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RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

RBI RELEASES CIRCULAR ON GUIDELINES TO FACILITATE FASTER CROSS-BORDER INWARD PAYMENTS

The Reserve Bank of India has issued a circular dated 09.04.2026 on guidelines to facilitate faster cross-border inward payments. The central bank has asked the banks to streamline processes so that funds sent from abroad reach beneficiaries more quickly.

The Reserve Bank's Payments Vision 2025 aims to bring efficiency in the cross-border payments aligning with the G20 roadmap for cross-border payments that has set targets for achieving cheaper, faster, more transparent, and more accessible cross-border payments.

Banks are advised as under:

Immediate Customer Intimation: Banks must promptly notify customers upon receipt of inward remittance messages. Messages received after operating hours should be communicated at the start of the next business day

Faster Reconciliation: Banks should move away from end-of-day reconciliation of nostro accounts and adopt near real-time or periodic reconciliation, with intervals not exceeding one hour.

Timely Credit to Beneficiaries: Inward remittances received during foreign exchange market hours should be credited on the same business day, and those received after hours on the next business day, subject to FEMA compliance.

Place Straight - Banks may implement automated credit mechanisms for resident individuals, based on risk assessment and regulatory compliance.

Digital Interface: Banks should aim to provide digital platforms enabling customers to submit documents and track foreign exchange transactions efficiently.

RBI CANCELS THE LICENCE OF NATIONAL URBAN COOPERATIVE BANK LTD, PRATAPGARH

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), vide order dated April 10, 2026, has cancelled the licence of "National Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd, Pratapgarh" ("the Bank"), under Section 22 read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (BR Act).

The Reserve Bank cancelled the licence of the bank as:

The bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. As such, it does not comply with the provisions of Section 11(1) and Section 22(3)(d) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

The bank has failed to comply with the requirements of Sections 22(3)(a), Sections 22(3) (b), 22(3)(c), 22(3)(d) and 22(3)(e) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

The continuance of the bank will be prejudicial to the interests of its depositors.

The bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in full; and

Public interest would be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its banking business any further.

The said Bank is prohibited from conducting the business of 'banking' which includes, among other things, acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits as defined in Section 5(b) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, with immediate effect.

RBI ISSUES AMENDMENT DIRECTIONS ON 'NON-BANKING FINANCIAL COMPANIES - BRANCH AUTHORISATION DIRECTIONS'

The Reserve Bank of India has eased rules for non-banking financial companies. NBFCs can now open branches without prior approval in most situations. This change aims to simplify business operations. Deposit-taking NBFCs have specific conditions based on their net owned funds and credit ratings for opening branches or appointing agents.

The central bank has issued Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Companies Branch Authorisation) Amendment Directions, 2026. The objective of these amendment directions is to provide operational flexibility to NBFCs for branch expansion to facilitate ease of doing business while ensuring necessary regulatory compliance.

NPCI COLLABORATES WITH NVIDIA TO DEVELOP SOVEREIGN AI CAPABILITIES FOR INDIA'S PAYMENTS ECOSYSTEM

NPCI on February 18, 2026 announced a collaboration with NVIDIA to enhance its sovereign AI capabilities for India's payments ecosystem.

The initiative aims to support the evolving requirements of large-scale, real-time payment systems by combining NPCI's expertise in operating population-scale payment infrastructure with NVIDIA's advanced AI and accelerated computing platforms. As part of this collaboration, NPCI will leverage NVIDIA NemoTron, a family of open AI models, to develop a payments-native AI foundation model aligned with India's regulatory and data sovereignty requirements. Issuance of Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has notified the Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026, introducing

A revamped framework governing the authorisation, regulation, and renewal of entities permitted to deal in foreign exchange. The Regulations seek to streamline and rationalise the existing approval process while enhancing operational efficiency in the delivery of foreign exchange services across the country.

A key feature of the new regime is the expansion of the principal-agent model, enabling authorised persons to leverage wider agent networks for providing foreign exchange facilities to customers. This move is expected to improve accessibility and promote greater financial inclusion, particularly in underserved regions. At the same time, the RBI has retained robust oversight mechanisms and compliance safeguards to ensure effective monitoring, risk management, and adherence to FEMA requirements.

The Regulations form part of the RBI's broader objective of modernising India's foreign exchange ecosystem while balancing ease of doing business with regulatory supervision.

RBI SETS COOLING OFF PERIOD FOR CO-OP BANK DIRECTORS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has updated its directions on the tenure of directors at urban and rural co-operative banks.

The Directors must step down and observe a three-year cooling off period after serving on the board for a continuous tenure of 10 years. This, however, shall not preclude the director from being appointed as a director on the Board of another bank, if otherwise eligible, per the Reserve Bank of India (Urban Co-operative Banks - Governance) Amendment Directions, 2026, and the Reserve Bank of India (Rural Co-operative Banks - Governance) Amendment Directions, 2026.

During the cooling off period a director cannot be associated with the bank in any capacity other than as a member/customer. However, he/she may be appointed as a director on the board of another bank, if otherwise eligible.

RBI ISSUES OPERATING FRAMEWORK FOR FACILITATING OUTWARD REMITTANCE SERVICES BY NON-BANK ENTITIES

The Foreign Exchange Department, Reserve Bank of India ("RBI"), on May 13, 2026, issued a circular titled 'Operating framework for facilitating Outward Remittance services by non-bank entities through Authorized Dealer (Category I) Banks ("AD Banks") in India', which: issued standing guidelines to AD Banks, in relation to facilitating cross-border outward remittance of funds for non-trade current account transactions using third party entity in online mode (website/ online platform/ software application/ mobile application/ any other interface); and notified deletion of Paragraph 10 of the Master Direction - Miscellaneous, issued under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 ("FEMA"), dated January 1, 2026.



CIRCULAR ON COMPANIES COMPLIANCE FACILITATION SCHEME, 2026

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (“MCA”), through its General Circular dated February 24, 2026, has introduced the Companies Compliance Facilitation Scheme, 2026 (“CCFS-2026”).

This circular streamlines the process for companies to regularize their pending annual filings, effectively providing a one-time window to update the corporate registry and reduce the financial burden of accumulated late fees. By exercising powers under the Companies Act, 2013, the Ministry has clarified that the scheme aims to support a diverse range of entities including MSMEs, One Person Companies (OPCs), and new-age entrepreneurs that have struggled to maintain timely compliances. To qualify for relief under this framework, companies must file the relevant e-forms, such as Annual Returns and Financial Statements, within the designated period to benefit from a significant reduction in additional fees.

PROMOTION AND REGULATION OF ONLINE GAMING RULES, 2026

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), on April 22, 2026, notified the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026 (Rules) under the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 (Act) to create a safe, transparent, and growth-oriented framework for the online gaming sector. The Rules seek to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework governing online gaming in India, including classification, oversight, registration, user protection, and enforcement mechanisms. The Rules will come into force from May 1, 2026.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013

On March 23, 2026, the Union Finance Minister introduced the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill (“Bill”),

2026 in the Lok Sabha, which proposes various amendments (“Proposed Amendments”) to the Companies Act, 2013 (“CA 2013”) and the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008.

- **Increase in upper limits for small companies.**

The Bill proposes to expand the definition of ‘small company’ by increasing the upper limits for paid-up share capital from INR 10,00,00,000 (Indian Rupees ten crore) to INR 20,00,00,000 (Indian Rupees twenty crore), and for turnover from INR 100,00,00,000 (Indian Rupees one hundred crores) to INR 200,00,00,000 (Indian Rupees two hundred crore).

- **Additional directors**

Section 161(1) of the CA 2013 currently provides for an additional director to hold office until the date of the next Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) or the last date on which the AGM should have been held, whichever is earlier. The Proposed Amendment revises this position by providing that an additional director must hold office until the date of the next general meeting or for a period of 3 (three) months from the date of appointment, whichever is earlier.

- **Charge registration timeline**

Under Section 77(1) of the CA 2013, companies are required to register by way of an e-filing particulars of charge created on their assets within 60 (sixty) days from the date of creation of charge. In the interest of ease of compliance, the Bill has proposed increasing the said timeline to 120 (one hundred and twenty) days for prescribed classes of companies.

WINDING-UP PROCEEDINGS CANNOT OVERRIDE REVIVAL UNDER IBC: NCLT ADMITS SBI'S ₹178 CR INSOLVENCY PLEA

In a significant ruling, the NCLT has reaffirmed the primacy of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC), by admitting State Bank of India's insolvency application involving a debt of approximately ₹178 crore. The Tribunal held that pending winding-up proceedings cannot act as a bar to the initiation of a Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) where revival of the corporate debtor remains a viable objective under the IBC framework. The decision underscores the Code's emphasis on resolution and value maximization over liquidation, while reiterating that insolvency proceedings under the IBC prevail over parallel winding-up actions before other forums.

WIFE SETS NEW STANDARDS FOR GREEN TRANSITION IN LISTED MARKETS

The World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) published draft Transition Equity Principles on 26 May 2026, establishing a global framework for exchanges to designate listed companies on credible decarbonisation pathways. Building on the WFE Green Equity Principles (2023), the framework guides exchanges in creating Transition Equity Designations — improving capital access for green-transition companies while providing investors with reliable, decision-useful information. Supporting guidance will be published once the principles are finalised.

THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC) HAS RELEASED ITS 2026 RULES OF ARBITRATION (THE "ICC RULES"), TO REPLACE THE ICC RULES 2021.

The new Rules will come into force on 1 June 2026 and shall apply to all ICC arbitrations initiated on or after that date, unless the parties have expressly agreed to be governed by a different version of the Rules in effect at another time (Article 1(2)).

The key changes include:

- Elimination of the Terms of Reference, which will be replaced by an enhanced initial Case Management Conference (CMC)
- Stronger disclosure requirements for arbitrators, together with an express obligation to resolve any doubts in favour of disclosure
- An increase in the monetary threshold for the Expedited Procedure and the introduction of a new Highly Expedited Procedure
- Revised provisions governing Emergency Arbitrators, including the introduction of Preliminary Orders

- A new mechanism enabling the early determination of claims that are manifestly without merit
- Removal of the 6 month deadline for the issuance of final awards
- Minor changes to the provisions relating to governance, electronic communications and the assessment of fees and costs.

MCA FACILITATES CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) THROUGH ZERO COUPON ZERO PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENT BY EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF SCHEDULE VII OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013.

MCA has widened the ambit of Schedule VII introducing a new item no. (xiii) i.e.

- "Subscription to zero coupon zero principal instruments on Social Stock Exchange."
- (MCA), Govt. of India has facilitated CSR through Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instrument by expanding the scope of Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013. An amendment in the CSR Policy Rules, 2014 has been made wherein definition of 'Not for Profit Organization' and 'Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instrument' has been introduced in Rule 2 and the criteria for Corporate Social Responsibility implementation through zero coupon zero principal instrument has been enumerated in Rule 4A. Amendment is aimed at providing the following:-
- Ease of compliance to the companies and (NPOs)
- Raise funding for public welfare projects in a transparent and regulated manner.
- These Not for Profit Organisations (NPOs) will be able to issue Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instrument on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) in accordance with the SEBI regulations.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS 28% GST ON ONLINE MONEY GAMING

The Supreme Court has upheld the levy of 28% GST on online games involving money stakes. The Court ruled that even skill-based games are taxable when players wager money on uncertain outcomes, rejecting the argument that such games should receive special tax treatment.

The judgment also confirms the power of State Governments to regulate or prohibit online gaming involving betting and wagering due to concerns relating to addiction, financial harm, and public welfare.

The ruling brings much-needed clarity to the industry and confirms that the 28% GST regime on online money gaming will continue to apply.

TRADE INFRINGEMENT INNOVATION PROTECTION RIGHTS
 TRADE COPYRIGHT
 DRESS PATENT
INTELLECTUAL
 DESIGN SIGN ASSETS
PROPERTY SECRETS
 WORKS LAW EXCLUSIVE INDUSTRIAL

DELHI HIGH COURT DECLARES 'CALPOL' AS A WELL-KNOWN TRADEMARK

The Delhi High Court officially recognized GlaxoSmithKline's pain and fever medicine brand, CALPOL, as a well-known trademark under the Trade Marks Act, 1999.

Justice Jyoti Singh passed the order in an infringement suit against Walter Healthcare, which was using the deceptively similar name "WALPOL".

KAHAANI 2 COPYRIGHT CASE: SUPREME COURT QUASHES COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT PROCEEDINGS

The Supreme Court quashed the criminal proceedings initiated against filmmaker Sujoy Ghosh in relation to alleged copyright infringement concerning the film Kahaani 2. The complainant had alleged that the film copied a script titled Sabak. However, the Court found that Sujoy Ghosh had registered his screenplay in October 2013, whereas the complainant registered the script Sabak only in July 2015. Since the complainant's script came into existence much later, the Court held that allegations of copying were unsustainable. The Court further observed that the complaint failed to identify any specific similarities between the two works and merely contained vague and unsupported allegations. Importantly, the Screenwriters Association's expert committee had already examined the matter and found no similarity between the screenplay and the complainant's script. The Supreme Court held that criminal proceedings based on unsubstantiated allegations amount to abuse of the legal process and reiterated that courts must carefully examine available evidence before issuing summoning orders.

PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCT DOSSIERS RECEIVE COPYRIGHT PROTECTION

The Supreme Court upheld interim protection granted to Jubilant Generics Ltd. in a dispute involving pharmaceutical product dossiers containing scientific, technical, and regulatory information. The Court held that such dossiers may qualify for copyright protection when they are developed through substantial research, effort, expertise, and investment. The dispute arose from allegations that confidential dossier information had been shared with third parties in violation of a licence agreement. The Supreme Court agreed with the Allahabad High Court that Jubilant had established a strong prima facie case for protection of its proprietary material and upheld the interim restraint against unauthorized reproduction, use, and sharing of the dossiers. At the same time, the Court clarified that the trial court must independently decide the matter on merits without being influenced by observations made during interim proceedings.



UNITY IN DIVERSITY – TRUTH OR MYTH

A fresh Intervention Application has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India challenging the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) decision to make a third language compulsory for Class IX students from July 1, 2026. The Application has been moved by former Member of Parliament and educationist Dr. Fauzia Khan in the pending matter concerning the validity of the revised language framework.

The intervention contends that the impugned circular is arbitrary and unreasonable, particularly because CBSE had, through a notification dated April 9, 2026, indicated that compulsory implementation of the third-language requirement would be deferred until the academic session 2029-30. The subsequent circular issued on May 15, 2026, reversing this position within a short span of time, is alleged to have been introduced without adequate consultation with students, parents, teachers, schools or State Governments.

The Application further highlights practical concerns regarding the lack of qualified language teachers and appropriate educational resources, especially in non-Hindi speaking States. It argues that the policy may effectively compel students in certain regions to study Hindi or Sanskrit, contrary to the flexibility envisaged under the National Education Policy, 2020.

Additionally, the Intervention Application raises concerns relating to federalism, minority educational rights under Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution of India and the constitutional guarantee of quality education under Article 21A. It seeks quashing of the May 15 circular and restoration of the language framework reflected in CBSE's earlier notification.

The matter is expected to have significant implications for language policy, educational governance, and the implementation of the National Education Policy across CBSE-affiliated schools.

FROM RESOLUTION TO REFUND: DELHI HC'S LANDMARK COURT FEE RULING

In a noteworthy decision, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has held that a plaintiff who withdraws a civil suit after receiving its dues under an approved insolvency resolution plan is entitled to a full refund of court fees. The ruling was delivered in *Sainik Industries Pvt. Ltd. v. Indian Sugar Manufacturing Co. Ltd.*

The Court observed that where a claimant's dues are settled through the corporate insolvency resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC), the resulting withdrawal of the suit is akin to a "settlement" for the purposes of the Court Fees Act. Consequently, the litigant should not be denied the benefit of a court fee refund merely because the resolution was achieved through insolvency proceedings rather than a conventional settlement agreement.

Emphasising a purposive interpretation of the law, the Hon'ble Court noted that once the plaintiff's claim stands satisfied under the approved resolution plan, no substantive dispute survives for adjudication. The judgment reinforces the policy objective of encouraging efficient dispute resolution and ensures that parties who successfully resolve their claims through the IBC framework are not unfairly burdened with litigation costs.

The ruling is likely to provide significant relief to creditors and litigants whose claims are settled during insolvency proceedings, while also promoting the broader objective of reducing unnecessary litigation.

DELHI HIGH COURT CLARIFIES THE RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN IN THE DIGITAL AGE

In a landmark judgment, the Delhi High Court has recognised the Right to be Forgotten as an integral facet of the right to privacy

under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Court held that individuals may seek de-indexing of search results or masking of personal identifiers in judicial records where continued online accessibility causes disproportionate harm and no overriding public interest subsists.

While reaffirming the principle of open justice, the Court balanced transparency with privacy by clarifying that judicial records may remain preserved and accessible through official channels, even where de-indexing or masking is granted. The decision establishes an important framework for addressing privacy concerns arising from the permanent digital footprint of judicial proceedings and marks a significant development in India's evolving data protection and privacy jurisprudence.

SUPREME COURT: HOSTILE PANCH WITNESSES DO NOT INVALIDATE RECOVERY EVIDENCE

The Supreme Court has reiterated that the mere fact that panch witnesses turn hostile does not render recovery evidence inadmissible or unreliable under Section 27 of the Indian Evidence Act. Upholding a murder conviction, the Court held that a recovery pursuant to an accused's disclosure statement can be validly proved through the testimony of the Investigating Officer, provided such evidence is credible and corroborated by the surrounding circumstances.

The Court reaffirmed its consistent view that recovery evidence cannot be discarded solely because independent witnesses fail to support the prosecution during trial. The judgment underscores the evidentiary value of recoveries under Section 27 and reinforces that the reliability of the recovery must be assessed on the totality of the evidence available on record.

Case: Upendra Khare v. State of Madhya Pradesh, 2026 LiveLaw (SC) 607.

JUSTICE DELAYED, JUSTICE DENIED: TO BOTH THE VICTIM AS WELL AS TO THE ACCUSED

Bihar Court Convicts 84-Year-Old Man After Three Decades in Attempt to Murder Case

In a striking illustration of the consequences of prolonged judicial delays, a Bihar court has recently convicted an 84-year-old man, Deep Rai, in an attempt to murder case nearly three decades after the alleged incident took place. The verdict raises serious concerns regarding the administration of justice and the impact of inordinate procedural delays on all stakeholders involved in the criminal justice system.

The case presents a classic example of how delayed adjudication can result in injustice on multiple fronts. First and foremost, the family of the informant, who were the victims of the alleged offence, were compelled to wait for almost thirty years to witness the culmination of the criminal proceedings. Such an extraordinary delay undoubtedly deprived them of timely justice and prolonged their ordeal far beyond what can reasonably be considered acceptable in a system governed by the rule of law.

Equally concerning, however, is the fact that the same delay has now resulted in a different form of injustice to the accused himself. Deep Rai, now 84 years old, has been convicted at an age when most individuals are battling serious health concerns, physical infirmities, and the challenges that naturally accompany advanced years. The prolonged pendency of the proceedings has effectively ensured that the consequences of conviction are being imposed at a stage of life when the accused's capacity to endure incarceration is significantly diminished.

The irony of the situation cannot be overlooked. Across courts in India, advanced age, frailty, and medical conditions are routinely cited as grounds for granting bail or suspending sentences, with the underlying humanitarian consideration that elderly individuals should be allowed to spend their remaining years in the company of their loved ones. Yet, in the present case, the sole surviving accused has been convicted at a stage of life where those very considerations are ordinarily invoked in favour of liberty.

Reports indicate that Deep Rai resides with only his daughter, who is responsible for his care and well-being. The conviction, therefore, not only affects the elderly accused but also has significant implications for the family member upon whom he is dependent. The case serves as a sobering reminder that procedural delays do not merely affect case statistics; they profoundly impact human lives on both sides of the litigation.

The matter underscores the urgent need for timely disposal of criminal cases. Justice must be delivered within a reasonable timeframe not only to uphold the rights of victims but also to ensure fairness to accused persons. When proceedings linger for decades, the criminal justice system risks failing both constituencies, thereby undermining public confidence in the administration of justice.

The conviction of Deep Rai after nearly thirty years is therefore more than an isolated judicial outcome—it is a reflection of the systemic costs of delay. It compels renewed reflection on the constitutional promise of speedy justice and the necessity of ensuring that legal proceedings reach their logical conclusion while justice remains meaningful for all concerned.

LANDOWNERS IN JOINT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT NOT "CONSUMER"

Date of Decision: 13/01/2026 | Habib Alladin v. Mahmood Builders (P) Ltd., 2026 SCC OnLine SC 54

The Supreme Court upheld the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission's decision that landowners entering into a joint development agreement with equal profit-sharing arrangement do not qualify as "consumers" under the Consumer Protection Act, and thus fall outside its jurisdiction. The Court held that a 50:50 joint development arrangement constitutes a commercial venture undertaken for profit, where landowners contribute land, receive deposits, and exploit the constructed property commercially through rentals and sales, thereby falling within the "commercial purpose" exclusion. The Court granted liberty to appellants to pursue remedies in civil court with entitlement to claim exemption from limitation under Order VII Rule 6 CPC read with the Limitation Act, 1963.

PAYMENT OF GRATUITY ACT DOES NOT APPLY TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HOLDING CIVIL POSTS

Date of Decision: 13/02/2026 | N. Manoharan v. Administrative Officer, 2026 SCC OnLine SC 189

The Supreme Court upheld the High Court's judgment holding that employees of Heavy Water Plant, Tuticorin, who hold civil posts under the Central Government and are governed by the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, fall within the exclusionary clause of Section 2(e) of the Payment of Gratuity Act and are therefore not entitled to claim gratuity under that Act. The Court examined the structure of the Atomic Energy Act and the 1969 Office Memorandum and concluded that HWP lacks attributes of a separate legal entity and functions as an adjunct or ancillary operating through the Heavy Water Projects Board of the Department of Atomic Energy. The Court held that since HWP employees were appointed under Central Civil Services Rules and are governed by rules providing for gratuity, they cannot invoke the Payment of Gratuity Act once excluded at the definitional stage.