



NEWSLETTER ^{Weekly}

Volume-CXXXII, Issue-IV, Dated: 28th July, 2025

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA

1. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to regulatory provisions for Research Analysts.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a circular providing clarifications and guidance for Research Analysts (RAs) following recent amendments to the SEBI (Research Analysts) Regulations, 2014. The circular addresses frequently asked questions from RAs, aiming to streamline compliance. Key updates include a one-year window for persons associated with research services to obtain NISM certification. Additionally, obtaining signature consent on terms and conditions, including Most Important Terms and Conditions (MITC), is no longer mandatory for institutional investors or Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs); disclosure of these terms will suffice. SEBI also clarified that while journalists on media payrolls don't require RA registration, their recommendations must be based on reports from registered RAs or intermediaries. The circular also provides clarity on capital adequacy, client categorization (fee-paying vs. non-fee-paying), and exemptions for client-level segregation of research and distribution activities for institutional clients.

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

https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/jul-2025/frequently-asked-questions-faqs-related-to-regulatory-provisions-for-research-analysts_95549.html

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

1. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Achieves Major Milestone, Gross Enrolments Surpass 8 Crore.

The Atal Pension Yojana (APY), a flagship social security scheme of the Government of India administered by PFRDA, has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing 8 crore total gross enrolments with an addition of 39 lakh new subscribers in the current Financial Year (FY 2025-26) alone. This milestone comes as the scheme celebrates its 10th anniversary since its launch on May 9, 2015. Launched with a vision to create a universal social security system for all Indians, APY is a voluntary, contributory pension scheme, focused on the poor, the underprivileged, and workers in the unorganized sector. Its remarkable success is a result of the dedicated and untiring efforts of all Banks, Department of Posts (DoP) and SLBCs/UTLBCs and the continued support of the Govt. of India. PFRDA has actively driven enrolments through outreach programs, trainings, multilingual handouts, media campaigns, and regular reviews.

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

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2148460>

2. Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presides over the 166th Income Tax Day celebrations at Delhi.

Union Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary also graced the event with his presence. Shri Arvind Shrivastava, Secretary, Revenue; Shri Ravi Agrawal, Chairman, CBDT; Members of CBDT and other officers and officials of the Department were present besides, the senior officers in Government of India. The Finance Minister extended her best wishes to the Income Tax Department on the occasion of the 166th Income Tax Day. She also congratulated the Department for its commendable work in efficiently drafting the New Income Tax Bill, 2025 within the stipulated timeline. She appreciated that the Department

is actively addressing the recommendations received from the Select Committee. She commended the Department's agility and its readiness to embrace reform, which has led to a number of transformative initiatives over the past five years, including:

- a. Introduction of the Faceless Assessment system to promote transparency and accountability
- b. Implementation of the Taxpayer Charter, reinforcing the rights of taxpayers
- c. Adoption of cutting-edge technology such as pre-filled returns, which has improved convenience and enabled faster refunds
- d. Launch of the Vivad se Vishwas scheme to resolve long-standing tax disputes
- e. Use of data analytics and targeted nudge campaigns to address tax evasion
- f. And now, the drafting and introduction of the New Income Tax Bill, 2025

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

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2148666>

3. Designer deals, deceptive declarations: DRI busts multi-crore luxury furniture import racket.

In a significant enforcement action, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has busted a sophisticated, well-orchestrated customs fraud in imports of premium luxury furniture. Acting on specific intelligence, DRI officials conducted searches across multiple locations, including business premises, warehouses, offices of freight forwarders, customs brokers, and associated entities. The investigation has exposed a complex, intertwined network used for massive undervaluation and misdeclaration of branded luxury furniture operating across multiple jurisdictions, involving the use of dummy importers (IEC holders), local intermediaries, overseas shell entities, and fabricated invoices. The investigation conducted thus far revealed that branded luxury furniture was being directly sourced by beneficial importer from reputed Italian and other European suppliers, invoicing was being done in the names of shell companies based in jurisdictions such as Dubai. In parallel, fabricated invoices were obtained through a Singapore-based intermediary in the names of dummy importers falsely declaring the goods as unbranded furniture at significantly undervalued rates to Customs. Once cleared through Customs, the goods were transferred on paper to the intended beneficial owner via a local intermediary created for this purpose, while the goods were directly sent to the customer on the instructions of beneficial owner.

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

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2147034>

4. Stand-Up India Scheme Provides Financial and Institutional Aid to the marginalized; nearly Rs 29,000 crore amount sanctioned to SC/ST and Women Entrepreneurs since April 2022 till March 2025.

The Stand-up India Scheme was launched on 05th April, 2016. The objective of the Stand-Up India Scheme was to provide loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) of value between Rs.10 lakh and Rs.1 Crore to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and one-woman borrower per Bank branch for setting up a greenfield enterprise in manufacturing, services or trading sector and also for activities allied to agriculture. The Scheme provided loans of value between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs.1 Crore at the lowest applicable rate of the bank for that category (rating), not exceeding base rate MCLR+3%+ Tenor premium, with a repayment period of 7 years with a maximum moratorium of up to 18 months. Apart from linking prospective borrowers with Banks for loans, the online portal (www.standupmitra.in) provided guidance to prospective SC, ST and Women entrepreneurs in their endeavor to set up business enterprises, starting from training to filling up of loan applications as per Bank requirements. The portal also facilitated step by step guidance for connecting prospective borrowers to various agencies with specific expertise viz; Skilling Centres, Mentorship support, Entrepreneurship Development Program Centres, District Industries Centre, together with addresses and contact number.

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

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2146820>

5. Gross NPAs reduce from 9.11% to 2.58% from March 2021 to March 2025.

Comprehensive measures have been taken by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to recover and reduce NPAs. These measures include, inter alia, the following:

- a. Change in credit culture has been affected, with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) fundamentally changing the creditor-borrower relationship, taking away control of the defaulting company from promoters/owners, and debarring willful defaulters from the resolution process. To make the process more stringent, personal guarantor to corporate debtor has also been brought under the ambit of IBC.
- b. The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the Recovery of Debt and Bankruptcy Act have been amended to make it more effective.
- c. Pecuniary jurisdiction of Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRTs) was increased from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs to enable the DRTs to focus on high value cases resulting in higher recovery for the banks and financial institutions.
- d. Public Sector Banks have set-up specialized stressed assets management verticals and branches for effective monitoring and focused follow-up of NPA accounts, which facilitates quicker and improved resolution/ recoveries. Deployment of Business correspondents and adoption of Feet-on-street model have also boosted the recovery trajectory of NPAs in banks.
- e. Prudential Framework for resolution of stressed assets was issued by RBI to provide a framework for early recognition, reporting and time bound resolution of stressed assets, with a build-in incentive to lenders for early adoption of a resolution plan.

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

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2146819>

6. Government and RBI have taken key monetary and fiscal measures to control inflation and mitigate its impact on common citizen.

Under the provisions of the RBI Act, 1934, the Minister stated, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) follows a policy of flexible inflation targeting as its primary monetary policy framework, whereby RBI targets Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation (headline inflation) to be maintained at 4% with a tolerance band of ± 2 percentage points (i.e., the target range is 2% to 6%). Over the past three quarters, the CPI inflation rate has been within the RBI's tolerance band of 4% ± 2 %. WPI is not a specifically targeted inflation rate for **RBI**. The Minister stated that the Government of India has undertaken a series of administrative measures, including fiscal and trade policy, to control inflation and mitigate its impact on the common citizen. These include, inter alia:

- the augmentation of buffer stocks for essential food items
- strategic sales of procured grains in the open market
- facilitation of imports and export curbs during periods of short supply
- implementation of stock limits to push more supplies of select commodities into the market
- retail sales of select food items under the Bharat brand at subsidised rates, and above all, distribution of food grains free of cost to around 81 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, and
- increasing the disposable income of individuals by exempting annual incomes up to Rs. 12 lakhs (and Rs. 2.75 lakh for salaried individuals with standard deduction) from income tax.

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

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2146815>

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

1. Shri Nitin Gupta assumes charge of Chairperson, NFRA.

Shri Nitin Gupta, IRS (IT:86) (Retd.) has assumed the charge of Chairperson, National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) on 23rd July 2025. Sh. Nitin Gupta earlier served as Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) from June 2022 to June 2024. His professional experience spans across key assignments in the Income Tax Department and Ministry of Finance, where he led pioneering initiatives in automation, faceless assessments, and taxpayer services. As Chairman CBDT, he was instrumental in integrating advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and big data analytics to improve compliance, transparency, and ease of doing business. Under his leadership, the direct tax-to-GDP ratio reached record levels, and tax revenues showed consistent year-on-year growth, reflecting effective administration and better taxpayer outreach. Ms Smita Jhingran, IRS (IT:86) (Retd), earlier Full Time Member, NFRA, Shri P Daniel, IDES (1989) (Retd), former Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission and Shri Sushil Kumar Jaiswal, IA&AS (1993) (Retd), former Director General of Audit (Central Receipt) have assumed the charge of the post of Full-Time Member, NFRA as well. Ms. Smita Jhingran, during her first tenure at NFRA, played a key role in aligning India's auditing and accounting standards with global best practices and strengthening financial reporting and corporate governance. Prior to joining NFRA as Full Time Member, NFRA, she served as Secretary, Competition Commission of India (CCI), and held senior positions in the Income Tax Department

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

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2147767>

INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY BOARD OF INDIA

1. IBC helped resolve bad loans of over Rs 12 lakh crore in 9 years, but resolution time doubled: CRISIL.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has significantly impacted stressed debt resolution in India, directly resolving approximately Rs 12 lakh crore through 1,200 cases. Beyond formal admissions, it prompted settlements of Rs 14 lakh crore, acting as a strong deterrent. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), introduced nine years ago, has played a crucial role in resolving stressed debt in India. According to an analysis by CRISIL Market Intelligence, the IBC has directly resolved about Rs 12 lakh crore worth of debt through nearly 1,200 cases of stressed borrowers.

For more information, you can access the article here:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/ibc-helped-resolve-bad-loans-of-over-rs-12-lakh-crore-in-9-years-but-resolution-time-doubled-crisil/articleshow/122854979.cms?from=mdr>

2. Nine years of IBC: Over Rs 26 trillion stressed debt resolved.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), introduced nine years ago in May 2016, has enabled direct resolution of Rs 12 trillion (excluding cases under liquidation) of debt across 1,200 cases of stressed borrowers but when the indirect resolutions are considered, the number tops Rs 26 trillion and another Rs 22 trillion of debt have been resolved through other mechanisms. While the IBC has directly resolved Rs 12 trillion worth of stressed loans, it has also created significant deterrence amongst borrowers leading to the settlement of 30,000 cases with Rs 14 trillion of debt even before insolvency applications were admitted by the various benches of the national company law tribunals (NCLTs), shows and analysis by CIRISIL Ratings. When the number of resolutions through the pre-IBC mechanisms like the debt recovery tribunals (DRTs), the Lok Adalats and the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI), the total resolved debt tops Rs 48 trillion since 2016.

For more information, you can access the article here:

<https://www.fortuneindia.com/economy/ibc-helps-resolve-26-lakh-crore-in-debt-over-9-years-crisil/125093>

3. Public sector banks' property e-auctions take a leap under BAANKNET.

Public sector banks' (PSBs') revamped property e-auction platform, BAANKNET, has helped government lenders jack up the recovery of stressed assets. The new portal became operational on July 1 last year. The average annual successful bid value rose to ₹15,731 crore during the 12-month period up to June this year, compared to just ₹5,267 crore garnered through the previous e-Bikray portal during the corresponding 12-month period up to June, 2024. All 12 national lenders and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) are using BAANKNET for listing and disposing of non-performing asset (NPA) properties across the country.

For more information, you can access the article here:

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/banking/property-e-auctions-for-psbs-triple-under-baanknet-125072301367_1.html

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

1. Inclusion of “Ahmednagar Merchant’s Co-op. Bank Ltd., Ahmednagar” in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

It is advised that “Ahmednagar Merchant’s Co-op. Bank Ltd., Ahmednagar” has been included in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 vide Notification CO.DOR.RAUG.No.S2017/08.02.001/2025-26 dated June 12, 2025 and published in the Gazette of India (Part III - Section 4) dated July 8, 2025.

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

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12885&Mode=0>

2. Inclusion of “Deogiri Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar” in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

It is advised that “Deogiri Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar” has been included in the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 vide Notification CO.DOR.RAUG.No.S2018/08.02.636/2025-2026 dated June 12, 2025 and published in the Gazette of India (Part III - Section 4) dated July 8, 2025.

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

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12884&Mode=0>

3. Premature redemption under Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme - Redemption Price for premature redemption of SGB 2018-19 Series-V due on July 22, 2025.

In terms of GOI notification F.No. 4(22)-B(W&M)/2018 dated October 08, 2018 (SGB 2018-19 Series-V - Issue date January 22, 2019) on Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme, premature redemption of Gold Bond may be permitted after fifth year from the date of issue of such Gold Bond on the date on which interest is payable. Accordingly, the next due date of premature redemption of the above tranche shall be on July 22, 2025. Further, the redemption price of SGB shall be based on simple average of closing gold price of 999 purity of previous three business days from the date of redemption, as published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd (IBJA). Accordingly, the redemption price for premature redemption due on July 22, 2025, shall be ₹9,820/- (Rupees Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty only) per unit of SGB based on the simple average of closing gold price for the three business days i.e., July 17, July 18 and July 21, 2025.

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

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=60873

4. Financial Inclusion Index for March 2025.

The Reserve Bank of India had constructed a composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) in consultation with the concerned stakeholders including the Government, to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country, which was first published in August 2021 for the FY ending March 2021. Index for the year

ending March 2025 has since been compiled. The value of FI-Index for March 2025 stands at 67.0 vis-à-vis 64.2 in March 2024, with growth witnessed across all sub-indices, viz., Access, Usage and Quality. Improvement in FI-Index in FY 2025 is contributed by Usage and Quality dimensions, reflecting deepening of financial inclusion, and sustained financial literacy initiatives.

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

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=60875

5. RBI Bulletin – July 2025.

The Reserve Bank of India released its July 2025 Bulletin, highlighting a resilient domestic economy amid global uncertainties, with stable CPI inflation driven by food price deflation and robust foreign exchange reserves. Key articles examined the muted but significant pass-through of global crude oil prices to domestic inflation, the factors shaping trading volumes in India's uncollateralised money market, and evolving household inflation expectations post-pandemic. Notably, the transition to a flexible inflation targeting regime has anchored expectations and stabilized sentiment, reinforcing the RBI's commitment to price stability and prudent policy transmission.

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

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=60885

6. Final redemption under Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme - Redemption Price for final redemption of SGB 2017-18 Series-II due on July 28, 2025.

In terms of GOI Notification F.No.4(20)-W&M/2017 dated July 06, 2017 (SGB 2017-18 Series-II - Issue date July 28, 2017) on Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme, the Gold Bond shall be repayable on the expiration of eight years from the date of issue of the Gold Bonds. Accordingly, the final redemption date of the above tranche shall be July 28, 2025. Further, the redemption price of SGB shall be based on the simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity of the week (Monday-Friday), preceding the date of redemption, as published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd (IBJA). Accordingly, the redemption price for the final redemption due on July 28, 2025, shall be ₹9,924/- (Rupees Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Four only) per unit of SGB based on the simple average of closing gold price for the week July 21- 25, 2025.

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

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=60904

You may send your suggestions at niyati@asalegal.in

Disclaimer:

The content in this mail is offered only as updates in Financial, Capital Market, Corporate etc. sectors. This mail should not be used as a substitute for obtaining legal advice from an attorney licensed or authorized to practice in your jurisdiction. Nothing in this mail is intended to create an attorney-client relationship and nothing posted constitutes legal advice.

DELHI

3, Birbal Road, Ground & First Floor,
Jangpura Extension, New Delhi 110014.
Phone: +91-11-43108998, 45661440,
43552440, +91-11-24327050-52,
9311052521

MUMBAI

404-405, 4th Floor, Magnum Opus,
Near Grand Hyatt,
Behind Mudra Group,
Santacruz (East),
Mumbai – 400 055.
Phone: +91-22-62368654, 26661979

BENGALURU

1007, A-Wing, 10th Floor,
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road,
Bengaluru – 560001.
Phone: +91-80-48536504

AHMEDABAD

Office No.10, Business Centre,
5th Floor, Kalapurnam Complex,
Near Municipal Market,
C.G. Road, Navrangpura,
Ahmedabad-380009.
Phone: +91-079-66660888,
+91-9173660088