NEWSLETTER Weekly

Volume-CXLV, Issue-II, Dated: 10th August, 2026

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA

1. **Extension of timeline for enrolment with PaRRVA as specified in SEBI Circular No. HO/38/14/(4)2026-MIRSD-POD/I/10557/2026 Dated April 29, 2026.**

   SEBI, through Circular No. HO/38/14/(11)2026-MIRSD-POD1/I/18038/2026 dated August 3, 2026, has extended the timeline for enrolment with the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA) for registered Investment Advisers (IAs) and Research Analysts (RAs) who wish to communicate certified past performance data to clients, including prospective clients. Earlier, SEBI had specified enrolment within three months of PaRRVA becoming operational and later fixed August 3, 2026, as the enrolment deadline following PaRRVA's operationalisation from May 4, 2026. Based on representations received from industry participants and PaRRVA, SEBI has extended the enrolment deadline to **September 3, 2026**, with the objective of facilitating a smooth and seamless implementation of the framework. The circular has been issued under Section 11(1) of the SEBI Act, 1992, read with the relevant provisions of the SEBI (Intermediaries) Regulations, 2008, SEBI (Investment Advisers) Regulations, 2013, and SEBI (Research Analysts) Regulations, 2014

   For more information, you can access the SEBI circular here:
   https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/aug-2026/extension-of-timeline-for-enrolment-with-parrva-as-specified-in-sebi-circular-no-ho-38-14-4-2026-mirsd-pod-i-10557-2026-dated-april-29-2026_103314.html

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

1. **ICoAS fraternity reaffirms commitment to cost optimisation for Atmanirbhar Bharat on ICoAS day 2026.**

   Shri. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department of Defence, Ministry of Defence, graced the Foundation Day celebration of the Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS), organised under the aegis of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, as the Chief Guest, in New Delhi today. Shri. Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary, Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, was present on the occasion as the Guest of Honour. This year's celebration was observed under the theme **"Role of ICoAS Officers in Cost Optimization for Atmanirbhar Bharat"**, reflecting the growing significance of cost and fiscal efficiency in furthering India's pursuit of self-reliance leading to Viksit Bharat. Delivering the keynote address, Shri. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department of Defence lauded the professionalism, analytical acumen and steadfast dedication of ICoAS officers in strengthening cost management practices across Government Ministries and Departments. He observed that the Service has consistently played a catalytic role in advancing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat through judicious cost optimization, prudent resource utilisation and robust financial oversight, particularly in Defence Sector.

   In his address as Guest of Honour, Shri. Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary, Department of Defence Production, drew attention to the increasing relevance of cost accounting expertise in bolstering indigenous manufacturing capabilities thereby not only reducing India's reliance on imports, but also be competitive in export market. He commended the unique and strategic role of ICoAS officers with the Defence Production ecosystem and called for reinvention of the service and its functioning in the changing defence acquisition scenarios and to develop deeper synergy between ICoAS officers and strategic sectors in furtherance of national self-reliance.

   For more information:
   https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2296879&reg=3&lang=1

2. **Every ₹1 invested under Kisan Credit Card– Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (KCC-MISS) contributes ₹2.30 to net value addition in the agriculture & allied sector, Third-party Assessment says.**

A third-party assessment of the KCC–MISS has been conducted through Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, to assess the scheme's functioning across India's diverse agro-regions (As reported by Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India).

The main findings of the report submitted by ISEC are as under:

i. Every ₹1 invested under KCC–MISS contributes ₹2.30 to net value addition in the agriculture & allied sector.

ii. The MISS has played a crucial role in reducing the interest burden on farmers, with an estimated subsidy outlay of ₹1.87 lakh crores since inception till 2024-25.

iii. The scheme has positively impacted cropping intensity and multi-season cultivation, with KCC-MISS farmers cultivating larger areas, achieving higher cropping intensity, and adopting more diversified crop portfolios across seasons, supported by reliable irrigation and concessional credit;

iv. It has improved the timeliness of input use through access to adequate working capital, and beneficiaries receiving Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI) have demonstrated better credit discipline, thereby enhancing banks' confidence for further lending;

v. The scheme has supported dairy and livestock expansion and promoted income diversification by supplementing crop income, reducing dependence on seasonal agriculture, and integrating livestock and fisheries farming with crop production. It has also supported Working Capital Requirements (WCR) for inland fisheries, which is significant for diversification in the North-Eastern Region.

For more information:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2293813&reg=3&lang=1

3. **India achieves near-universal banking coverage, with 99.92% of inhabited villages now served by a banking outlet.**

The country has achieved near-universal banking coverage, with 99.92% of inhabited villages (6,00,868 out of 6,01,328) now served by a banking outlet (Bank branch / Business Correspondent / India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)) within a radius of 5 km, as per the data uploaded by banks on Jan Dhan Darshak (JDD) App. This banking expansion is supported by a robust infrastructure of over 1.81 lakh bank branches, 17.36 lakh Business Correspondents (BCs), and 1.65 lakh IPPB centers, as on 17.07.2026.

To ensure accessibility of banking services in rural and remote areas, the endeavor of the Government is to provide a banking outlet (Bank branch / Business Correspondent / India Post Payments Bank) within 5 kilometers radius of all inhabited villages in the country. Further, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted Commercial Banks, Small Finance Banks, Payments Banks, Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks, to open bank branches anywhere in India without prior approval, provided 25% are in unbanked rural areas.

Moreover, in pursuance of extant RBI guidelines, rolling out of banking outlets in uncovered areas is a continuous process looked after by the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) / Union Territory Level Bankers Committee (UTLBC), in consultation with the concerned State/UT Government, member Banks and other stakeholders. Banks, inter-alia, consider proposals for opening banking outlets in the light of RBI's instructions, their business plans and their commercial viability. As on 17.07.2026, there are a total number of 58.77 crore PMJDY accounts in the country, having a balance of ₹ 3,12,414 Crore.

For more information:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2293812&reg=3&lang=1

4. **Government Boosts MSME Financing Through SIDBI and ECLGS 5.0.**

Some major initiatives have been undertaken by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) during the last five years to improve the flow of credit to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across the country.

These include the following initiatives:

i. Subsequent to Union Budget Announcement FY 2024-25, SIDBI has opened 71 new branches across India from 01.04.2024 to 29.07.2026 to expand its reach to serve major MSME clusters and provide direct credit to MSMEs.

ii. As on March 31, 2026, SIDBI's direct credit outstanding portfolio stands at ₹ 51,687 crores, as against ₹ 37,781 crores as on 31 March, 2025, registering a Y-o-Y growth of 36.8%.

iii. The Bank also provides refinance assistance to augment resources of Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs) to increase their flow of credit to MSMEs. As on March 31, 2026, SIDBI's refinance outstanding portfolio stands at ₹ 4,50,571 crore, as against ₹ 3,85,327 crore as on 31 March, 2025, registering a Y-o-Y growth of 16.9%.

iv. SIDBI has launched a product on co-lending arrangement with Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to provide affordable credit to smaller MSMEs, especially new borrowers, as part of its effort to reach underserved/ unserved MSMEs. During FY 202526, the Bank initiated co-lending arrangements with Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to strengthen credit delivery and broaden financial access in underserved and untapped areas.

For more information:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2289220&reg=3&lang=1

5. **DRI busts illegal drug manufacturing unit in Satara district in Maharashtra; two arrested**

Continuing its sustained crackdown on illicit drug manufacturing and trafficking, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) unearthed a clandestine manufacturing facility engaged in the illegal production of psychotropic substances in Satara district, Maharashtra. The operation resulted in the seizure of two psychotropic substances in finished and intermediary forms, approximately 400 litres of raw materials used in their manufacture, and the arrest of two persons.

On 01.08.26, in an intelligence led operation, officers of DRI busted an illegal manufacturing facility in Satara district in Maharashtra, where Alprazolam and Diazepam, both listed as psychotropic substances under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985, were being clandestinely manufactured for illicit trafficking. The manufacturer was also apprehended at the premises.

Searches at the premises resulted in the recovery of approximately 1 kg of finished Alprazolam, more than 15 kg of Alprazolam in intermediary form, and approx. 3.75 kg of Diazepam. Officers also recovered approximately 400 litres of various raw materials and reaction mixtures used in their illicit manufacture. The illicit goods were seized under the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985. In a swift follow-up operation, DRI officers apprehended the intended buyer from Pune and unearthed evidence indicating the proposed illicit transaction for further trafficking of the psychotropic substances.

For more information:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2294934&reg=3&lang=1

6. **Insurance Division, DFS Secures 3rd Rank in Group A Category of Grievance Redressal Assessment & Index (GRAI) for June 2026.**

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) released the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) monthly report for June 2026. It provides a detailed analysis of types and categories of public grievances and the nature of disposal. As per the report, the Department of Financial Services (Insurance Division) stands at 3rd position, and the Department of Financial Services (Banking Division) stands at 6th position. Also, the DFS has been consistently ranked among the top 10 in the GRAI rankings amongst various Ministries/Departments since November 2025.

During the month of June 2026, the Department of Financial Services disposed of more than thirty thousand grievances. Also, the senior officials of Department of Financial Services are personally reviewing randomly selected grievances on a regular basis. Workshops on "Effective Grievance Redressal Mechanism" are also being held regularly. Such workshops play an important role in strengthening grievance redressal mechanisms by promoting best practices. They improve coordination among stakeholders, leverage technology, and foster a customer-centric culture.

For more information:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2295460&reg=3&lang=1

7. **No Charges for UPI Users.**

The Government of India wishes to categorically state:

- **No charges for users**: Consumers making payments will not face any transaction charges.
- **P2P transactions free**: All Person-to-Person transactions will continue to be free of charge.
- **Nominal MDR for merchants**: As and when MDR charges are introduced, they will apply only to a **limited set of merchant transactions,** above a certain threshold, at a **nominal rate**, far lower than debit or credit card MDRs.
- **Vast majority of the transactions** will remain free of charge for merchants on UPI. MDR, if introduced, will only be threshold based and not blanketly levied to all.
- Once the Parliament passes the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which proposes to amend Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, the "UPI and Services Steering Committee" headed by NPCI will decide on the MDR, if any.

The recent amendment to the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act (PSS Act)** has generated debate, with some misinterpreting it as a move to impose charges on ordinary users. In reality, the amendment is an **enabling provision** designed to ensure UPI's **long-term sustainability, technological advancement, and resilience against emerging risks.**

For more information:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2296594&reg=3&lang=1

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

1. **IEPFA Organises Stakeholder Engagement with Nodal Officers of Companies on Integrated IEPFA Portal 2.0.**

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), organised a **Stakeholder Engagement Session** with Companies' Nodal Officers on the Integrated IEPFA Portal 2.0. The session served as an interactive platform to demonstrate the proposed Claimant and e-Verification Report (EVR) modules of the new portal and to obtain valuable feedback from Companies' Nodal Officers ahead of its rollout.

The session was led by Ms. Anita Shah Akella, CEO, IEPFA and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, along with senior officials of IEPFA, the NeGD project team, and Companies' Nodal Officers. Participants were provided with a detailed walkthrough of the modernised portal, which introduces several digital-first features aimed at simplifying the investor claim process and improving operational efficiency.

Key features presented during the session included digital KYC integration, pre-filled Form IEPF-5, an entitlement search facility, a simplified three-step workflow for filing e-Verification Reports (EVRs), and provisions relating to Rule 7(3) for additional (delay) fees. The implementation roadmap was also shared with stakeholders, outlining User Acceptance Testing (UAT) in August 2026, stakeholder training in September, pilot implementation in October, and the planned launch of the Integrated IEPFA Portal 2.0 in November 2026.

For more information:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2296238&reg=3&lang=1

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

1. **RBI appoints Smt. Monisha Chakraborty as new Executive Director.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Smt. Monisha Chakraborty as Executive Director (ED), effective August 3, 2026. Prior to her appointment, she served as Chief General Manager-in-Charge in the Department of Supervision, A career central banker with over three decades of experience at the RBI, Smt. Chakraborty has worked across key areas including Supervision, Foreign Exchange, and Government and Bank Accounts. She has also served as Banking Ombudsman and was associated with a technical committee reviewing the format of the RBI's Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account. In her new role, she will oversee the Foreign Exchange Department and Financial Markets Regulation Department. She holds a degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Business Economics from the University of Delhi.

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63279

2. **Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies.**

The RBI has proposed several key regulatory measures to strengthen and modernise the banking framework. It will resume 'on-tap' licensing of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) after a two-decade gap, with draft guidelines to be issued for stakeholder consultation. The RBI will also review concentration risk management norms for Rural Co-operative Banks (RCBs), which are currently based on 2008 instructions, to reflect changes in the banking sector and address risks arising from concentrated lending. In addition, the RBI plans to rationalise interest-rate regulations for all regulated entities, aiming to harmonise guidelines, address operational issues related to MCLR and EBLR, and standardise practices such as day-count conventions and benchmark reset dates. Overall, these measures seek to promote a stronger and more vibrant co-operative banking sector, improve transparency and consistency in loan pricing, strengthen monetary policy transmission, and enhance consumer protection

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63289

3. **Premature redemption under Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme - Redemption Price for premature redemption of SGB 2020-21 Series-XI due on August 07, 2026 (August 08 and August 09 being holiday)**

The RBI, in accordance with the Government of India Notification F.No.4(4)-B(W&M)/2020 dated October 9, 2020 under the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme, has announced the premature redemption of SGB 2020-21 Series XI on August 7, 2026, as the bonds become eligible for redemption after five years from the date of issue. The redemption price has been fixed at ₹14,564 per unit, based on the simple average of the closing price of 999-purity gold for the three preceding business days—August 4, 5 and 6, 2026—as published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd. (IBJA). August 8 and 9 being holidays, August 7 will be the applicable redemption date

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63307

4. **RBI invites comments on the draft "Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks –Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy) Eleventh Amendment Directions, 2026.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the draft Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks – Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy) Eleventh Amendment Directions, 2026, proposing amendments to Chapter VII – Leverage Ratio Framework of the RBI (Commercial Banks – Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy) Directions, 2025. The proposed changes aim to align India's leverage ratio framework with the latest 'Leverage Ratio 2017 Standard' issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS). The amendment is intended to strengthen the prudential framework for commercial banks and ensure greater alignment with evolving international regulatory standards. Stakeholders and other interested parties can submit their comments or feedback on the draft directions until August 28, 2026, through the 'Connect 2 Regulate' section on the RBI's website.

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63313

5. **RBI imposes monetary penalty on Utsav Securities Limited**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹3.90 lakh on Utsav Securities Limited for non-compliance with RBI directions relating to governance and submission of credit information to Credit Information Companies (CICs). The penalty follows a statutory inspection based on the company's financial position as of March 31, 2025, during which RBI identified regulatory deficiencies. The violations included Key Management Personnel (KMP) holding office/directorships in other NBFCs–Middle Layer and the company's failure to submit credit information for certain loan accounts to CICs. The penalty was imposed under the relevant provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005, after considering the company's response to the show-cause notice. RBI clarified that the penalty relates to regulatory compliance deficiencies and does not affect the validity of transactions or agreements with customers.

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63317

6. **RBI imposes monetary penalty on Namdev Finvest Limited (formerly known as Namdev Finvest Private Limited).**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹2.70 lakh on Namdev Finvest Limited for non-compliance with certain provisions of the RBI (Know Your Customer) Directions. The penalty follows a statutory inspection based on the company's financial position as of March 31, 2025, which identified deficiencies in its KYC compliance framework. After considering the company's response and submissions during the personal hearing, RBI found that the company had failed to implement a robust software system for effective identification and reporting of suspicious transactions, warranting the penalty. RBI clarified that the action relates solely to regulatory compliance deficiencies and does not affect the validity of transactions or agreements with the company's customers.

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63318

7. RBI imposes monetary penalty on Infinity Fincorp Solutions Private Limited

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹5.40 lakh on Infinity Fincorp Solutions Private Limited for non-compliance with provisions of the RBI (Know Your Customer) Directions and Fair Practice Code. Following a statutory inspection based on the company's financial position as of March 31, 2025, RBI found that the company had failed to conduct periodic reviews of customer risk categorisation at least once every six months and had not disclosed the basis for risk grading and the rationale for charging different interest rates to different borrower categories in its application forms and sanction letters. The penalty was imposed after considering the company's response and submissions during the personal hearing. RBI clarified that the action relates to regulatory compliance deficiencies and does not affect the validity of transactions or agreements with customers.

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63319

You may send your suggestions at niyati@asalegal.in

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