NEWSLETTER Weekly

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SECURITITES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA

1. **Ease of Doing Investment and Ease of Doing Business – Simplification and standardisation of the framework for transmission of securities.**

   SEBI, through Circular No. HO/38/13/11(14)2026-MIRSD-POD/I/17111/2026 dated 23 July 2026, revised and standardized the framework for transmission of securities under Regulation 40(7) of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, as amended by Gazette Notification No. SEBI/LAD-NRO/GN/2026/312 dated 10 July 2026. Effective 30 days from the date of the circular, the framework introduces a harmonised, risk-based process, including Quick Transmission Processing (QTP) for low-value claims with thresholds of ₹10,000 for securities in physical mode and ₹30,000 for securities in dematerialized mode, while simplified documentation thresholds are ₹10 lakh and ₹30 lakh, respectively. The circular standardizes documentation and procedures, removes the mandatory requirement of probate of a will, introduces a combined affidavit-cum-No Objection Certificate, permits QR code-based death certificates, and provides additional verification modes for foreign death certificates. It prescribes standard forms, documentation, online claim submission and tracking, a 21-calendar-day timeline for settlement after receipt of complete documents, monthly reporting to SEBI for six months, and continued application of the rule of survivorship requiring only the deceased holder's death certificate for transmission to surviving joint holders.

   For more information, you can access the SEBI circular here:
   https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/jul-2026/ease-of-doing-investment-and-ease-of-doing-business-simplification-and-standardisation-of-the-framework-for-transmission-of-securities_103030.html

2. **Certification Requirements for Distribution of Specialized Investment Funds (SIFs).**

   SEBI has issued Circular No. HO/24/13/17(1)2026-IMD-POD-1/I/16895/2026 dated 21 July 2026 revising the certification requirements for the distribution of Specialized Investment Funds (SIFs) under Chapter 21 of the SEBI Master Circular for Mutual Funds dated 20 March 2026. Persons engaged in the sale and/or distribution of SIF products must hold a valid NISM Series-V-D – Mutual Fund – Specialized Investment Fund Distributors Certification, which will also make them eligible to distribute Mutual Fund products without separately holding the NISM Series V-A certification. Entities distributing only Mutual Fund products will continue to comply with the NISM Series V-A certification requirement. The requirement to hold NISM Series XIII – Common Derivatives Certification for SIF distribution will cease to apply after 21 September 2026. Distributors holding a valid NISM Series XIII certification obtained on or before 21 September 2026 may continue distributing SIF products until that certification expires, provided they continue to hold a valid NISM Series V-A certification during the transition period. AMFI and AMCs are required to ensure compliance. The circular takes effect immediately.

   For more information, you can access the SEBI circular here:
   https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/jul-2026/certification-requirements-for-distribution-of-specialized-investment-funds-sifs-_102986.html

3. **Operationalisation of freezing of holdings of promoter and promoter group including their associates (promoter holdings) at the ISIN level under Regulation 24(i)(ea) of the SEBI (Buy-back of Securities) Regulations, 2018 dated July 21, 2026.**

   SEBI has issued Circular No. HO/49/14/13(11)2026-CFD-POD1/I/16864/2026 dated 21 July 2026 to operationalise the freezing of promoter and promoter group holdings, including their associates, at the ISIN level under newly inserted Regulation 24(i)(ea) of the SEBI (Buy-back of Securities) Regulations, 2018. The freeze will apply from the date of the board or shareholders' resolution approving the buy-back until the closing of the offer, while permitting tendering of securities in buy-backs through the tender offer route and invocation of encumbrances created before the commencement of the buy-back period. Depositories have been directed to establish an operational framework and implement necessary system enhancements covering the format for freezing instructions, ISIN-level freeze procedures, tendering of securities, handling of invocation or release of pre-existing encumbrances, and other implementation requirements. Depositories must complete the framework and system enhancements before 1 August 2026. Listed companies, recognised stock exchanges, depositories, merchant bankers and registrars and share transfer agents are required to comply with the circular and the operational framework. The circular comes into force with immediate effect.

For more information, you can access the SEBI circular here:
https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/jul-2026/operationalisation-of-freezing-of-holdings-of-promoter-and-promoter-group-including-their-associates-promoter-holdings-at-the-isin-level-under-regulation-24-i-ea-of-the-sebi-buy-back-of-securitie-_102978.html

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

1. **Government's Financial Inclusion Mission Continues to Foster Economic Empowerment Through Universal Banking, Social Security and Credit Access.**

With the objective of promoting financial inclusion and facilitating access to banking, credit and insurance services for all sections of society, including marginalized and underserved communities, the Government launched the National Mission for Financial Inclusion (NMFI), namely, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) in August, 2014 to provide universal banking services for every unbanked household based on the guiding principles of banking the unbanked, securing the unsecured and funding the unfunded.

The coverage of beneficiaries through various schemes under NMFI are briefed as under:

i. Under PMJDY, a total of 58.63 crore Jan-Dhan accounts with a deposit balance of Rs. 3,08,333 crores have been opened as on 01.07.2026. Out of these, 32.68 crore (55.74%) Jan-Dhan accounts belong to women and about 45.62 crore (77.80%) PMJDY accounts have been opened in rural and semi-urban areas;

ii. Under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), 27.84 crore cumulative enrolments (as on 01.07.2026) have been done to provide life insurance cover of Rs. 2 lakh for death due to any reason.

iii. Under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), 58.78 crore cumulative enrolments (as on 01.07.2026) have been done to provide one-year accidental cover of Rs. 2 lakh (death or permanent total disability) and Rs. 1 lakh (permanent partial disability) respectively

iv. Under Atal Pension Yojana (APY), 9.29 crore cumulative enrolments (as on 30.06.2026) have been done to provide monthly pension to eligible subscribers

v. Under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), 59.14 crore loans amounting to Rs. 41.71 lakh crore have been sanctioned to provide collateral-free institutional finance to micro/small business units up to Rs.20 lakh for income generating activities in manufacturing, trading, services sectors including activities allied to agriculture (as on 26.06.2026);

vi. Under Stand-Up India Scheme (SUPI), 2.75 lakh cumulative loans amounting to Rs. 62,790 crores have been sanctioned to Scheduled Caste / Schedule Tribe and Women entrepreneurs for setting up greenfield projects in the sectors such as manufacturing, trading, services and activities allied to agriculture (as on 31.03.2025).

For more information, you can access the GOI press release here:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2287200&reg=3&lang=1

2. **Government and RBI Strengthen Digital Lending Ecosystem Through New Regulatory Framework, Digital Lending App Directory and Enhanced Customer Safeguards.**

The Government has been constantly engaging with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other concerned Regulators/stakeholders to curb the operations of fake/illegal loan apps in the country. For public information, RBI has operationalized a directory 'Digital Lending Apps (DLAs)' on its website with effect from 01.07.2025, including DLAs engaged by Regulated Entities (REs) of RBI. The directory aims to aid the customers in verifying the claim of a DLA's association with a RE. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has so far blocked a total of 87 illegal loan lending applications under section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000 after following the due process. Additionally, sectoral regulators have been authorised to issue directions for blocking of information for public access under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2025, notified on 22.10.2025. Further, the Government and RBI have been taking up various initiatives from time to time to protect citizens from exploitation by fake/illegal loan apps. This inter-alia, includes:

i. RBI has issued Reserve Bank of India (Digital Lending) Directions, 2025 on May 8, 2025. These directions have detailed provision regarding recovery, data privacy, and customer grievance redressal mechanisms which are mandatory for the REs, the Lending Service Providers (LSPs) engaged by them and the Digital Lending Apps (DLAs).

ii. The Government and RBI have been proactively engaging with the major internet intermediaries and messaging platforms to review the operations of unauthorised loan apps. i Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been proactively analysing the digital lending apps. In order to facilitate the citizens to report cyber incidents including fake/illegal loan apps, MHA has launched a National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in) as well as a National Cybercrime Helpline number "1930".

For more information, you can access the GOI press release here:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2287195&reg=3&lang=1

3. **DRI busts clandestine Mephedrone manufacturing facility in Ankleshwar, Gujarat and seizes Rs. 21 lakhs; Three arrested.**

In a major operation, the officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) successfully dismantled a clandestine Mephedrone manufacturing facility operating from a residential premise in Ankleshwar, Gujarat, and arrested three persons involved in the illicit drug manufacturing and trafficking network. In an intelligence led operation, officers of DRI unearthed a fully functional illicit laboratory equipped with sophisticated manufacturing apparatus, including an industrial oven dryer, hot plate heaters, condenser assembly, electric stirrer, and other laboratory equipment used for the clandestine manufacture of Mephedrone. The search resulted in the recovery of 1.349 kg Mephedrone in solid form, 6.825 kg 2-Bromo-4-Methylpropiophenone, a controlled precursor chemical, and 120 litres of Monomethylamine (MMA), another essential chemical used in the manufacture of Mephedrone along with 60 kg Hydrobromic Acid (HBr), 40 litres Toluene, and two containers containing mixed acids (HBr and HCl), all of which were seized under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985. Mephedrone, commonly known on the streets as "Meow Meow", "MD", "M-Cat" or "Drone", is a highly addictive synthetic psychotropic substance that has emerged as one of the most abused stimulant drugs in India. It is notified as a psychotropic substance under the NDPS Act, 1985, making its manufacture, possession, sale, transport and trafficking illegal except for authorised scientific or medical purposes.

For more information, you can access the GOI press release here:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2287660&reg=3&lang=1

4. **Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman outlines 5Rs of responsive tax governance; Calls for greater tax certainty and reduced litigation at the 167th Income Tax celebrations in New Delhi today.**

   Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 167th anniversary of Income Tax Day celebrations by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in New Delhi today. Shri Arvind Srivastava, Secretary, D/o Revenue; Shri Ravi Agrawal, Chairman, CBDT; Shri Vivek Chaturvedi, Chairman, CBIC: Members of CBDT and CBIC and other senior officers and officials of the Department were present on the occasion. Addressing the 167th Income Tax Day celebrations, Union Finance Minister Smt. Sitharaman emphasised that the role of the Income Tax Department has evolved from tax collection to building a fair, efficient, transparent and taxpayer-centric tax administration. She described the implementation of the Income-tax Act, 2025 as a landmark reform that has simplified the law, reduced compliance costs and strengthened ease of doing business. She also highlighted the enhanced capacity of the e-Filing portal, improved return processing, prompt refunds and significant progress in grievance redressal, while stressing that the Department must move beyond disposal of grievances to analysing recurring issues and preventing them through systemic improvements. She outlined the 5Rs of Responsive Tax Governance - Recognise, Respond, Redress, Reflect and Reform, as guiding principles for taxpayer service, emphasising that honest taxpayers should experience convenience, opportunities to correct bona fide errors and a tax administration that exercises its authority with humility. Stressing that taxpayers are partners in India's development, she called for a continued focus on reducing litigation by strengthening tax certainty. FM Smt. Sitharaman also underlined the importance of strengthening institutional capacity through modern infrastructure, technology and continuous investment in human capital. She appreciated the progress made in upgrading offices and welfare facilities and called for greater capacity building in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, forensic accounting, international taxation, transfer pricing, digital assets, cybersecurity and leadership development.

   For more information, you can access the GOI press release here:
   https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2289220&reg=3&lang=1

5. **DRI intensifies crackdown on gold smuggling; seizes 27 kg smuggled gold in intelligence-led nationwide operations; 12 arrested.**

   Continuing its sustained crackdown on organised gold smuggling syndicates, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has carried out a series of intelligence-driven operations across the country, resulting in the seizure of over 27 kg foreign-origin smuggled gold and the arrest of 12 persons. The operations exposed sophisticated concealment methods, including concealment inside aircraft lavatories, specially fabricated cavities in vehicles and utensils, and body concealment, highlighting the evolving modus operandi adopted by organised smuggling syndicates. Acting on specific intelligence, DRI officers at Mumbai intercepted three passengers on 23-24.07.2026 arriving from Addis Ababa and, after an extensive search of the aircraft, recovered 6 foreign origin gold bars weighing around 12 kg concealed inside the ceiling panels of the rear lavatory of aircraft. Investigation revealed that the passengers had concealed the gold for subsequent retrieval by airport staff. The gold was seized and all three passengers were arrested. On 23.07.2026, acting on specific intelligence, officers of DRI intercepted a female passenger travelling on the Brahmaputra Mail in Uttar Pradesh and recovered 42 foreign origin gold bars weighing around 5 kg concealed in a waist belt and inside her handbag. The passenger admitted that the gold had been smuggled into India through Bangladesh. The gold was seized and the passenger was arrested.

   For more information, you can access the GOI press release here:
   https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2289357&reg=3&lang=1

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

1. **IICA Inaugurates Eighth Batch of its Flagship Post Graduate Insolvency Programme (PGIP 2026–28).**

   The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, today inaugurated the Eighth Batch (2026–28) of its flagship Post Graduate Insolvency Programme (PGIP). The programme welcomed participants from diverse professional backgrounds and was attended by distinguished members of the insolvency ecosystem, faculty members, senior officers of IICA. Delivering the Inaugural Address, Justice Ashok Bhushan, Former Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) and former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, underscored the transformative impact of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, describing it as one of India's most significant economic reforms. He noted that the Code replaced a fragmented legal framework with a comprehensive insolvency regime that has evolved through seven legislative amendments and numerous regulatory reforms. Justice Bhushan encouraged the participants to develop the habit of studying landmark judgments and undertaking continuous legal research, emphasizing that judicial precedents are indispensable learning tools for every insolvency professional. In his Keynote Address, Shri Ravi Mittal, Chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), reminded the participants that the programme is not merely intended to create employment opportunities but to produce competent Insolvency Professionals and Resolution Professionals capable of leading complex corporate restructuring assignments. He highlighted the importance of adhering to statutory timelines prescribed under the IBC and maintaining the sanctity of the law. Explaining the growing importance of the Corporate Insolvency and Individual Insolvency Resolution Processes (CIIRP), he encouraged the participants to understand their practical implementation and prepare themselves to lead distressed enterprises as effective turnaround professionals.

For more information, you can access the GOI press release here:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2287068&reg=3&lang=1

2. **Ministry of Corporate Affairs' 'Corporate Mitra Scheme' Awareness Webinar Successfully Organized by IICA Shillong for the youth and enterprises of Arunachal Pradesh.**

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Shillong, under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, successfully organised a webinar on recently, for awareness and sensitization of the Corporate Mitra Scheme among the youth, students, MSMEs, professionals and enterprises of Arunachal Pradesh. The webinar was conducted as part of the Corporate Mitra Scheme Awareness Campaign for the Northeast Region (NER), in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU)-Arunachal Pradesh and support of The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI) - as the lead co-host and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) – as the support co-host. The Scheme aims to empower MSMEs, primarily in the Tier-3 & 2 cities, by supporting them in playing their part in the larger vision of a Viksit Bharat @ 2047. The scheme embodies the vision of a formalized, financially sustainable, and a thriving MSME sector by creating a strong support ecosystem for the MSMEs, through facilitating access to a pool of qualified, accredited and trusted para professionals "Corporate Mitras". The Corporate Mitras are envisaged to provide accessible, affordable, and quality compliance and business support services to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), while creating a pool of trained para-professionals by equipping young graduates with industry-relevant knowledge and practical skills. The initiative is expected to strengthen the MSME ecosystem and enhance employment opportunities, particularly across the North Eastern Region. The accredited Corporate Mitra(s) are expected to provide affordable and accessible professional assistance to the local enterprises, for the non-core aspects of their business operation i.e. regulatory, compliance, financial, taxation, accounting, and governance-related needs, thereby ensuring that MSMEs can focus on innovation, expansion and growth, while meeting regulatory requirements with ease.

For more information, you can access the GOI press release here:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2289729&reg=3&lang=1

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

1. **Rationalisation of Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments) Rules, 2019 – Draft Rules for Comments.**

Foreign investment into India is presently governed by the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments) Rules, 2019 ('NDI Rules'). The Union Budget 2026-27 announced a comprehensive review of the NDI Rules to create a more contemporary, user-friendly framework for foreign investments, consistent with India's evolving economic priorities. Pursuant thereto, a committee was constituted by the Central

Government to undertake a comprehensive review of the extant regulatory framework. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, and in consultation with the Central Government and other stakeholders, the Reserve Bank of India has prepared a draft of the rationalized Rules. The salient features of the proposed draft Rules, inter alia, are as under:

a) Simplified and principle-based framework: Rationalization of provisions, harmonization of definitions and a simplified regulatory architecture to enhance clarity and reduce regulatory complexity.

b) Alignment with the FDI Policy: Clear demarcation of procedural FEMA provisions from policy and sector-specific requirements, improving regulatory coherence and facilitating timely policy changes.

c) Enhanced ease of doing business: Streamlined procedures, reduced compliance burden and greater operational flexibility through a transparent and investor-friendly regulatory framework.

d) Future-ready regulatory framework: Adoption of principle-based, investee-neutral and investor-neutral provisions aligned with evolving business practices, while preserving necessary regulatory safeguards.

The Rules will be finalized after wider public consultations. Accordingly, the Reserve Bank of India has today placed on its website draft Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Investment) Rules, 2026 for comments / feedback from all stakeholders.

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63204

2. **Premature redemption under Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme - Redemption Price for premature redemption of SGB 2018-19 Series-V due on July 22, 2026.**

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, 2026. Further, the redemption price of SGB shall be based on simple average of closing price of gold 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, 2026, shall be ₹14,218/- (Rupees Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred and Eighteen Only) per unit of SGB based on the simple average of closing price of gold for the three business days i.e., July 17, July 20, and July 21, 2026.

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63206

3. **RBI Bulletin – July 2026.**

The Reserve Bank has released the July 2026 issue of its monthly Bulletin. The Bulletin:

State of the Economy

The global economy is continuing with the heightened uncertainties emanating from fragile geopolitics and supply chain pressures. The domestic economy has navigated the external uncertainties well, underpinned by healthy demand conditions and resilient performance of the industrial and services sector. Headline retail inflation inched up in June while core inflation, especially excluding precious metals remained low. Liquidity conditions improved further, supporting the ongoing robust credit growth. India’s external sector remains steady with improving outlook, aided by inflows of foreign investments.

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63213

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