to revamp the functioning of the institutes of chartered accountants, cost accountants and company secretaries, with Union minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserting that the changes will not impact the autonomy of these bodies. The Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants and Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill seeks to appoint non-Chartered Accountant, non-cost accountant and non-company secretary as the presiding officer of the disciplinary committees of the respective institutes.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/budget-session-accountancybill-approval-vehicle-safety-norms-and-more-122033100015_1.html

Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 extended upto 30th September, 2022 (March 31, 2022)

Directorate General of Foreign Trade in exercise of powers conferred by Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 read with paragraph 1.02 of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-2020, amended the FTP 2015-2020. According to the amendment the existing Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 which is valid upto 31.03.2022 is extended upto 30th September, 2022.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/234737.pdf>

Export Policy for MSMES (March 31, 2022)

E-Commerce is widely considered as a medium to reduce costs related to penetration and sustainability of exporters in international markets. Indian MSMEs stand to benefit from the enhanced visibility provided by e-commerce platforms. Improved infrastructure, competitive pricing and reduced costs associated with marketing and outreach of products over a digital platform contribute to promoting online sales. Government of India has taken several measures to enhance the exports by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). These include efforts made under Make in India Programme, Promotion of Ease of Doing Business, improved availability of credit through MUDRA, Stand up India. Further, Ministry of MSME has established 52 Export Facilitation Centers (EFCs) across the country with an aim to provide requisite mentoring and handholding support to MSEs in exporting their products and services to the foreign market; and 102 Enterprise Development Centers (EDCs) have been setup with the aim to build a network of entrepreneurial leaders by providing professional mentoring and handholding support services to existing as well as aspiring MSMEs with special focus on rural enterprises on continuous basis.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1811827>

Unemployment rate decreasing in India: CMIE (April 3, 2022)

Unemployment rate in the country is decreasing with the economy slowly returning to normal, according to CMIE data. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's monthly time series data revealed that the overall unemployment rate in India was 8.10 per cent in February 2022, which fell to 7.6 per cent in March. On April 2, the ratio further dropped to 7.5 per cent, with urban unemployment rate at 8.5 per cent and rural at 7.1 per cent.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/jobs/unemployment-rate-decreasing-in-indiacmie/articleshow/90624064.cms>

India overshoots export target; achieves USD 417.8 billion exports in 2021- 22 (April 03, 2022)

Merchandise exports from India have reached USD 417.8 billion in the current financial year. This figure excludes the figures from non-EDI Ports and adding that, it is likely to exceed \$418 billion, an all-time high in India's export history. India has achieved highest monthly value of merchandise export in March 2022 amounting USD40.38 billion, an increase of 14.53% overUSD35.26 billion in March 2021 and an increase of 87.89% over USD 21.49 billion in March 2020. The exports have witnessed a significant growth in non-petroleum goods also in April 2021-March 2022 which was USD 352.76 billion, an increase of 32.62% over USD 266.00 billion in April 2020-March 2021 and an increase of 29.66% over USD 272.07 billion in April 2019-March 2020.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1812990#:~:text=India%20has%20achieved%20highest%20monthly,21.49%20billion%20in%20March%202020>

Cost of living rises in India as companies pass on higher prices (April 04, 2022)

Indian manufacturers are running out of capacity to absorb rising input costs, with an increasing number passing it along to consumers in an economy already grappling with Asia's third-fastest inflation and an uneven recovery.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/cost-of-living-rises-in-india-as-companies-pass-on-higher-prices/articleshow/90632305.cms>

HDFC twins merge in \$40-bn deal; amalgamation may take 15 to 18 months (April 05, 2022)

The country's largest housing finance company and the biggest private sector bank announced that their boards have approved an all-stock amalgamation of HDFC Ltd into HDFC Bank. A merger, which was in the making for years, has finally fructified in a \$40-billion deal to create a banking behemoth. The country's largest housing finance company and the biggest private sector bank announced on Monday that their boards have approved an all-stock amalgamation of HDFC Ltd into HDFC Bank, subject to regulatory approvals. At present, HDFC is the parent company of the bank. The merger will be a two-step process wherein, HDFC Investments Ltd and HDFC Holdings Ltd, which are wholly-owned subsidiaries of HDFC, will be merged with and into HDFC. Then HDFC will be merged with HDFC Bank. HDFC and its two subsidiaries currently hold 21 per cent of the share capital of HDFC Bank. HDFC shares will be extinguished after the merger.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/hdfc-twins-merge-in-40-bn-deal-amalgamation-may-take-15-to-18-months-122040500024_1.html

Promotion of Startups (April 06, 2022)

Startups and the entire innovation ecosystem are the engines of growth for any country. Recognizing this aspect, Government launched Startup India initiative on 16th January 2016 with an aim to build a stronger ecosystem for nurturing India's startup culture that would further drive our economic growth, support entrepreneurship, and enable large-scale employment opportunities. Sustained Government efforts in this direction have resulted in increasing the number of recognized Startups from 726 in FY 2016-17 to 66,810 in FY 2021-22 (as on 28th March 2022). There is at least one recognized startup from every State and UT and nearly 50% of the recognized startups are from Tier-II and III cities. Recognized startups are spread across over 640 districts and have reported creation of more than 7 lakh jobs. Furthermore, DPIIT has recognized startups which are spread across 56 diversified sectors. More than 4,500 Startups have been recognized in sectors relating to emerging technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, artificial intelligence, analytics, etc.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1814146>

Future Retail, Amazon, Reliance dispute: Supreme Court orders resumption of arbitration (April 06, 2022)

The Supreme Court on Wednesday, April 06, 2022 ordered that an arbitral tribunal must decide Future Retail's application as the Competition Commission of India (CCI) withdrew its permission to Amazon to invest Rs 1,473 crore in Future Coupons. Earlier, Future Coupons private limited, which is a promoter group entity of Future Retail, received the amount from Amazon for 49 percent stake in the company.

For details:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/business/story/future-retail-amazon-reliance-dispute-supreme-court-orders-resumption-of-arbitration-1934183-2022-04-06>

Ruchi Soya renamed Patanjali Foods Ltd. (April 11, 2022)

Patanjali-owned Ruchi Soya, in a BSE filing, stated that its board approved the changing of the company name to Patanjali Foods Ltd. The meeting was held on April 10, 2022. Ruchi Soya's recent FPO was oversubscribed 3.6 times. It received bids for 17.56 crore equity shares against the size of 4.89 crore equity shares on the final day. The retail quota, which constitutes 35 per cent of the issue, saw subscription of 90 per cent.

For details:

<https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/corporate/story/ruchi-soya-renamed-patanjali-foodsltd-329347-2022-04-11>

Hindustan Aeronautics consortium win ISRO order for polar space launch vehicles (April 11, 2022)

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and L&T consortium has emerged as the lowest bidder to make 5 Polar Space Launch Vehicles (PSLVs) for ISRO. This will be the first time that the industry will build a launch vehicle (LV) and will pave the way for commercialisation of other LVs, including the small satellite launch vehicle. The first rocket is expected to be realised sometime during the second half of 2024. This is the first time in the ISRO's history that an entire rocket, including the heatshield, is to be made outside of the space agency.

For details:

<https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/corporate/story/hindustan-aeronautics-consortiumwin-isro-order-for-polar-space-launch-vehicles-329360-2022-04-11>

PM to inaugurate Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya on 14th April (April 12, 2022)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya on 14th April, 2022 at around 11 AM. The Sangrahalaya, being inaugurated during the celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, tells the story of India after Independence through the lives and contributions of its Prime Ministers. Guided by the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to honour the contribution of all the Prime Ministers of India towards nation building, the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya is a tribute to every Prime Minister of India since Independence, irrespective of their ideology or tenure in office. It is an inclusive endeavour led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, aimed at sensitizing and inspiring the younger generation about the leadership, vision and achievements of all our Prime Ministers.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1816124>

Tata Steel board to consider stock split (April 18, 2022)

The board of directors of Tata Steel will consider a stock split at the board meeting to be held on May 3. "The company will consider a proposal for sub-division of the equity shares of the company having a face value of Rs 10 each, in such manner as may be determined by the board of directors, subject to regulatory and statutory approvals as may be required and the approval of the shareholders of the company," the company said in an exchange filing.

For details :

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/companies/tata-steel-board-to-consider-stock-split-7873754/>

India's Tata Steel to stop doing business with Russia (April 20, 2022)

Tata Steel will stop doing business with Russia, the Indian steel major said on Wednesday, making it the latest global company to cut ties with the country for invading Ukraine. "Tata Steel does not have any operations or employees in Russia. We have taken a conscious decision to stop doing business with Russia," Tata Steel said in a *statement*.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/steel/indias-tata-steel-to-stop-doing-business-with-russia/articleshow/90962517.cms>

India has entered a golden era of start-ups, says PM Modi at Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit (April 21, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit at Gandhinagar, and stated that India is going to introduce a special AYUSH visa category for foreign nationals who want to come to the country to take advantage of traditional medicine. PM Modi was addressing the inauguration of the three-day Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit at Mahatma Mandir in Gujarat in the presence of Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus.

For details:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-has-entered-a-golden-era-of-start-upssays-pm-modi-at-global-ayush-investment-and-innovationsummit/articleshow/90954342.cms>

Competition Law

Info Capsule Series 11

CCI approves acquisition of Prione Business Services Private Limited by Amazon AsiaPacific Resources Private Limited (March 10, 2022)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of Prione Business Services Private Limited by Amazon Asia-Pacific Resources Private Limited. The proposed combination pertains to the proposed acquisition of Seventy-Six percent of the equity shares of Prione Business Services Private Limited (Target) by Amazon Asia-Pacific Resources Private Limited (Acquirer). Acquirer is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Amazon.com, Inc. (ACI). ACI is the ultimate parent entity of the Amazon group. The Acquirer does not undertake any business activity in India. However, ACI, the ultimate parent company of the Acquirer, has certain indirect subsidiaries either registered in India or having business operations in India. Target is an Indian owned and controlled company, and is controlled by Hober Mallow Trust (Hober Mallow). Seventy Six percent of the share capital of the Target is held by Hober Mallow. Acquirer already owns Twenty three percent of the share capital of the Target, and Amazon Eurasia Holdings S.a.r.l. owns One percent of the share capital of the Target. The Target offers a variety of services tailored to help small and medium businesses (“SMBs”) run their online businesses efficiently, inter alia, including digital cataloguing, advertising, training and consulting, advisory and value-added services, adopting digital payments, and other overall enablement services.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1804667>

CCI approves acquisition of shareholding in Busybees Logistics Solutions Private Limited by BXG Xenon HoldCo Limited (March 23, 2022)

The proposed combination envisages the acquisition of certain equity shareholding on a fully diluted basis in BusyBees Logistics Solutions Private Limited (Target) by BXG Xenon HoldCo Ltd (Acquirer). The Acquirer is a newly incorporated entity and at present does not have any business operations, in India or worldwide. The Acquirer is controlled by funds advised and/ or managed by affiliates of Blackstone Inc. Blackstone Inc. is a global alternative asset manager. It is headquartered in the United States and has offices in a number of geographies, including Europe and Asia. The Target is engaged in the business of providing logistics and delivery solution services in India. It operates in India using the brand name 'Xpressbees' and provides a range of services falling within the logistics sector, including: (a) Express parcel shipping services; (b) B2B Part Truck Load and Full Truck load freight services; (c) Cross border Logistics; (d) 3PL / Contract Logistics; (e) Online logistics aggregation services; (f) B2B marketplace enabling sellers to sell products online to B2B customers; and (g) Supply of logistics, shipping, and other related services.

For details: https://www.cci.gov.in/sites/default/files/press_release/PR76-2021-22.pdf

CCI to enforce stricter M&A disclosure requirements starting May 1 (April 04, 2022)

Cos to disclose "complimentary linkage" between them and their impact on market, provide data of past 5 yrs on market size, market share of parties and also of competitors. Companies planning for merger and acquisition (M&A) will have to disclose the extent of "complimentary linkages" between them and their impact on the market under the revised reporting requirement of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The changes will come into effect from May 1. The entities may also have to provide market facing data of the past five years with respect to their market size, market share of the parties and also the competitors along with customers and suppliers. At present they seek data for only one year. The anti-trust watchdog has amended the Form-II--typically for cases requiring detailed examination to assess the likely effect of the combination on competition in India.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cci-to-enforce-stricter-m-disclosure-requirements-starting-may-1-122040401208_1.html

CCI penalises firms found guilty of bid rigging and cartelization in Indian Railways tenders (April 05, 2022)

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) issued a final order against eleven (11) companies / firms which were found to have contravened the provisions of Sections 3(3)(a), 3(3)(b), 3(3)(c) and 3(3)(d) read with Section 3(1) of the Competition Act, 2002 (Act), which proscribe anti-competitive agreements. The case was initiated on the basis of a reference filed on behalf of the North Western Railways. CCI found these companies/ firms to have indulged in cartelisation in the supply of High Performance Polyamide Bushes (HPPA) and Self Lubricating Polyester Resin Bushes (SLPR) to the Indian Railways by means of directly or indirectly determining prices, allocating tenders, controlling supply and market, co-ordinating bid prices and manipulating the bidding process. The evidence in the matter included regular e-mail communications and WhatsApp exchanges between the parties, quoting of identical/ similar prices by certain parties, filing of bids from same IP addresses by certain parties in close proximity etc. Of the eleven (11) entities, four (04) were lesser penalty applicants before the CCI. Under Section 46 of the Act, a cartel member may approach the Commission by way of filing an application seeking lesser penalty, in return for providing full, true and vital disclosures in respect of the alleged cartel to the Commission.

For details: https://www.cci.gov.in/sites/default/files/press_release/PR03-2022-23.pdf

Bombay HC puts on hold CCI probe of top debt trustees (April 12, 2022)

Bombay High Court on Monday, April 11, 2022 put on hold an antitrust investigation into trustee units of State Bank of India, Axis Bank and IDBI Bank for suspected collusion on fees, saying the market regulator would first look into the case. Indian regulations mandate that companies raising debt appoint a so-called "debenture trustee" to protect the interests of investors. The trustees charge a fee from the companies issuing the debt and make due-diligence checks on them. Reuters reported last week the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had ordered an investigation into debt trustee units of the three banks and a group representing them had gone to court seeking to quash the probe. Hearing the plea, the judges of the High Court in Mumbai said the market regulator SEBI - which is also investigating the matter - should complete its probe within 60 days, and until then the antitrust investigation will remain on hold.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/bombay-hc-puts-on-hold-cciprobe-of-top-debt-trustees-122041100957_1.html

The Competition Commission of India (General) Amendment Regulations, 2022 (April 08, 2022)

In exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 36, 57 and 64 of the Competition Act, 2002, the Competition Commission of India has amended the Competition Commission of India (General) Regulations, 2009. According to the amendment, Regulation 35 of the Competition Commission of India (General) Regulations, 2009 *inter alia* provides that the Commission shall maintain confidentiality of the identity of an Informant on a request made to it in writing : Provided that where it is necessary or expedient to disclose the identity of the Informant for the purposes of the Act, the Commission may do so after providing a reasonable opportunity to the Informant, to represent its case before the Commission. Further, a party seeking confidentiality over the information or the documents furnished by it shall set out cogent reasons for such treatment and shall self-certify that making the document or documents or information or a part or parts thereof public will result in disclosure of trade secrets or destruction or appreciable diminution of the commercial value of any information or can be reasonably expected to cause serious injury.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/234981.pdf>

Ethics and Governance

Info Capsule Series 11

Chairman of Tata Sons can't head Tata Trusts (February 14, 2022)

The Tata Sons board has approved decoupling of two key positions to ensure that the Tata Sons chairman will not be able to take up a similar role at Tata Trusts, its controlling shareholder. The decision was taken at a board meeting last week where chairman emeritus Ratan Tata was a "special invitee."

For details:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/tata-sons-tata-trusts-cant-have-same-head/articleshow/89554340.cms>

BharatPe CEO reaches out to staff amid audit, Ashneer Grover row (February 12, 2022)

BharatPe chief executive Suhail Sameer told employees that findings of an ongoing governance review of the Delhi-based firm will be shared with the board in a couple of weeks while assuring them that the fintech firm has sufficient funds to tide over the crisis, in a letter on Friday morning. He also said that the company is "under constant scrutiny and spotlight" and "what is being written is nothing but unsubstantiated rumours," in an attempt to assuage widespread concerns among the employees. Sameer's outreach to colleagues comes amid mounting tension between cofounder Ashneer Grover and the company's board.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/startups/bharatpe-ceo-writes-to-staff-saysgovernance-review-audit-in-process-asks-employees-to-trust-the-board-for-futureaction/articleshow/89495137.cms>

Former NSE chief Chitra Ramkrishna shared confidential info with ‘Himalayan yogi’: SEBI (February 13, 2022)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has alleged that Chitra Ramkrishna – one of the founding members of NSE and a former MD & CEO—used to share confidential information about the stock exchange with an ‘unknown person’—a yogi who lived in the Himalayas. SEBI alleged that Ramkrishna had leaked confidential information such as NSE’s five-year financial projections, dividend payout ratio, the exchange’s business plans and agenda of NSE’s board meeting with the yogi.

For details:

<https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/markets/former-nse-chief-chitraramkrishna-shared-confidential-info-with-a-himalayan-yogi-sebi-article-89540236>

Renault India partners CSC e-Governance Services to support PM Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (February 14, 2022)

Automaker Renault India on Monday said it has partnered with CSC e-Governance Services (Common Service Centres) to support the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA), the country's flagship programme that aims to provide digital literacy to masses.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/renault-india-partners-csc-egovernance-services-to-support-pm-gramin-digital-saksharta-abhiyaan-8089861.html>

IndusInd Bank’s internal investigation hints at procedural lapses by Bharat Financial Inclusion (February 14, 2022)

IndusInd Bank’s internal probe is alleged to have discovered procedural lapses by its wholly owned subsidiary Bharat Financial Inclusion (BFIL) in loan disbursements to microfinance debtors at the height of the pandemic. Deloitte India, which is doing an exterior evaluation on the matter, is more likely to submit its report in a week’s time, two people familiar with the issue said.

For details:

<https://www.pehalnews.in/indusind-banks-internal-investigation-hints-at-procedurallapses-by-bharat-financial-inclusion/1635293/>

First Green Hydrogen Policy offers sops to makers and users both (February 17, 2022)

The government on Thursday launched the country’s first green hydrogen policy as part of its energy transition plan. The objective is to reduce fossil fuel usage and increase penetration of green fuels. The policy follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s announcement about a National Hydrogen Mission last Independence Day. The new policy provides several incentives for manufacturers, consumers of green hydrogen and green ammonia. It’s a welcome development for the industry, including big businesses such as Reliance Industries (RIL) and Adani Enterprises. Existing renewable energy generation companies such as ACME group and ReNew Power would also be able to utilise their existing green energy capacity to manufacture green fuels.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/first-green-hydrogen-policyoffers-sops-to-makers-and-users-both-122021701209_1.html

Chitra Ramkrishna, Subramanian ran money making scheme, alleges SEBI (February 17, 2022)

Former NSE MD & CEO Chitra Ramkrishna and Group Operating Officer and her Advisor Anand Subramanian ran a money-making scheme during their stint at the National Stock Exchange (NSE), market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has alleged. The order passed by SEBI dated February 11 highlights frequent increase in Subramanian's compensation package without proper appraisal, documentation or file notings and with no involvement of the Human Resource (HR) head or the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC). Furthermore, the order talks about Subramanian being directed to "withdraw and surrender" to the unknown person a gross amount per month as "gratitude."

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/chitra-ramkrishna-subramanian-ran-money-making-scheme-alleges-sebi-122021700870_1.html

Shareholder Dissent At Nykaa, Burger King And Sun TV (February 16, 2022)

Three companies in different industries and of different vintage have a shared problem: displeased investors. The most recent case is of FSN E-Commerce Ventures Ltd., the owner of popular beauty and fashion e-commerce platform Nykaa. FSN E-Commerce Ventures, which listed in late 2021, sought to amend its articles of association. The amendments entrench the promoter powers regarding chairman and board appointments. 80% of the institutional votes cast were against the proposal, yet it passed due to promoter and private equity investor support.

For details:

<https://www.bloomberquint.com/business/shareholder-dissent-at-nykaa-burger-king-and-sun-tv>

Big firms ask SEBI to reverse 'tedious, complicated' related-party rule (February 21, 2022)

Companies want India's capital market regulator to change proposed rules on transactions between group firms, founders and related entities as they will lead to an increase in compliance costs and delay decision making. Engineering major Larsen & Toubro Ltd. and lobby groups including the Confederation of Indian Industry want the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to scrap the mandatory shareholder approval for deals beyond 10 billion rupees (\$134 million). Instead, the existing rule of 10% of annual turnover should prevail even after the new rules kick in on April 1.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/big-firms-ask-sebi-to-reverse-tedious-complicated-related-party-rule-122022100115_1.html

NSE fraud: CBI quizzes ex-CEO Ravi Narain (February 21, 2022)

The CBI on February 19, 2022 interrogated former NSE director Ravi Narain, who served it's CEO before Chitra Ramakrishna, in connection with its ongoing probe related to the alleged abuse of colocation facility by an NSE stockbroker, officials said on February 20, 2022. The investigators lobbed several sharp questions, but Narain was reportedly evasive. He may be called again for further questioning. On February 18, 2022, the agency had questioned Ramkrishna.

For details:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/nse-fraud-cbi-quizzes-exceo-ravi-narain/articleshow/89712824.cms>

Women reluctant to join company boards, difficult to find those who are interested: Nirmala Sitharaman (February 21, 2022)

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 21, 2022 rued that women are reluctant to join company boards and she has herself struggled to convince candidates. The remarks come even as the statutes mandate top 1,000 companies to have at least one independent woman director.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/womenreluctant-to-join-company-boards-difficult-to-find-those-who-are-interested-nirmalasitharaman/articleshow/89727412.cms>

New CSR disclosure framework to help in data analytical work, enhance transparency (February 20, 2022)

The new disclosure framework for CSR spending by companies will help gather granular details for analytical purposes and also bring greater transparency with respect to expenditure, according to a senior government official. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) regime, applicable for certain class of profitable companies, came into force in April, 2014 and official data available up to September 30, 2021, showed that an amount of Rs. 8,828.11 crore was spent towards such works in the last financial year.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/new-csr-disclosure-framework-to-help-in-data-analytical-work-enhance-transparency/articleshow/89702703.cms>

Entrepreneurs to take country to higher growth, prosperity: Marico Chairman Harsh Mariwala (February 21, 2022)

Entrepreneurs will lead the country to higher growth and prosperity, Marico Chairman Harsh Mariwala on February 21, 2022 opined and suggested businesses to adopt a transformative 'Digital Approach' for sustainable growth. Highlighting the role of digitisation, Mariwala said the industry should prioritise their digital initiatives and avail this business growth opportunity with a right approach.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/entrepreneursto-take-country-to-higher-growth-prosperity-marico-chairman-harsh-mariwala/articleshow/89726807.cms>

BharatPe terminates head of controls Madhuri Jain Grover's services (February 23, 2022)

Weeks after being sent on leave, the services of Madhuri Jain Grover, head of controls of BharatPe and wife of founder Ashneer Grover, have been terminated by the company on allegations of misappropriation of funds, according to sources privy to the development.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/startup/bharatpe-terminates-head-of-controls-madhuri-jain-grovers-services-8149651.html>

BharatPe fight spills over to Singapore: Ashneer Grover files arbitration plea (February 23, 2022)

Even as BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover has filed an emergency plea before the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) seeking to quash the company's investigation into an alleged financial fraud and mishandling of company funds, the two parties are understood to be moving closer to an out-of-court settlement. Grover will likely seek indemnity for many future liabilities while selling his stake back to the company.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/bharatpe-fight-spills-over-to-singapore-ashneer-grover-files-arbitration-plea/2442069/>

ABG Shipyard's independent directors under scanner now (February 22, 2022)

Both Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) have booked ABG Shipyard on charges of dishonesty, legal conspiracy, related provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act and cash laundering for allegedly defrauding a consortium of banks to the tune of Rs. 22,482 crore. There had been 4 independent directors on the board of ABG Shipyard together with two nominated by one financial institution that's a part of the consortium. The companies are more likely to quiz all 4 independent directors who remained on the corporate's board for a big tenure, sources mentioned. The companies will confirm "inaction", if any, on the part of directors nominated by banks, they mentioned.

For details:

<https://www.pehalnews.in/abg-shipyards-independent-directors-under-scannernow/1658532/>

Rs. 18,000 crore returned to banks from Mallya, Nirav Modi, Choksi, SC told (February 24, 2022)

The Centre on Wednesday informed the Supreme Court that banks got back Rs. 18,000 crore from absconding businessmen Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi after proceedings were initiated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

For details:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/rs-18000-crore-returned-to-banks-from-mallya-nirav-modi-choksi-7788185/>

NSE Scam - Financials of 3 firms at the centre of storm reveal divergent fortunes (February 24, 2022)

Three central entities in the colocation scam at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) that has shaken the foundation of the Indian capital market recently have been on different trajectories since it all unraveled for each of them over the past few years. The Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) investigations into misuse of the colocation facility of the NSE between 2010 and 2015 and other Corporate Governance lapses at the stock exchange around the same period unveiled Infotech Financials, Omnesys Technologies and OPG Securities as three companies who had misused their connections to the stock exchange to make unlawful financial gains.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/companies/nse-scam-financials-of-3-firms-at-the-centre-of-storm-reveal-divergent-fortunes-8154941.html>

NSE Scam - CBI arrests former bourse chief Chitra Ramkrishna's advisor Anand Subramanian (February 25, 2022)

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on February 25 arrested Anand Subramanian, a former top official of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), in connection with alleged favour dolled out to certain traders. The development comes as authorities pressed ahead with an investigation into the NSE scam case where certain private individuals and unknown NSE and SEBI officials were accused of preferential access to the NSE's server architecture and misuse of colocation facility.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/companies/cbi-arrests-anandsubramanian-in-alleged-stock-market-manipulation-case-8161851.html>

Hindustan Unilever separates positions of Chairman and CEO & MD (Feb 25, 2022)

Hindustan Unilever (HUL) has separated the positions of chairman of the board and the chief executive officer & managing director (CEO & MD), which will be effective March 31. The FMCG major has announced the appointment of Mr. Nitin Paranjpe, currently chief operating officer of Unilever, as the non-executive chairman of the company. Mr. Sanjiv Mehta will continue as CEO & MD.

For details:

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/hindustan-unilever-separates-positions-of-chairman-and-ceo-md-122022400908_1.html#:~:text=Hindustan%20Unilever%20separates%20positions%20of%20C%20hairman%20and%20CEO%20%26%20MD,-Sharleen%20D'Souza&text=Hindustan%20Unilever%20\(HUL\)%20has%20separated,will%20be%20effective%20March%2031](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/hindustan-unilever-separates-positions-of-chairman-and-ceo-md-122022400908_1.html#:~:text=Hindustan%20Unilever%20separates%20positions%20of%20C%20hairman%20and%20CEO%20%26%20MD,-Sharleen%20D'Souza&text=Hindustan%20Unilever%20(HUL)%20has%20separated,will%20be%20effective%20March%2031)

Ashneer Grover loses arbitration against governance review at BharatPe (February 27, 2022)

BharatPe co-founder and managing director Ashneer Grover has lost an arbitration that he had filed against the company's investigation against him, with an emergency arbitrator holding that there was no ground to stop governance review at the fintech firm, sources said.

For details:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/ashneer-grover-loses-arbitration-against-governance-review-at-bharatpe-7793368/>

SEBI asks Indiabulls to address issues where it was found non-compliant (March 04, 2022)

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in its investigation against Indiabulls Housing Finance has found the mortgage financier non-compliant with regards to unavailability of certain information on its website as well as its internal policy. Thereby, it has directed the company to take corrective measures and inform the stock exchanges in a months' time.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/sebi-asks-indiabulls-to-address-issues-where-it-was-found-non-compliant-122030301102_1.html

BharatPe accuses Ashneer Grover family of siphoning off company funds (March 03, 2022)

Since the war of words between Ashneer Grover and BharatPe's board began two months back, the company for the first time officially accused the embattled founder's family and relatives of misappropriating funds on March 02, 2022. "The Grover family and their relatives engaged in extensive misappropriation of company funds, including, but not limited to, creating fake vendors through which they siphoned money away from the company's account and grossly abused company expense accounts in order to enrich themselves and fund their lavish lifestyles," said BharatPe. With Grover having stepped down from the company's board, the focus is now likely to shift to his 8.5 per cent shareholding in the financial technology unicorn. Earlier, he had demanded an exit payout of Rs. 4,000 crore, valuing the company at \$6 billion.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/ashneer-grover-s-family-siphoned-funds-to-lead-lavish-lifestyle-bharatpe-122030200456_1.html

Co-location scandal: We have effected transformational changes, says NSE (March 8, 2022)

The National Stock Exchange (NSE), which is once again in the eye of a storm due to the co-location scandal, has said it has taken several transformational steps in the past few years on the regulatory, technological, and surveillance fronts to help improve stakeholder experience and to protect investors. Senior officials of the exchange briefed the media over the steps the exchange has taken on various fronts following changes at the helm with former managing director and chief executive officer Chitra Ramkrishna's ouster in December 2016.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/co-location-scandal-we-have-effected-transformational-changes-says-nse-122030800054_1.html

Board acted quickly: BharatPe co-founder Nakrani on unseating Grover (March 8, 2022)

BharatPe co-founder Shashvat Nakrani has accused Ashneer Grover, with whom he had co-founded the payment startup, of creating a false narrative about the company, and said the board acted quickly and decisively in unseating him after receiving finds of a PwC report. BharatPe, which allows shop owners to make digital payments through QR codes, last week stripped Grover of all titles and positions over his alleged "misdeeds" and may take further legal actions, including clawing back of some of his shareholding.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/board-acted-quickly-bharatpe-co-founder-nakrani-on-unseating-grover-122030701542_1.html

Dish TV shareholders reject all 3 proposals in AGM (March 8, 2022)

Embattled DTH player Dish TV on Tuesday disclosed that its shareholders have rejected all three proposals, including the adoption of financial statements and reappointment of Ashok Mathai Kurien as director, at its AGM held on December 30, 2021. The Essel group firm is currently locked in a legal battle with its single largest shareholder Yes Bank Ltd (YBL).

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/dish-tv-shareholders-reject-all-3-proposals-in-agm/2454651/>

NSE CEO & MD Vikram Limaye not interested in applying for second term (March 9, 2022)

Just days after the National Stock Exchange (NSE) invited bids for a new CEO and MD, Vikram Limaye, the incumbent, has informed the board that he is not interested in a second term and will not apply or participate in the process. The last date for applications is March 25.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/market/nse-ceo-md-vikram-limaye-not-interested-in-applying-for-second-term/2454737/>

Attendance at board meetings improved in FY21 on virtual meetings (March 09, 2022)

The attendance at the board meetings of listed companies has shown a significant improvement, with 86 per cent of the directors having had 100 per cent attendance in 2020-21, mostly on account of the virtual meetings held during the year, according to a survey by Excellence Enablers, a corporate governance advisory firm. In FY20, 63 per cent of board members had 100 per cent attendance and 14 directors had zero attendance. The tally improved in FY21 as 86 per cent of the directors had had 100 per cent attendance and only six directors had zero attendance, the survey released on Wednesday stated.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporatetrends/attendance-at-boardmeetings-improved-in-fy21-onvirtual-meetings/articleshow/90106422.cms>

Prabha Narasimhan to join Colgate-Palmolive India as MD and CEO (March 11, 2022)

Colgate Palmolive (India)'s nomination & remuneration committee has recommended the name of Prabha Narasimhan as its next MD and CEO to the board of directors for her appointment effective from September 1, the company has said in its filing.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/colgate-palmolive-india-to-get-new-md-ceo-in-september-122031100018_1.html

India plans Rs 24,000 cr sovereign green bond as economy goes low carbon (March 15, 2022)

India will issue at least 240 billion rupees (\$3.3 billion) in sovereign green bonds as the country marks a shift towards a low-carbon economy, according to officials with knowledge of the matter.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-plans-rs-24-000-cr-sovereign-green-bond-as-economy-goes-low-carbon-122031500116_1.html

L&T Technology Services aims for carbon, water neutrality by 2030 (March 21, 2022)

L&T Technology Services (LTTS) aims to achieve carbon and water neutrality by 2030 and has unveiled its first sustainability report, the company said on Monday. The report, conforming to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), presents LTTS' sustainability efforts across its key elements for fiscal 2020-21.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/l-t-technology-services-aims-for-carbon-water-neutrality-by-2030-122032100280_1.html

Parliament panel seeks constituency-wise CSR spending by top 10 companies (March 28, 2022)

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance has asked the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) to analyze the Corporate Social Responsibility expenditure of top 10 private companies by region as well as parliamentary constituency and submit a report within three months.

For details:

<https://pen18.com/csr-parliament-panel-seeks-constituency-wise-csr-spending-by-top-10-companies/>

House finance panel may question SEBI Chief in NSE Scam (April 4, 2022)

A parliamentary panel on finance headed by former minister of state for finance Jayant Sinha has called top officials of market regulator SEBI including its chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch for questioning on issues pertaining to regulatory issues and the NSE colocation scam. The committee on finance summoned Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) representatives on Tuesday. Officials in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs said that the newly appointed chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch may appear before the committee. "The standing committee has issued a notice.....Panel would like know what went wrong in the case of NSE," the official said. The new chairperson herself is expected to attend the meeting and inform the panel about the development, the official added.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/house-finance-panel-may-question-sebichief-in-nse-scam/articleshow/90628951.cms>

Systems in place to prevent slips: BharatPe's CEO Suhail Sameer (April 5, 2022)

BharatPe will focus on changing certain governance practices, including how procurement takes place within the firm and improving compliance and transparency, the fintech company's CEO Suhail Sameer has said. This comes on the back of Alvarez & Marsal submitting its final audit investigation report to the company board. In one of his first interviews post internal audits and the controversy over former managing director and cofounder Ashneer Grover who stepped down recently, Sameer Suhail also said that BharatPe has accelerated its plans to go public and will look to list on Indian bourses within two years.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/startups/systems-in-place-to-prevent-slipsbharatpes-ceo-suhail-sameer/articleshow/90648010.cms>

IOC, L&T, ReNew join hands for green hydrogen business (April 4, 2022)

India's top oil firm IOC, engineering and construction giant Larsen & Toubro and renewable energy company ReNew Power on Monday came together to form a joint venture to develop green hydrogen business. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and L&T have additionally signed a pact to form a joint venture with equity participation to manufacture and sell electrolyzers used in the production of green hydrogen.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/ioc-lt-renew-join-hands-for-greenhydrogen-business-8314181.html>

Global emissions can be halved by 2030 with major transitions in energy sector: IPCC report (April 4, 2022)

Global emissions can be halved by 2030 with major transitions in the energy sector, including a substantial reduction in fossil fuel use, said an IPCC report released on Monday, highlighting that mitigation action needs to be taken now to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group III report 'Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change', which was released worldwide, said that in 2010-2019, the average annual global greenhouse gas emissions were at their highest levels in human history.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/global-emissions-can-behalved-by-2030-with-major-transitions-in-energy-sector-ipccreport/articleshow/90648305.cms>

India needs \$17.77 trillion to meet long term net-zero goals: Report (April 5, 2022)

The country will need USD 17.77 trillion to meet its long term net-zero goals but it will have to find additional resources worth USD 12.4 trillion to complete the green journey, according to a study. If this funding gap is met from external sources then household spending will rise by USD 7.9 trillion, it added. According to a study by British lender Standard Chartered Bank, emerging markets, as a whole, will need an additional USD 94.8 trillion, an amount higher than their annual global GDP, if they are to meet climate goals without hitting their citizens' cost of living.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/india-needs-17-77-trillion-to-meet-long-term-net-zero-goals-report/articleshow/90670600.cms>

India Inc raises record green capital of \$19 bn in 2021 (April 5, 2022)

India Inc has raised a record USD 19 billion in green capital in 2021, led by Wall Street major Bank of America, which is only a fraction of the USD 1 trillion that global corporations raised in green financing in the year. While corporate India raised USD 19 billion in green capital in 2021, Bank of America participated in USD 15.65 billion. Globally, the Wall Street major was part of a fourth of the USD 1-trillion green funding drive, helping mop up USD 250 billion, the bank said.

For details:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/india-inc-raises-record-green-capital-of-19-bn-in-2021/2482750/>

International Business News

Info Capsule Series 11

Rajnath Singh Meets US Aerospace Giants Boeing and Raytheon Ahead Of India-US 2+2 Dialogue (April 11, 2022)

India's Defence Minister Shri. Rajnath Singh met with the U.S. aerospace and defence giants Boeing and Raytheon and spoke on major policy initiatives in India. Shortly after reaching Washington DC on Sunday, April 10, 2022 India's Defence Minister Shri. Rajnath Singh met with the U.S. aerospace and defence giants Boeing and Raytheon and spoke on major policy initiatives in India. Concerning the same, he also exhorted the companies to take advantage of policy initiatives in India for steadily shifting from 'Make in India' towards 'Make for the World'.

For details:

<https://www.republicworld.com/business-news/international-business/rajnath-singh-meets-us-aerospace-giants-boeing-and-raytheon-ahead-of-india-us-2-2-dialogue-articleshow.html>

Consumer Protection Law

Info Capsule Series 11

Consumer Complaint Against Telecom Companies Maintainable: Supreme Court Dismisses Appeal Filed by Vodafone - Idea (February 27, 2022)

The Supreme Court held that consumer complaint against telecom companies is maintainable before Consumer forum/Commission. It was observed that the existence of an arbitral remedy under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, will not oust the jurisdiction of the consumer forum. In this case, a consumer complaint before the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Ahmedabad alleging a deficiency of service on the part of Vodafone Idea Cellular Ltd. The telecom company raised an objection to the maintainability of the complaint by placing reliance on a Supreme Court judgment in *General Manager, Telecom v. M Krishnan and Another (2009) 8 SCC 481*. The District Forum dismissed this objection holding that a private service provider is not a 'telegraph authority' for the purposes of Section 7B of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885. This was later affirmed by State and National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. The issue thus raised before the Supreme Court in appeal filed by Vodafone Idea was whether Section 7B of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 ousts the jurisdiction of the consumer forum in deciding a dispute between a telecom company and a consumer. Under section 7B, certain disputes has to be referred to an arbitrator appointed by the Central Government. The bench observed that "In the present case, the existence of an arbitral remedy will not, therefore, oust the jurisdiction of the consumer forum. It would be open to a consumer to opt for the remedy of arbitration, but there is no compulsion in law to do so and it would be open to a consumer to seek recourse to the remedies which are provided under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986, now replaced by the Act of 2019."

For details:

<https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/consumer-complaint-telecom-companies-maintainable-vodafone-idea-cellular-ltd-vs-ajay-kumar-agarwal-192946>

Central Consumer Protection Authority passes order against advertisements of Sensodyne products (March 22, 2022)

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) headed by Nidhi Khare recently passed order against misleading advertisements of Sensodyne products which make the claims “Recommended by dentists worldwide” and “World’s No.1 sensitivity toothpaste”. It may be mentioned that, previously, on 09.02.2022, CCPA had passed order directing discontinuation of advertisement of Sensodyne products which show endorsement by foreign dentists. It may be mentioned that CCPA had initiated suo-moto action against advertisement of Sensodyne products on various platforms including Television, Youtube, Facebook and Twitter showing dentists practicing outside India (practicing in the United Kingdom) endorsing the use of Sensodyne products namely Sensodyne Rapid Relief and Sensodyne Fresh Gel for protection against teeth sensitivity and making claims that Sensodyne is “Recommended by dentists worldwide”, “World’s No. 1 sensitivity toothpaste” and “clinically proven relief, works in 60 seconds”.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1808129>

The Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2022 (March 28, 2022)

The Central Government notified the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2022, they shall come into force on the October 1, 2022. The said rules inter-alia consist provisions pertaining to the unit sale price in rupees, rounded off to the nearest two decimal place, shall be declared on every pre-packaged commodities in the manner, namely:- (i) per gram where net quantity is less than one kilogram and per kilogram where net quantity is more than one kilogram; (ii) per centimeter where net length is less than one metre and per metre where net length is more than one metre; (iii) per millilitre where net volume is less than one litre and per litre where net volume is more than one litre; (iv) per number or unit if any item is sold by number or unit. Declaration of unit sale price is not required for the prepackaged commodities in which retail sale price is equal to the unit sale price etc.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/234582.pdf>

13 companies withdrew misleading advertisements, 3 companies agreed for corrective advertisement after Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued notices (March 30, 2022)

The Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today informed that based on the notices issued by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) against misleading advertisements by companies, 13 companies withdrew misleading advertisements and 3 companies agreed for corrective advertisement. CCPA has also imposed penalties on 3 companies for their misleading advertisements. CCPA has recently issued two Safety Notices to alert and make consumers cautious against buying household goods which do not conform to BIS standards. An advisory has also been issued to industry associations highlighting the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act and to impress upon their members to cease from making false claims about effectiveness against corona virus which are not supported by competent and duly authorized scientific advice. Recently, the

Central Consumer Protection Authority also directed discontinuation of 'Sure Vision' advertisement and imposed a penalty of Rs 10 Lakh over false and misleading claim. The company failed to substantiate its claims related to the efficacy of the product made out in the advertisement that "It improves eyesight naturally; Eliminates eye strains; Exercise the ciliary muscles; World's best unisex correction apparatus" Earlier, CCPA has also imposed penalty of ₹10,00,000 each on Naaptol and GSK for its Sensodyne toothpaste for their misleading advertisement. They were also directed to discontinue their advertisement.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1811478>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1810496>

Compliance with the provisions of the Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021 (April 11, 2022)

Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has issued a letter to all Direct Selling Entities stating that the Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021 have been notified on 28.12.2021 under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021 intendedly envisage to provide self-regulatory ecosystem for direct selling sector. Rule 4, 5 & 7 of these rules broadly provide for mandatory maintenance of records by a direct selling entity, obligations of a direct selling entity and duties of a direct selling entity respectively. These rules don't provide for distinct registration in respect of a direct selling entity except as mandated in clause (a) of sub-rule (1) of rule 5 of the Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021. Department of Consumer Affairs has, however, been receiving declarations/undertakings from several direct selling entities purportedly under the Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021, though such submissions are not mandated by these rules. In so far as consumers are concerned, sub-rule (17) of rule 5 of the Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021 stipulates that every direct selling entity shall become a partner in the convergence process of the National Consumer Helpline of the Central Government so as to facilitate redressal of consumer grievances. All the Direct Selling Entities are, therefore, sensitized about the above dispensation for the time being in force and advised to become convergence partner with the National Consumer Helpline being run by this Department.

For details:

[https://consumeraffairs.nic.in/sites/default/files/file-](https://consumeraffairs.nic.in/sites/default/files/file-uploads/latestnews/The%20CP%28DS%29%20Rules%2C%202021%20-%20follow%20up%20action.pdf)

[uploads/latestnews/The%20CP%28DS%29%20Rules%2C%202021%20-%20follow%20up%20action.pdf](https://consumeraffairs.nic.in/sites/default/files/file-uploads/latestnews/The%20CP%28DS%29%20Rules%2C%202021%20-%20follow%20up%20action.pdf)

Environmental Laws

Info Capsule Series 11

Government notifies Guidelines on Extended Producers Responsibility on plastic packaging under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 (February 18, 2021)

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Guidelines on Extended Producers Responsibility on plastic packaging under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. The guidelines on extended producer responsibility coupled with prohibition of identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, with effect from 1st July 2022, are important steps for reducing pollution caused due to littered plastic waste in the country.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1799170>

Historic resolution on Plastic Pollution adopted by 175 countries at the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (March 03, 2022)

Addressing plastic pollution is recognized as a global environmental challenge. The resumed session of fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) held from 28th February 2022 to 2nd March 2022 in Nairobi, considered three draft resolutions to address plastic pollution. One of the draft resolutions under consideration was that of India. The draft resolution submitted by India called for immediate collective voluntary action by countries. India engaged constructively with all member states in UNEA 5.2 to develop consensus on the resolution for driving global action on plastic pollution by setting up of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for a new international legally binding treaty. On the insistence of India, the principle of national circumstances and capability while taking actions to address plastic pollution was included in the text of the resolution to allow developing countries follow their development trajectories.

For details : <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1802599>

International Financial Services Centres Authority

Info Capsule Series 11

IFSCA invites public comments on draft 'IFSCA Guidance framework on Sustainable and Sustainability linked lending by financial institutions in IFSCs' (March 02, 2022)

As the climate crisis deepens, economies across the globe are transitioning towards sustainable and low-carbon growth. This transition is fueled by their commitment to meet the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Banks and financial institutions are one of the key players who can support this transition by directing financial flows to sustainable and climate friendly solutions via lending or by raising capital for sustainable and sustainability-linked projects. However, there is a need for banks and financial institutions to have a policy to ensure transparency in this process to avoid concerns like green washing. In view of this, IFSCA issued the draft guidance framework which intends to encourage the IFSC Banking Units (IBU) and Finance Companies/Finance Units (FC/FUs) to internally develop a comprehensive Board approved policy on green/social/sustainable/sustainability linked lending. The guidance intends to provide a broad framework for adoption of principles aligned with the existing international standards viz. Green/Social Loan Principles developed by Loan Market Association (LMA), Bond Principles developed by International Capital Markets Association (ICMA), Climate Bond Standards by Climate Bonds Initiative and any other similar recognized standards. IFSCA invites Comments / suggestions on the said draft framework. The comments / suggestions may be sent to Ms. Riddhi Bhandari, Deputy General Manager, IFSCA at riddhi.bhandari@ifsc.gov.in with a copy to lobhas.khairnar@ifsc.gov.in on or before March 22, 2022.

For details:

<https://ifsc.gov.in/PressRelease?MId=nOnXKXeA2cE=>

<https://www.ifsc.gov.in/Viewer/ReportandPublication/28>

Report of the expert committee on longevity finance (April 12, 2022)

The International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) has been established at Gujarat International Finance TecCity (GIFT City) to bring financial services to India that are currently provided outside India. The IFSCA has set sights to develop a Longevity Finance Hub in the GIFT IFSC. As a first step in achieving that vision, it has constituted the Committee to recommend a road map for achieving the same. This committee has submitted its report and it is published by IFSCA on April 12, 2022. The report analyses the concept of longevity, India's opportunities and challenges, longevity products and the eco system. It also discusses the key enablers to develop a Longevity Finance Hub in the GIFT IFSC. It is expected that the discussion in the report contributes to achieving Hon'ble Prime Minister's grand vision to make India a USD 5 trillion economy and global powerhouse by 2024-25.

For details:

<https://ifsc.gov.in/Viewer/ReportandPublication/29>

Addition to the list of Financial Products under IFSCA Act, 2019 (April 12, 2022)

Section 3(1)(d) defines "Financial Product" for the purpose of IFSCA Act, 2019. Now, IFSCA by notification dated April 12, 2022 has added the below in the list of "Financial Product" as provided under the said sub-section: (a) any piece of mobile equipment, whether or not powered or self-propelled, purpose designed built and used for ground handling, servicing or field maintenance of aircraft on the ramp area of an airport and includes any piece of ground support equipment specified as such by IATA from time to time; and (b) equipment used for providing services necessary for ramp handling including activities as specified in Schedule-I of the Notification number F.No. AAI/OPS/707/GHR-2018 dated 26th October, 2018 issued by Airports Authority of India, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, dated the 30th October, 2018, as amended from time to time. The aforementioned equipment shall collectively be referred to as the "Aircraft Ground Support Equipment".

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/235125.pdf>

International Financial Services Centres Authority (Fund Management) Regulations, 2022 (April 19, 2022)

IFSCA notified the International Financial Services Centres Authority (Fund Management) Regulations, 2022. These regulations inter-alia provides the provisions relating to registration of fund management entity, venture capital schemes, restricted schemes (nonretail schemes), retail schemes, special situation funds, exchange traded funds, regulation of fund management activities, listing of schemes on recognized stock exchanges, General Obligations and responsibilities of FMEs and Key Managerial Personnel, etc. The appointment, role and duties etc. of KMPs are also laid down in the said regulations. These regulations shall come into force on the thirtieth day from April 19, 2022.

For details:

<https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/235256.pdf>

Technology and Automation

Info Capsule Series 11

Kerala Govt. partners Lords Automotive for EV manufacturing unit (February 15, 2022)

Lord's Mark Industries has set up a joint venture with the Kerala government undertaking Kerala Automobile Ltd (KAL) for electric vehicle manufacturing. The joint venture's first production facility will come up in Kannur via an investment worth ₹20 to ₹30 crore. The factory is expected to start its operations from December this year and it also has plans to expand operations across India subsequently by partnering with original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).

For details:

<https://auto.hindustantimes.com/auto/news/kerala-govt-partners-lords-automotive-forev-manufacturing-unit-41644842425419.html>

Introducing the Privacy Sandbox on Android (February 16, 2022)

Mobile apps are a core part of our everyday lives. Currently over 90% of the apps on Google Play are free, providing access to valuable content and services to billions of users. Digital advertising plays a key role in making this possible. But in order to ensure a healthy app ecosystem – benefiting users, developers and businesses – the industry must continue to evolve how digital advertising works to improve user privacy. A multi-year initiative to build the Privacy Sandbox on Android is announced, with the goal of introducing new, more private advertising solutions. Specifically, these solutions will limit sharing of user data with third parties and operate without cross-app identifiers, including advertising ID.

For details:

<https://www.blog.google/products/android/introducing-privacy-sandbox-android/>

Juspay Technologies launches solution for interoperability of PPIs (February 17, 2022)

Fintech firm Juspay Technologies on February 17, 2022 launched a solution which helps Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) like digital wallets implement and comply with RBI's PPI interoperability regulation. The launch of 'Openppi' follows the May 2021 regulation from RBI mandating prepaid cards and wallets that are full-KYC-compliant to be fully interoperable by March 2022.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/juspay-technologies-launches-solution-for-interoperability-of-ppis-122021701145_1.html

What is Github? (February 18, 2022)

Owned by Microsoft, Github is the world's largest open source platform where you can store any code, software or app which you may have developed. On its website, it boasts of hosting over 73 million software developers and four million organisations. And, as the word open source suggests, it is free for all and free from all kinds of scrutiny. Anyone can put any app or code on it for others to see. Unlike what happens on Apple's Play Store or on its Samsung's equivalent, where every app goes through several levels of scrutiny before making it to the mobile phone's application store.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/podcast/technology/what-is-github-122021800055_1.html

NxtGen plans to invest Rs. 1,300 crore in data centres across the country (February 21, 2022)

NxtGen Datacenter and Cloud Technologies is gearing up to invest Rs. 1,300 crore to set up around 10 more data centers and 236 edge centers across the country. The company, whose investors include Intel, IFC, and Iron Mountain, is in the process of raising \$100 million by the first quarter of 2022-23. The Cloud storage and computing segment player operates four data centers in Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, and Bengaluru and is planning to set up centres in Chennai, Hyderabad, and Visakhapatnam.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/nxtgen-plans-to-invest-rs-1-300-crore-in-data-centres-across-the-country-122022100021_1.html

Penalty clause in India's laws worry Twitter (February 21, 2022)

US-based micro-blogging website Twitter has expressed concern over the possibility of India imposing a fine on the company for failure to remove certain types of content through legislations which are already implemented or are in the process of being rolled out. It has joined the likes of Google-parent Alphabet and Meta Platforms (formerly Facebook) in flagging such concerns. In its annual 10-K filing to the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Twitter also said the usage of feature phones and constraints in internet access in countries like India could limit its monetisation prospects. The filing is part of a report on financial performance required from all publicly traded companies in the US.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/twitter-expresses-concern-over-proposed-indian-legislation/articleshow/89704958.cms>

Why India wants indigenous operating system? (February 22, 2022)

An operating system is a software programme required to operate and manage a computing device like smartphone, tablet, computer, smartwatch etc. It is the operating system that eliminates the need to know coding language to interact with computing devices. India's plan to support the development of indigenous mobile OS could be aimed at countering the dominance of American tech giants Google and Apple. The Government is looking for capabilities within start-up and academic ecosystems for development of the indigenous operating system.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/podcast/technology/why-india-wants-indigenous-operating-system-122022200068_1.html

India evolving as frontrunner in high power computing (February 22, 2022)

India is fast evolving as a frontrunner in high power computing with the National Super Computing Mission (NSM) with Supercomputing infrastructure already installed in 10 premier institutions like IITs, IISc, IISER Pune, JNCASR Bengaluru, various C-DACs, NABI Mohali, and benefitting researchers from several other institutions too. This will not only help meet the increasing computational demands of academia, researchers, MSMEs, and startups in areas like oil exploration, flood prediction as well as genomics, and drug discovery, but also firm up indigenous capability of developing supercomputers.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1800356>

Hitachi, Ashok Leyland, IIT Madras working on 20-sec E-bus battery charge (February 24, 2022)

In what may be a major boost to the electric vehicle in transport segment in India, Hitachi Energy is all set to introduce an innovative flash-charging technology that will be able to recharge electric buses within 20 seconds, from several hours currently. A pilot project will be launched at IIT Madras, in association with Ashok Leyland within a month's time. According to industry sources, players like state-run NTPC, Olectra, JBM Auto and Green Cell Mobility too are keen on this technology. If it works, it will be a huge push for the planned EV expansion in urban India.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/automobile/hitachi-ashok-leyland-iitmadras-working-on-20-sec-e-bus-battery-charge-122022301222_1.html

Meta to break language barriers with AI, builds universal speech translator (February 24, 2022)

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO of Meta, which owns Facebook, wants to break language barriers across the globe using artificial intelligence (AI). Meta announced an ambitious AI driven project, which will be key to building its Metaverse. The company said that it is building a universal speech translator, along with an AI powered virtual assistant.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/meta-to-break-language-barriers-with-ai-builds-universal-speech-translator-122022400693_1.html#:~:text=Meta%20to%20break%20language%20barriers%20with%20AI%2C%20builds%20universal%20speech%20translator,-Shivani%20Shinde%20%7C%20Mumbai&text=Mark%20Zuckerberg%2C%20the%20CEO%20of,key%20to%20building%20its%20Metaverse

Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) initiates fairness assessment of Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning Systems to build public trust (February 25, 2022)

Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), the technical arm of DoT has invited inputs for developing a framework for fairness assessment of Artificial Intelligence (AI)/ Machine Learning (ML) Systems with the aim of building public trust in AI/ ML Systems. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning applications are increasingly being used in all domains such as Healthcare, Agriculture, Smart Cities, Smart Homes, Finance, Defence, Transport, Logistics, Natural Language Processing, Surveillance, and so on. Various Government Organisations are also using AI/ ML Systems for delivery of public services and e-governance.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1801110>

HCL Technologies, IBM collaborate for telecom network solution (March 02, 2022)

IT company HCL Technologies on March 02, 2022 announced opening of a centre of excellence in collaboration with IBM to jointly offer network modernisation technology to telecom companies. The centre is a virtual hub to develop offerings designed to help telco clients transform their networks, including telecom companies core, vRAN (virtualised radio access networks), ORAN (open radio access networks), private networks, edge modernisation and 5G labs.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/hcl-technologies-ibmcollaborate-for-telecom-network-solution-122030201452_1.html

Google, MeitY to help 100 Indian startups build high-quality apps for world (March 02, 2022)

Google and MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), on March 02, 2022 announced a cohort of 100 Indian early to mid-stage startups, to help these startups build high-quality global apps and games as part of the Appscale Academy. As part of the six-month programme, the 100 startups will be trained through a customised curriculum designed to help them drive high-quality apps for a global market.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/google-meity-to-help-100-indian-startups-build-high-quality-apps-for-world-122030200464_1.html

Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurates NIC Tech Conclave 2022 (March 04, 2022)

National Informatics Centre (NIC) organized the #TechConclave2022 focused on Emerging Technologies applicable especially in eGovernance, with the theme - "Next Gen Technologies for Digital Government". Addressing the event, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that NIC plays an important role in bringing technology into Government & Governance. He further added that anticipating planning for the future of Technology for the Government, is embedded in the DNA of NIC.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1802812>

Indian researchers develop low-energy chip architecture to prevent attacks on IoT devices (March 06, 2022)

Mr. Saurav Maji and Mr. Utsav Bannerjee, two Indian researchers working at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), have built a low-energy security chip that is designed to prevent side-channel attacks (SCAs) on IoT (Internet of Things) devices. SCAs take advantage of security exploits where information can be gathered from the indirect effects of the functioning of the system hardware rather than attacking a programme or software directly.

For details:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/indian-researchers-develop-low-energy-chip-architecture-prevent-attacks-iot-devices-7803340/>

Microsoft to set-up 4th data centre at Hyderabad, operational by 2025 (March 07, 2022)

IT Company Microsoft on March 07, 2022 said it will set up its fourth data centre in India at Hyderabad and expects to make it operational by 2025. "It will be the largest data centre that we will have in India going forward. We are setting it up in Hyderabad. Typically it takes 24 months to create an infrastructure like that. The target date for the operationalisation of this data centre will be 2025," Microsoft India president Mr. Anant Maheshwari told reporters while sharing details of the data centre.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/microsoft-to-set-up-4th-data-centre-at-hyderabad-operational-by-2025-122030700565_1.html

Daimler Truck's new Innovation Centre to focus on green technology (March 08, 2022)

Daimler Truck's newly opened technology centre in India will focus on developing zero emission, alternate propulsion vehicles including electric, hydrogen and other technologies for India and other markets, the company's top official said in an interview. The engineering team at the centre will focus on a range of topics including vehicle engineering, powertrain engineering, software development for electronic control units, computer aided engineering (CAE), computer aided design (CAD), IT programming using complex engineering tools and methods.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/daimler-truck-s-new-innovationcentre-to-focus-on-green-technology-122030801389_1.html

Petascale Supercomputer "PARAM Ganga" established at IIT Roorkee under National Supercomputing Mission (March 08, 2022)

The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) which is being steered jointly by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeiTY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, has progressed significantly. The four major pillars of the NSM, namely, Infrastructure, Applications, R&D, HRD, have been functioning efficiently to realize the goal of developing indigenous supercomputing eco system of the nation.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1803833>

OneBanc partners with PeopleStrong for automation of payroll banking (March 08, 2022)

OneBanc, an artificial intelligence-driven neo-banking start-up, has joined hands with PeopleStrong, the HR Technology SaaS platform for enterprises, to transform payroll banking through automation at a time when companies are facing rising attrition.

For details:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/startups/onebanc-partners-withpeoplestrong-for-automation-of-payroll-banking/articleshow/90081231.cms>

USIBC inducts three top executives to its India Advisory Council (March 09, 2022)

The US India Business Council (USIBC) has added three top executives to its India Advisory Council, a premier strategic body comprising a highly influential network of senior Indiabased executives and thought-leaders committed to growing trade and investment between America and India. The executives are heads of India operations of 3M, Dell, J&J, and Microsoft. Mr. Ramesh Ramadurai, the managing director of 3M India; Mr. Alok Ohrie from J&J, Mr. Sarthak Ranade from Dell India and Mr. Anant Maheshwari from Microsoft India, according to a statement from USIBC.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/usibc-inducts-three-topexecutives-to-its-india-advisory-council-122030900208_1.html

A simple image-processing technique to unravel the dynamics of Solar Corona can help detect Coronal Mass Ejections better (March 11, 2022)

Indian researchers have developed a simple technique of separating the constant background of the Solar Corona and revealing the dynamic corona. The simple approach of subtracting the constant background can improve efficiency of identification of Coronal Mass Ejections (CME) -events in which a large cloud of energetic and highly magnetized plasma erupts from the solar corona into space, causing radio and magnetic disturbances on the earth. It can also give a clear picture of the characteristics of CMEs and make their study easier.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1805081>

Airbnb to open technology hub in Bengaluru to serve its 'global community' (March 12, 2022)

Online accommodation platform Airbnb on March 12, 2022 announced the opening of a new technology hub in Bengaluru to help it serve its "global community". The Bengaluru technology hub will aim to create local, skilled jobs, with plans for the centre to cater to a few hundred people in the initial phases, followed by an expanded footprint in the future, the company said in a statement.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/airbnb-to-open-technology-hubin-bengaluru-to-serve-its-global-community-122031200605_1.html

Touch-less touch screen technology developed can restrain viruses spreading through contact (March 14, 2022)

Indian Scientists have provided an affordable solution to develop a low-cost touch-cumproximity sensor popularly called touchless touch sensor through a printing technique. Recently Bengaluru based scientists from the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), and Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced and Scientific Research (JNCASR), autonomous institutes of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, has set up a semi-automated production plant for the production of printing-aided patterned (resolution of around 300 μm) transparent electrodes, which has the potential for being utilized in advanced touchless screen technologies.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1805856>

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare released the SOPs for use of drones in agriculture (March 15, 2022)

Looking into the unique advantages of Drone technologies in agriculture, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has released the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for use of drones in pesticide and nutrient application in public domain in December 2021, which provide concise instructions for effective and safe operations of drones. In order to make this technology affordable to the farmers and other stakeholders of this sector, financial assistance @ 100 % cost of drone together with the contingent expenditure is extended under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) to the Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, Institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) for its demonstration on the farmer's fields.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1806231>

Algo Rhythm: AI-as-a-Service can lead to wider adoption of AI (March 20, 2022)

Artificial intelligence (AI) could contribute 10% of India's GDP by 2025, or by up to \$500 billion. Ms. Sangeeta Gupta, Nasscom's senior VP and chief strategy officer, said India can ensure AI for all through AlaaS (AI-as-a-Service) – easy to implement cost-effective solutions. "India is already seen as an emerging destination for data annotation and labelling services globally. The critical building blocks are in place to propel India into one of the leading global hubs for data and AI services."

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/algo-rhythm-ai-as-a-service-canlead-to-wider-adoption-of-ai-122032000931_1.html

State of art technologies being used for better security at airports (March 21, 2022)

The requirement of security is dynamic in nature. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the regulatory authority for civil aviation security in the country, in consultation with other concerned agencies and stakeholders reviews the security systems at airports from time to time and upgrades the same as per requirement. Various state of the art technologies are in place/initiated for upgradation of security system at the airports viz. Centralized Access Control System, Installation of Body Scanner at airports in a phased manner, Digi Yatra, Radiological Detection Equipment and Counter Drones/Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) Systems.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1807631>

US-based Atria expects \$100 million revenue from India in next 3-5 years (March 22, 2022)

US-based software firm Atria expects its India revenue to grow multifold to USD 100 million in the next three to five years as more domestic companies are opting for modern technology tools, a senior company official has said.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/us-based-atria-expects-100-million-revenue-from-india-in-next-3-5-years-122032200489_1.html

Government incentivizes local development and manufacturing of renewable energy technologies (March 22, 2022)

According to the information given by Shri R.K Singh, Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy. The Government has taken a number of initiatives for incentivizing local development and manufacturing of renewable energy technologies, namely: Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) Scheme of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology; Preference to 'Make in India' in Public Procurement in Renewable Energy Sector; Domestic Content Requirement (DCR); Imposition of Basic Customs Duty on import of solar PV cells & modules and 'Renewable Energy Research and Technology Development Programme' of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy etc.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1808349>

Rs 1,066 cr spent in 5 years for promoting new sustainable technology: Government (March 23, 2022)

The government on March 23, 2022 said Rs 1,086 crore has been allocated in the last five years for innovation of environmentally sustainable technology of which Rs 1,066 crore has been spent. Responding to a question in Lok Sabha, Minister of State (Independent charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh said a total of Rs 31.21 crore have been allocated for start-ups and NGOs working for research and development for innovation of environmentally sustainable technology in the last three years.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/rs-1-066-cr-spent-in-5-years-for-promoting-new-sustainable-tech-govt-122032300634_1.html

Technological solutions for effective Solid Waste Management (March 24, 2022)

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has started Swachh Technology Challenge under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 to promote innovative technological solutions in waste management sector under identified solution areas viz. social inclusion (resulting in better working condition for sanitation workers and waste pickers), zero dump, plastic waste management, and transparency. Under the Swachh Technology Challenge, the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the country had sought entries from individuals and organizations at the city level. As per the Guidelines of the programme, the solutions provided by successful applicants are proposed to be recognized at City level, State level, and National level. At the State level, awards would be given to the solutions provided by the winning applicants ranging from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 5 lakhs, as per guidelines.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1809119>

Resilient India marching towards its Techade is result of government's policies built for growth and innovation since 2014: Minister of State Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar (March 26, 2022)

Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar spoke about the Resilience & Growth in the innovations and entrepreneurship sector of India. The Atma Nirbhar Bharat vision of government is building India's story via its vibrant Startups, entrepreneurship and highest ever FDI's. As a result, India is now the fastest growing economy in the world setting new records in exports of goods & merchandise, despite the disruptions caused by COVID.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1810008>

Tata Steel UK using bacteria technology to recycle its emissions (March 29, 2022)

Tata Steel's blast furnaces in the UK are using billions of microscopic bacteria to convert its emissions into stock materials for other industries to make recycled products such as food-packaging to animal feed, the Indian steel major has said. A pilot project, led by the University of South Wales, has been set up at the two Tata Steel UK Port Talbot iron making furnaces in Wales.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/tata-steel-uk-using-bacteria-technology-to-recycle-its-emissions-122032900100_1.html

Everything you need to know about the drone-as-a-service model (March 30, 2022)

As part of the Union Budget, Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman had said that the government would encourage start-ups to facilitate drone-as-a-service. Drone-as-a-service enables enterprises to avail of various services from drone companies. This removes the need for them to invest their own money in drone hardware and software, pilots, and pilot training programmes. According to the government, the drone services industry is slated to grow to over Rs 30,000 crore in the coming three years and create over 500,000 jobs.

For details:

[business-standard.com/podcast/technology/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-drone-as-a-service-model-122033000072_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/podcast/technology/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-drone-as-a-service-model-122033000072_1.html)

Artificial Intelligence (March 30, 2022)

Government of India has taken several steps to promote upskilling or reskilling in the field of Artificial Intelligence which include the following: -

- i) Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has initiated a programme titled FutureSkills PRIME (www.futureskillsprime.in) in collaboration with NASSCOM, a B2C framework for re-skilling/ upskilling of IT professionals in 10 Emerging areas including Artificial Intelligence.
- ii) Government has published the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in June 2018 and proposes to develop an ecosystem for the research and adoption of Artificial Intelligence.
- iii) Government has launched 'National AI Portal' (<https://indiaai.gov.in/>) which is a repository of Artificial Intelligence (AI) based initiatives in the country at a single place. The government has adopted various other additional steps to promote capacity building in Artificial Intelligence.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1811372>

Renewal of Contemporary Technology in Food Processing Industries (April 05, 2022)

The Government is implementing National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which is the overarching policy framework for climate action in the country. In line with the NAPCC, many schemes and programs have been launched to scale up India's action on both, the adaptation and mitigation. Financial assistance is also provided by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries to various institutions/research organization for R & D activities including for developing green/low carbon foot print technologies for food processing sector.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1813636>

Integrated Clean Energy Material Acceleration Platform launched & funding opportunity announced for Hydrogen Valley Platform at Mission Innovation meeting (April 05, 2022)

Three Integrated Clean Energy Material Acceleration Platforms were launched at the Mission Innovation Annual Gathering session on 4th April 2022, where new Energy Innovation Collaborations were announced. Minister of Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh awarded the citations to the three centres leads of the Clean Energy Material Acceleration Platforms. These Material Acceleration Platforms set up by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) would leverage emerging capabilities in next-generation computing, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), and robotics to accelerate the pace of materials discovery up to 10 times faster. The platforms constitute a knowledge network of more than 38 elite institutions and 80 research personnel working on next generation low-cost advanced energy materials.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1813706>

Government has launched number of programs to aid Start-ups in technology sectors (April 06, 2022)

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said that Government has launched number of programs to aid Start-ups in technology sectors. The programmes initiated by Department of Science & Technology aim to nurture innovation and technology led entrepreneurship, which also creates new avenues for wealth creation and job generation. CSIR has set up 7 Common Research and Technology Development Hubs (CRTDHs) during last five years, for promoting industrial R&D innovation, dedicated for MSMEs, start-ups and individual innovators.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1814071>

Tata Neu super app goes live; here's what it offers (April 07, 2022)

India's salt-to-steel conglomerate Tata Group's new super app Tata Neu has gone live for users across India, offering a bouquet of services like groceries, flight bookings, car buying, food delivery, investments, hotel bookings, and more. The Tata Group has also launched its UPI payment service Tata Pay on the Tata Neu app, foraying into the fast-growing payments space.

For details:

<https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/corporate/story/tata-neu-super-app-goes-live-hereswhat-it-offers-328959-2022-04-07>

Government mandates vehicles' fitness testing via Automated Testing Stations (ATS) in phased manner (April 07, 2022)

The government has made fitness testing of vehicles through Automated Testing Stations (ATS) mandatory in a phased manner starting April next year. In an official statement, the Road Transport and Highways Ministry (MoRTH) said that fitness testing for heavy goods vehicles and heavy passenger motor vehicles through an ATS will be mandatory from April 01, 2023. An Automated Testing Station (ATS) uses mechanical equipment to automate the various tests required to check the fitness of a vehicle.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/automobile/govt-mandates-vehicles-fitness-testing-via-ats-in-phased-manner-122040700675_1.html

New materials & processes for carbon capture and utilization could show new light for global warming challenge (April 07, 2022)

A group of scientists have computationally designed a hybrid material which can absorb greenhouse gas methane, converting it to clean Hydrogen and also simulated a process of capturing carbon dioxide in-situ and converting it to high purity hydrogen from nonfuel grade bioethanol. They have also designed a facility that can test such materials and help further carbon capture research at the institute. Given the global warming potential of greenhouse gases, scientists are trying to explore innovative methods of absorbing these gases and converting them to useful substances. New materials that can play dual role of absorption as well as conversion is the new challenge area for scientist in carbon capture innovation.

For details:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1815616>

IIT Mandi develops technique for soil stabilization using bacteria (April 11, 2022)

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi have developed sustainable techniques for soil stabilisation using a harmless bacteria called *S. Pasteurii*. The bacteria hydrolyses urea to precipitate calcite and the process does not involve hazardous chemicals and natural resources can be used sustainably.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/education/iit-mandi-develops-technique-forsoil-stabilization-using-bacteria-122041100379_1.html

Indian renewable sector highly leveraged due to global opportunities: S&P (April 18, 2022)

Global credit rating agency S&P Global Ratings on Monday, April 18, 2022 said the Indian renewable energy sector will be highly leveraged owing to the growth opportunities. In its new report "India Renewables: Growth Trumps Deleveraging" S&P Global Ratings said the multi-decade growth opportunities for renewable energy in India will result in persistently high leverage across the sector.

For details:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/growth-opportunities-will-result-indian-renewable-companies-highly-leveraged-s-p-global-ratings-122041800430_1.html

Google banning all call recording apps from Play store starting May 11 (April 21, 2022)

In a bid to enhance security and privacy on Android, Google is taking stringent measures to prevent applications from offering call recording features to users. Google has updated its developer policies that reflect many changes, including those in Android's accessibility settings to stop remote call audio recording – a functionality that is quite popular among Android users.

For details:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/google-to-stop-android-apps-from-recording-calls-soon-1940167-2022-04-21>

Ph.D. Recognitions

Info Capsule Series 11

Information related to Ph.D Programme / Fellow Programme in Management

The following Institutions recognize CS qualification with minimum 50% marks for pursuing Ph.D Programme / Fellow Programme in Management subject to certain conditions. The detailed process/ criteria may be downloaded from the links as provided against each Institution given below:

CS with 50% criteria required for Ph.D /Fellow Programme in Management			
S.No.	Name of Institution/ University	Percentage Criteria	Website links
1.	IIM, Indore	CS with 50% marks and 60% in B.com/ Degree	https://www.iimidr.ac.in/academic-programmes/fellow-programme-in-management-fpm/admissions/
2.	IIM, Jammu	CS with 50% marks	https://www.iimj.ac.in/programs/doctoral-program/eligibility-criteria
3.	IIM, Sirmaur	CS with 50% marks	https://www.iimsirmaur.ac.in/iims/iim/admission-process
4.	IIM, Ahmedabad	CS with B.com/Degree	https://www.iima.ac.in/phd/documents/Ph.D.%20Prog.%20Admission%20Writeup-2022.pdf
5.	IIM, Nagpur	CS with 50% marks and 60% in Graduation	https://www.iimnagpur.ac.in/admissions/phd/admissions-policy/

6.	IIM, Bangalore	CS with 50% marks with B.Com/Degree	https://www.iimb.ac.in/sites/default/files/inline-files/PhD-Admission-Process-2022.pdf
7.	National Law University, Delhi	Degree in Law and CS	https://nludelhi.ac.in/adm-phd.aspx
8.	IIM Rohtak	CS with at least 50% marks with an appropriate preceding degree + minimum 3 years' fulltime experience	https://www.iimrohtak.ac.in/index.php/programmes/executive-fellow-programme-in-management-efpm
9.	IIM Tiruchirappalli	CS with 50% with B.com with 60%	https://www.iimtrichy.ac.in/fpm-criteria
10.	IIM, Udaipur	CS with a Bachelor's Degree	https://www.iimu.ac.in/programs/phd/iim-phd-eligibility-criteria
11.	IIM, Vishakhapatnam	CS with 50% and B.com with 55%	https://www.iimv.ac.in/program/phd-admission-adms-prs-ctra

Interested members may take admission in the course of their choice as per the procedure specified in this regard.

Pronouncement

Info Capsule Series 11

March 10, 2022	M/s Khera Trading Company	Haryana Appellate Authority of Advance Ruling
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18% GST Payable on Pizza Topping as Pizza Topping is Not Pizza: AAAR

Facts of the case:

The appellant is in the business of distributing various dairy and non-dairy products and is registered with the jurisdictional GST authorities. The product "pizza topping," which is sold by the appellant under the brand "Goodrich," is a proprietary food consisting of water, mozzarella cheese, vegetable oil, and milk solids along with premixes of emulsifiers and stabilizers. It is ideal for use on pizza as a topping of cheese as it provides a smooth, lasting taste and stringiness to the pizza. The applicant submitted that the product "Pizza Topping" contained 14.5 percent mozzarella cheese and 15 percent other milk products, along with other ingredients, forming a type of cheese. Thus, it is classifiable under Chapter Heading 406 (Sl. No. 13 of Schedule-II to Notification No. 1/2017 Integrated Tax/Notification No. 1/2017-Central Tax and Notification No. 35/ST-2 as "cheese" and chargeable to GST at the rate of 12%. The applicant has sought an advance ruling on the issue of whether the product "pizza topping" is classifiable under Chapter Heading 0406 [Sl. No. 13 of Schedule-1 of Notification No. 1/2017- Integrated Tax (Rate) dated June 28, 2017, attracting 5% IGST].

Order:

The Haryana Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling (AAAR) has said that a pizza topping is different from a pizza. It has held that 18% GST is applicable on Pizza Topping. AAAR ruled that pizza topping contains vegetable fat as a substantial portion being 22% of the ingredients and hence it does not qualify to be categorized as processed cheese or a type of cheese. Thus pizza topping would merit classification as "food preparation".

For details:

<https://www.livelaw.in/tax-cases/aaar-goods-and-service-tax-gst-customs-tariff-act-pizzatopping-194205>

Terminology

Info Capsule Series 11

Arms Index (TRIN)

The Arms Index, also called the Short-Term Trading Index (TRIN) is a technical analysis indicator that compares the number of advancing and declining stocks (AD Ratio) to advancing and declining volume (AD volume). It is used to gauge overall market sentiment.

Ascending Triangle

An ascending triangle is a chart pattern used in technical analysis. It is created by price moves that allow for a horizontal line to be drawn along the swing highs and a rising trend line to be drawn along the swing lows. The two lines form a triangle. Traders often watch for breakouts from triangle patterns. The breakout can occur to the upside or downside.

51% Attack

A 51% attack refers to an attack on a blockchain most commonly Bitcoin, for which such an attack is still hypothetical by a group of miners controlling more than 50% of the network's mining hash rate or computing power. The attackers prevent new transactions from gaining confirmations, allowing them to halt payments between some or all users. They would also be able to reverse transactions that were completed while they were in control of the network, meaning they could double-spend coins. 51% Attack A 51% attack refers to an attack on a blockchain most commonly Bitcoin, for which such an attack is still hypothetical by a group of miners controlling more than 50% of the network's mining hash rate or computing power. The attackers prevent new transactions from gaining confirmations, allowing them to halt payments between some or all users. They would also be able to reverse transactions that were completed while they were in control of the network, meaning they could double-spend coins.

Barbell

The barbell is an investment strategy applicable primarily to a fixed income portfolio. Following a barbell method, half the portfolio contains long-term bonds and the other half holds short-term bonds. The “barbell” gets its name because the investment strategy looks like a barbell with bonds heavily weighted at both ends of the maturity timeline. The graph will show a large number of short-term holdings and long-term maturities, but little or nothing in intermediate holdings.

Berhad

BHD is a suffix for Berhad, which is used in Malaysia to identify a public limited company. Berhad, BHD, or Bhd after a company’s name indicates that it is a Malaysian public limited company (PLC) while the extended suffix Sendirian Berhad (SDN BHD) denotes that it is a private limited company.

Conflict Theory

Conflict theory, first developed by Karl Marx, is a theory that society is in a state of perpetual conflict because of competition for limited resources. Conflict theory holds that social order is maintained by domination and power, rather than by consensus and conformity. According to conflict theory, those with wealth and power try to hold on to it by any means possible, chiefly by suppressing the poor and powerless. A basic premise of conflict theory is that individuals and groups within society will work to try to maximize their own wealth and power

Data Localisation

Data localization is the practice of keeping data within the region it originated from. For example, if an organization collects data in the UK, they store it in the UK rather than transferring it to another country for processing

Exogenous Growth

Exogenous growth, a key tenet of neoclassical economic theory, states that economic growth is fueled by technological progress independent of economic forces.

Global Strategic Petroleum Reserves (GSPR)

The Global Strategic Petroleum Reserves (GSPR) are stockpiles of crude oil maintained by nations and by private industries as a hedge against potential future energy crises. The U.S. government has tapped its own Strategic petroleum reserve after a number of disasters that threatened to disrupt the flow of oil to industry and consumers.

Gwei

Gwei is a portmanteau (a blend of words) of giga and wei. Gwei is a denomination of the cryptocurrency ether (ETH), the digital coin used on the Ethereum network. Ethereum is a blockchain platform, like Bitcoin, where users transact to buy and sell goods and services without a middleman or interference from a third party

Hedonic Regression

Hedonic regression is the use of a regression model to estimate the influence that various factors have on the price of goods, or sometimes the demand for goods. In a hedonic regression model, the dependent variable is the price (or demand) of the good, and the independent variables are the attributes of the good believed to influence utility for the buyer or consumer of the good. The resulting estimated coefficients on the independent variables can be interpreted as the weights that buyers place on the various qualities of the good.

Humped Yield Curve

A humped yield curve is a relatively rare type of yield curve that results when the interest rates on medium-term fixed income securities are higher than the rates of both long and short-term instruments. Also, if short-term interest rates are expected to rise and then fall, then a humped yield curve will ensue. Humped yield curves are also known as bell-shaped curves.

Leveraged Recapitalisation

A leveraged recapitalization is a corporate finance transaction in which a company changes its capitalization structure by replacing the majority of its equity with a package of debt securities consisting of both senior bank debt and subordinated debt. A leveraged recapitalization is also referred to as leveraged recap.

Misery Index

The misery index is meant to measure the degree of economic distress felt by everyday people, due to the risk of (or actual) joblessness combined with an increasing cost of living. The misery index is calculated by adding the unemployment rate to the inflation rate.

Money Center Banks

A money center bank is similar in structure to a standard bank; however, its borrowing, and lending activities are with governments, large corporations and regular banks. These types of financial institutions (or designated branches of these institutions) generally do not borrow from or lend to consumers.

Negative Arbitrage

Negative arbitrage is the opportunity lost when bond issuers assume proceeds from debt offerings and then hold that money in escrow for a period of time (usually in cash or short-term treasury investments) until the money is able to be put to use to fund a project, or to repay investors. Negative arbitrage may occur with a new bond issue or following a debt refinancing.

P-Value

In statistics, the p-value is the probability of obtaining results at least as extreme as the observed results of a statistical hypothesis test, assuming that the null hypothesis is correct. The p-value is used as an alternative to rejection points to provide the smallest level of significance at which the null hypothesis would be rejected. A smaller p-value means that there is stronger evidence in favour of the alternative hypothesis.

Phillips Curve

The Phillips curve is an economic concept developed by A. W. Phillips stating that inflation and unemployment have a stable and inverse relationship. The theory claims that with economic growth comes inflation, which in turn leads to more jobs and less unemployment.

Platykurtic

The term "platykurtic" refers to a statistical distribution in which the excess kurtosis value is negative. For this reason, a platykurtic distribution will have thinner tails than a normal distribution will, resulting in fewer extreme positive or negative events. The opposite of a platykurtic distribution is a leptokurtic distribution, in which excess kurtosis is positive.

Price Stickiness

Price stickiness, or sticky prices, is the resistance of market price (s) to change quickly, despite shifts in the broad economy suggesting a different price is optimal. "Sticky" is a general economics term that can apply to any financial variable that is resistant to change. When applied to prices, it means that the sellers (or buyers) of certain goods are reluctant to change the price, despite changes in input cost or demand patterns

Quadrix

Quadrix is a stock rating system that uses over 90 variables in seven major categories to determine the value of a stock. The Quadrix system is produced and maintained by Horizon Publishing Company. The seven major categories are momentum, quality, value, financial strength, earnings estimates, performance, and reversion.

Qualifying Ratios

Qualifying ratios are measuring devices that banks and other financial institutions use in their loan underwriting process. An applicant's qualifying ratio, expressed as a percentage figure, plays a key role in determining whether they'll be approved for financing, and often for the terms of the loan as well.

Quote Stuffing

Quote stuffing is the practice of quickly entering and then withdrawing large orders in an attempt to flood the market with quotes and cause competitors to lose time in processing them.

Representative Sample

A representative sample is a subset of a population that seeks to accurately reflect the characteristics of the larger group. Samples are useful in statistical analysis when population sizes are large because they contain smaller, manageable versions of the larger group.

RegTech

Regtech is the management of regulatory processes within the financial industry through technology. The main functions of regtech include regulatory monitoring, reporting, and compliance.

Reverse Triangular Mergers

A reverse triangular merger is the formation of a new company that occurs when an acquiring company creates a subsidiary, the subsidiary purchases the target company, and the subsidiary is then absorbed by the target company.

Shrinkflation

Shrinkflation is the reduction in the size of a product in response to rising production costs or market competition.

Systematic Sampling

Systematic sampling is a type of probability sampling method in which sample members from a larger population are selected according to a random starting point but with a fixed, periodic interval. This interval, called the sampling interval, is calculated by dividing the population size by the desired sample size. Despite the sample population being selected in advance, systematic sampling is still thought of as being random if the periodic interval is determined beforehand and the starting point is random.

Times-Revenue Method

The times-revenue method is a valuation method used to determine the maximum value of a company. The times-revenue method uses a multiple of current revenues to determine the "ceiling" (or maximum value) for a particular business. Depending on the industry and the local business and economic environment, the multiple might be one to two times the actual revenues. However, in some industries, the multiple might be less than one.

Tontine

Tontine is the name of an early system for raising capital in which individuals pay into a common pool of money; they receive dividends based on their share of returns from investments made with the pooled money. As members of the group died, they were not replaced with new investors so the proceeds were divided among fewer and fewer members.

Volatility Smile

A volatility smile is a common graph shape that results from plotting the strike price and implied volatility of a group of options with the same underlying asset and expiration date. The volatility smile is so named because it looks like a smiling mouth.

World Federation of Stock Exchanges (WFE)

The World Federation of Stock Exchanges, more commonly known as the World Federation of Exchanges, is an international trade group that supports the interests of regulated securities exchanges around the world and promotes widespread access to financial markets and the safety and soundness of the global financial system.

X - Efficiency

X-efficiency refers to the degree of efficiency maintained by firms under conditions of imperfect competition. Efficiency in this context means a company getting the maximum outputs from its inputs, including employee productivity and manufacturing efficiency. In a highly competitive market, firms are forced to be as efficient as possible to ensure strong profits and continued existence. This is not true in situations of imperfect competition, such as with a monopoly or duopoly

Yield Rate of Return Method

The yearly rate of return method, commonly referred to as the annual percentage rate, is the amount earned on a fund throughout an entire year. The yearly rate of return is calculated by taking the amount of money gained or lost at the end of the year and dividing it by the initial investment at the beginning of the year. This method is also referred to as the annual rate of return or the nominal annual rate

Zero-Beta Portfolio

A Zero-Beta portfolio is a portfolio constructed to have zero systematic risk, or in other words, a beta of zero. A Zero-Beta portfolio would have the same expected return as the risk-free rate. Such a portfolio would have zero correlation with market movements, given that its expected return equals the risk-free rate or a relatively low rate of return compared to higher-beta portfolios

Zero Liability Policy

A zero liability policy is a condition in a credit card or debit card agreement that states that the cardholder is not responsible for unauthorized charges. All major credit card issuers provide such protection to their cardholders, assuring them that any fraudulent charges that are reported or that the credit card issuer detects will be removed from the account and the account holder will not have to pay for them.

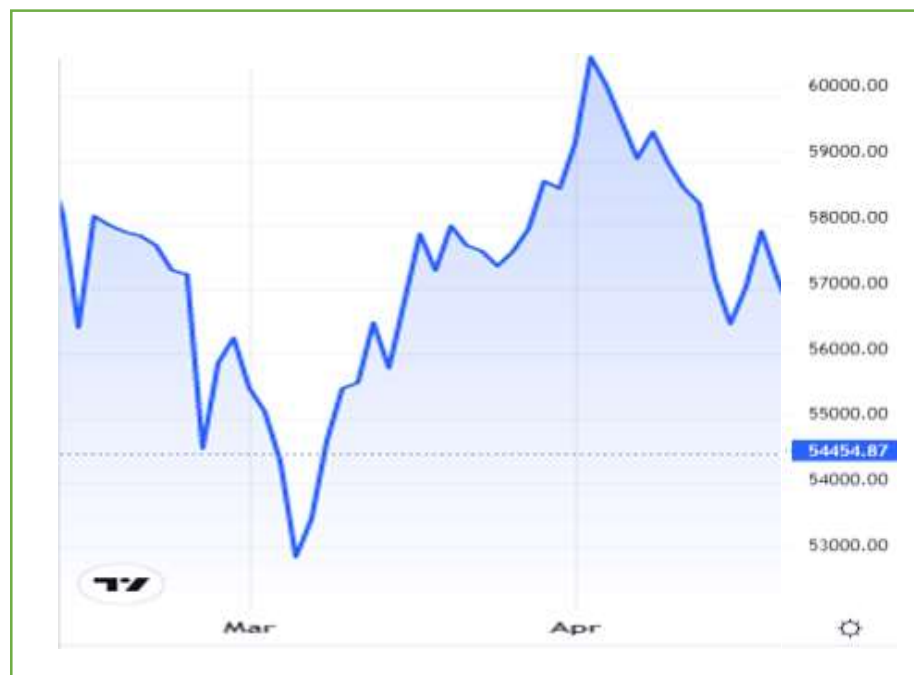
Market Watch

Info Capsule Series 11

Stock Market Indices

S & P BSE Sensex

(February 14, 2022 - April 22, 2022)



Stock Market Indices

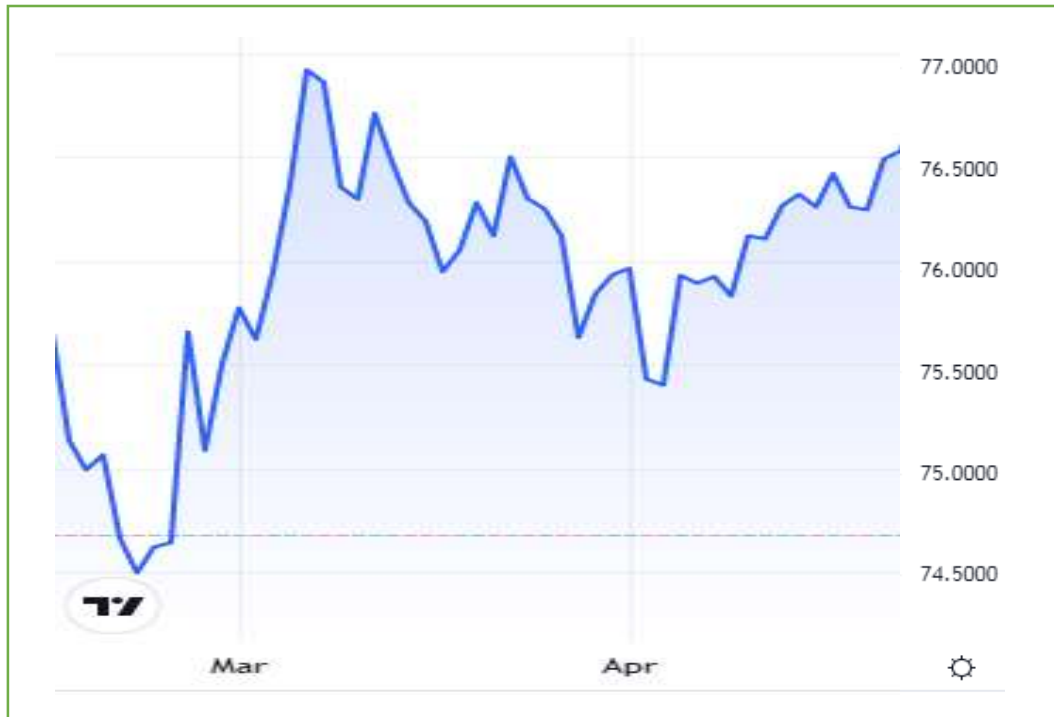
Nifty 50

(February 14, 2022 - April 22, 2022)



Foreign Exchange Rates USD

(February 14, 2022 - April 22, 2022)



Foreign Exchange Rates

EURO

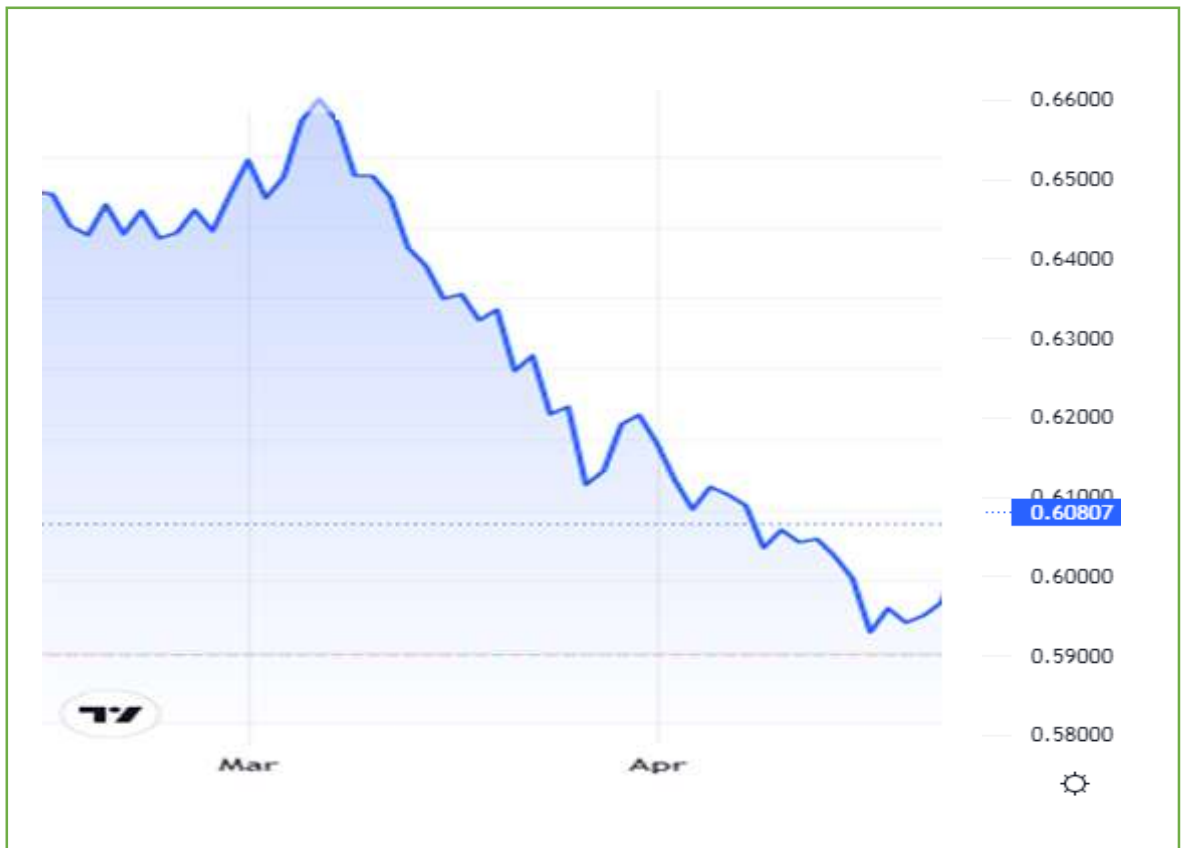
(February 14, 2022 - April 22, 2022)



Foreign Exchange Rates

JAPANESE YEN

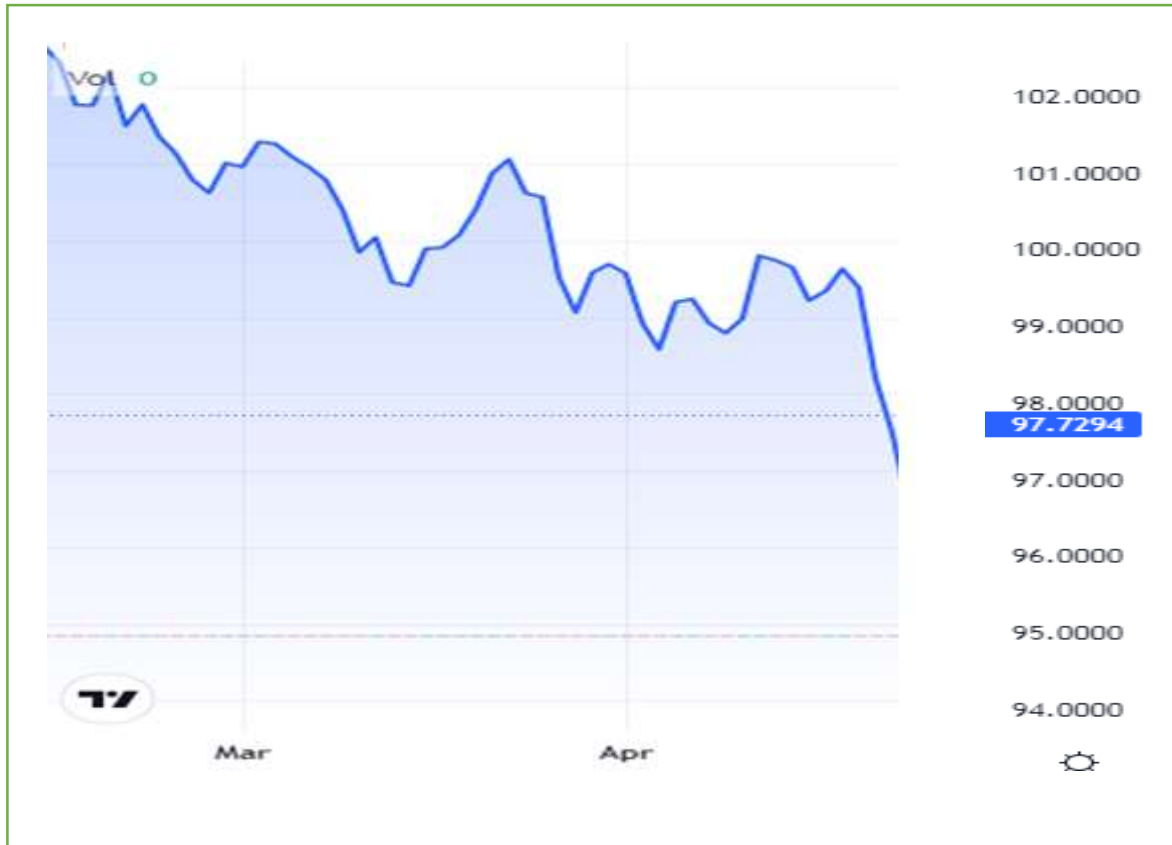
(February 14, 2022 - April 22, 2022)



Foreign Exchange Rates

GBP

(February 14, 2022 - April 22, 2022)



Motto

सत्यं वद । धर्मं चर ।
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"To be a global leader in promoting
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Mission

"To develop high calibre professionals
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