



# NEWSLETTER <sup>Weekly</sup>

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## MINISTRY OF FINANCE

### **1. India's first GST Appellate Tribunal President sworn in.**

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman administered Oath of Office to Justice (Retd.) Sanjaya Kumar Mishra as the first President of GST Appellate Tribunal in New Delhi. Justice (Retd.) Mishra has been selected as the first President of the GSTAT by a Search-cum-Selection Committee headed by the Chief Justice of India. He has prior experience of Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court. The GSTAT is an appellate authority under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017. It is responsible for resolving various appeals under the said Act and the State/Union Territories GST Acts. The Tribunal consists of a Principal Bench and various State Benches. To hear the appeals of the first appellate authority, the Principal Bench has been notified at New Delhi and 31 State Benches have been notified at various locations across the country. The process for appointing judicial members and technical members is in progress. The Tribunal will ensure swift, fair, judicious and effective resolution of GST disputes. This will help in reducing the burden on the higher courts. The establishment of the GSTAT will improve the effectiveness of the GST system in India.

For more information you can access the GOI release over here-  
<file:///C:/Users/Admin/Downloads/PIB2019749.pdf>

### **2. Government of India announces sale of two dated securities for total notified amount of Rs 20000 Crore.**

The Government of India has announced the sale (re-issue) of (i) "7.32% Government Security 2030" for a notified amount of Rs. 11,000 Crore (nominal) through price based auction using multiple price method and (ii) "7.30% Government Security 2053" for a notified amount of Rs. 9,000 Crore (nominal) through price based auction using multiple price method. Government of India will have the option to retain additional subscription up to Rs. 2,000 Crore against each security. The auctions will be conducted by the Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai Office on 10.05.2024.

Up to 5% of the notified amount of the sale of the securities will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions as per the Scheme for Non-Competitive Bidding Facility in the Auction of Government Securities. Both competitive and non-competitive bids for the auction should be submitted in electronic format on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system on May 10, 2024. The non-competitive bids should be submitted between 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and the competitive bids should be submitted between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The result of the auctions will be announced on 10.05.2024 (Friday) and payment by successful bidders will be on 13.05.2024.

### **3. 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Group of Customs (JGC) meeting between India and Bhutan was held on 06.05.2024 and 07.05.2024 in Leh, Ladakh**

The 5th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) meeting between India and Bhutan took place on May 6th-7th in Leh, Ladakh. The meeting aimed to strengthen bilateral ties and address various issues related to customs and trade facilitation.

Co-chaired by Surjit Bhujabal from India and Sonam Jamtsho from Bhutan, the meeting discussed several key areas of cooperation. These included the opening of new Land Customs Stations, the development of infrastructure, automation of transit processes, and measures to prevent smuggling. Bhutan expressed gratitude to India, particularly the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, for their ongoing support in capacity building and skill development for Bhutanese customs officials. They also appreciated India's efforts in promoting cross-border trade and economic activities through bilateral agreements. The India-Bhutan Joint Group of Customs meetings, held annually, aim to redefine and re-engineer customs procedures while promoting cooperation and trade facilitation in line with global best practices. These meetings are crucial for enhancing connectivity and developing trade infrastructure along the India-Bhutan border. India is Bhutan's top trade partner, both in terms of imports and exports. Trade between the two countries has significantly increased since 2014, reaching \$1,615 million in 2022-23, which accounts for about 80% of Bhutan's overall trade. Given Bhutan's landlocked status, trade through Land Customs Stations plays a vital role in its economic activities.

For more information you can access the GOI release over here-  
<file:///C:/Users/Admin/Downloads/PIB2019891.pdf>

## **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA**

### **1. Master Circular for Registrars to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) vide notification dated May 07<sup>th</sup> 2024 addressed to all registered Registrars to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents (RTAs). This circular consolidates various directives previously issued to RTAs by SEBI. It supersedes the previous Master Circular for RTAs dated May 17, 2023, and subsequent circulars on the subject.

For more information, you can access the SEBI notification here:  
<https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/master-circulars/may-2024/master-circular-for-registrars-to-an-issue-and-share-transfer-agents-83226.html>

### **2. Master Circular for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) vide notification dated May 07<sup>th</sup> 2024 released a Master Circular aimed at ensuring a robust regulatory framework for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). This Circular provides an overview and detailed analysis of the key provisions outlined in this Circular, emphasizing compliance guidelines and procedural requirements for AIFs.

For more information, you can access the SEBI notification here:  
<https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/master-circulars/may-2024/master-circular-for-alternative-investment-funds-aifs-83229.html>

### **3. Master Circular for Custodians**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) vide notification dated May 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 consolidated all the circulars issued by SEBI from time to time, to Custodians. In order to enable the stakeholders to have access to the applicable requirements specified in these circulars at one place.

For more information, you can access the SEBI notification here:

<https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/master-circulars/may-2024/master-circular-for-custodians-83305.html>

### **4. Entities allowed to use e-KYC Aadhaar Authentication services of UIDAI in Securities Market as sub-KUA Annexure A**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) vide circular dated May 06<sup>th</sup> 2024 addressed entities registered with SEBI under Section 12 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, and stock exchanges. The circular pertains to the use of e-KYC Aadhaar Authentication services of UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) in the securities market by designated entities known as sub-KUAs (sub Know Your Customer User Agencies).

For more information, you can access the SEBI circular here:

<https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/may-2024/entities-allowed-to-use-e-kyc-aadhaar-authentication-services-of-uidai-in-securities-market-as-sub-kua-83178.html>

### **5. Periodic reporting format for Investment Advisers**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) vide circular dated May 07<sup>th</sup> 2024 mandated a standardized format for periodic reporting by Investment Advisers (IAs), aiming to enhance transparency and accountability within the industry.

For more information, you can access the SEBI circular here:

<https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/may-2024/periodic-reporting-format-for-investment-advisers-83230.html>

### **6. Extension of the ISO settlement scheme, 2024**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) vide press release dated May 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 introduced the ISO Settlement Scheme, 2024. The scheme offers a settlement opportunity to entities involved in trade reversals in the stock options segment of BSE between April 1 2014 and September 30, 2015 against whom adjudication proceedings are pending. The settlement period started on March 11, 2024 and was initially set to conclude on May 10, 2024. However, due to a significant surge in interest from entitled seeking to avail the scheme in the final days, the competent authority has decided to extend the scheme's period until June 10, 2024.

For more information, you can access the SEBI press release here:

<https://www.sebi.gov.in/media-and-notifications/public-notice/may-2024/extension-of-the-iso-settlement-scheme-2024-83252.html>

## **RESERVE BANK OF INDIA**

### **1. Master Direction – Reserve Bank of India (Margining for Non-Centrally Cleared OTC Derivatives) Directions, 2024**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide notification dated May 08<sup>th</sup> 2024 issued new Master Directions regarding margining for non-centrally cleared over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives. These directions are designed to govern the exchange of variation margin (VM) and initial margin (IM) for non-centrally cleared derivatives.

For more information, you can access the RBI notification here:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12682&Mode=0>

### **2. Margin for Derivative Contracts**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide notification dated May 08<sup>th</sup> 2024 released a notification pertaining to margin requirements for derivative contracts. These directives were formulated under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA), and aim to streamline the processes surrounding derivative transactions involving authorized dealers in India.

For more information, you can access the RBI notification here:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12683&Mode=0>

### **3. Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2024**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide notification dated May 06<sup>th</sup> 2024 amended the Foreign Exchange Management (FEM) (Deposit) Regulations of 2016. The amendment, titled Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2024, allows authorized dealers in India to permit non-residents to open interest-bearing accounts in Indian Rupees and/or foreign currency for the purpose of posting and collecting margin in India for permitted derivative contracts.

For more information, you can access the RBI notification here:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12684&Mode=0>

### **4. Meeting with major stakeholders in UPI ecosystem**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide press release dated May 08<sup>th</sup> 2024 informed about the meeting on with the major stakeholders in the UPI ecosystem viz. Banks, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Third Party Application Providers and Technology Service Providers to discuss potential strategies for further expanding the reach of UPI. There were wide ranging discussions on various aspects to widen and deepen the adoption and usage of UPI. The stakeholders shared their valuable inputs and suggestions, covering broadly the following:

- i. Strategies for scaling up of UPI infrastructure and expanding products portfolio;
- ii. Challenges being encountered by the ecosystem and innovative solutions for addressing the same; and

iii. Innovative ideas to integrate potential users into the digital payments ecosystem.

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=57865](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=57865)

## 5. Buyback of Government of India Dated Securities

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide press release dated May 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 announced the buyback of its Securities through auction for an aggregate amount of ₹60,000 crore (face value). Auction for securities will be conducted using multiple price method. The offers for the auction should be submitted in electronic format on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system on May 16, 2024 (Thursday) between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The result of the auction will be announced on the same day and settlement will take place on May 17, 2024 (Friday).

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=57884](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=57884)

## 6. RBI appoints Shri R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao as new Executive Director

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide press release dated May 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 appointed Shri R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao as Executive Director (ED) with effect from May 10, 2024. Prior to being promoted as ED, Shri Rao was serving as Chief General Manager-in-Charge in the Department of Regulation. As Executive Director, Shri Rao will look after:

- i. Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation,
- ii. Right to Information Act (FAA),
- iii. Department of Communication.

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=57885](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=57885)

**You may send your suggestions at [kartikey@asalegal.in](mailto:kartikey@asalegal.in)**

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