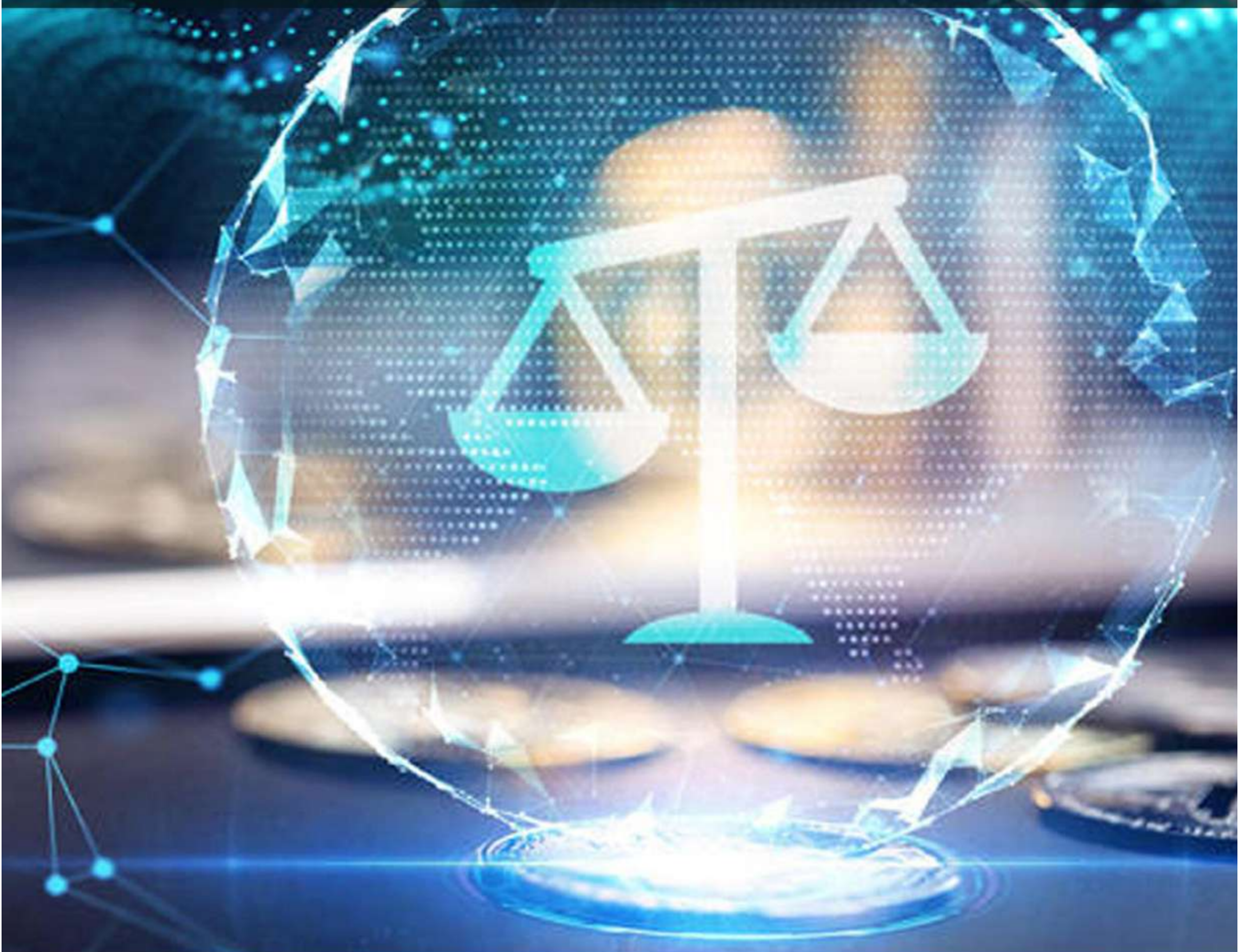


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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Finance & Taxation

- IRDAI issues Maintenance of Current Accounts in multiple banks by Insurance Intermediaries including entities sponsored by them
- Ministry of Finance issues certain amendments to various notifications under Customs Act, 1962
- MoF amends certain Old customs notifications related to ADD
- Ministry of Finance issues amendment to notification regarding Exemption of excisable goods under Central Excise Act
- MoF amends certain Headings of an older customs notification
- Central Goods and Services Tax (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 2021
- Income-tax (35th Amendment) Rules, 2021
- Ministry of Finance amends notification relating to exemption of specified the goods under the Custom Tariff Act
- MoF amends certain entries in the table of an older customs notification
- Ministry of Finance amends notification relating to exemption of specified the goods under the Customs Tariff Act
- MoF amends Heading of an older customs notification related to certain Taxes
- Faceless Appeal Scheme, 2021
- Ministry of Finance amends notification regarding rate of Integrated tax rate of certain items
- MoF amends certain schedules of a notification to amend Union-Territory tax (Rates)
- CBIC amends the Exchange Rate of Foreign Currency relating to Imported and Exported Goods on December 29, 2021
- MoF amends certain schedules of Central Tax (rates)
- MoF amends certain tables in an older notification to amend Integrated Tax (Rates)
- MoF amends certain tables in an older notification to amend Central Tax (Rates)
- Ministry of Finance amends notification regarding rate of central tax rate of certain items
- Ministry of Finance amends notification regarding rate of Union Territory tax rate of certain items
- MoF amends certain schedules of a notification to amend Integrated tax (Rates)
- MoF amends certain tables in an older notification to amend Union- Territory Tax (Rates)
- BSE issues applicability of ST-ASM
- CBIC amends the rate of exchange for Turkish Lira
- Imposition of ADD on Décor Paper
- Income-tax (34th Amendment) Rules, 2021
- Ministry of Finance issues amendment to Notification on exemption of goods of the description as specified
- CBIC amends the exchange rates of Turkish Lira
- Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs issues Notification regarding issuance of Non-Preferential COO
- RBI issues restriction on storage of actual card data
- CBIC amends the Exchange Rate of Foreign Currency relating to Imported and Exported Goods on December 23, 2021

- Imposition of ADD on Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Blends. All blends other than 407 and 410 are excluded
- CBIC brings certain sections of Central Goods and Services Tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2021 into force
- CBIC amends Rate of Exchange of a foreign currency
- CBIC brings certain sections of Finance Act, 2021 into force
- Imposition of ADD on Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Component R-32
- Imposition of ADD on Silicone Sealants excluding silicon sealants used in manufacturing of solar photovoltaic modules, and thermal power applications
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) amends in the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Notification No.98/2021
- Department of Commerce issues notification regarding Import Policy of Moong
- Department of Commerce issues notification regarding Import Policy of Tur/Pigeon Peas and Urad
- DGFT corrects MEIS SI No. for notification on Harmonising MEIS Schedule
- DGFT imposes FREE import policy for certain items
- Mof amends standard rate percentage for certain items
- Imposition of ADD on Calcined Gypsum Powder
- Imposition of ADD on Sodium Hydrosulphite
- DGFT amends MEIS Schedule
- Ministry of Finance amends notification on taxes which are being subsumed into GST
- CBIC determines the rate of exchange for certain foreign currencies
- RBI issues working paper on An Alternative Perspective on Demand and Supply to Forecast Inflation
- RBI issues working paper on "Reassessing Investment Dynamics – Newer Insights into Leverage and Investment of the Indian Corporate Sector"
- CBIC amend Tariff rates for crude palm oil, Areca Nuts and other items
- RBI seeks comments on Draft master direction on minimum capital requirements for operational risk
- CBDT issues e-Verification Scheme, 2021
- DGFT makes correction in Initiation of anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of Stainless-Steel Seamless Tubes & Pipes originating in or exported from China PR
- MoF imposes ADD on 'Axle for Trailers'
- RBI instructs banks to return to normal dispensation
- Income-tax (33rd Amendment) Rules, 2021
- CBIC issues instructions to test coumarin in imported cinnamon-reg
- RBI makes changes in External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) and Trade Credits (TC) Policy
- RBI issues Option for prepayment of funds availed under Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations
- DGFT notifies the procedure for import of Water Melon Seeds
- CBDT advises Taxpayers to file their ITRs for AY 2021- 22 at the earliest
- MCI has fixed two new Standard Input Output Norms (SIONs) at SION A-3680 and A-3681 under 'Chemical & Allied Product' (Product Code 'A')
- MoF amends Road and Infrastructure Cess (RIC) on Petrol and Diesel
- CBIC issues Guidelines for the sale of seized/confiscated gold
- MoEF issues Guidelines for submission of applications for Custom Duty Exemption Certificate for availing duty benefits on import of CNG/LPG/Propane Conversion Kit/System
- MoF imposes ADD on 'Certain Flat Rolled Products of Aluminium'

- CBIC determines Exchange Rate of Foreign Currency relating to Imported and Exported Goods on December 02, 2021
- Central Goods and Services Tax (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2021
- National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry issues approval for continuation of the SIP
- CBIC amends tariff values for certain goods

Industry Specific

- Draft Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Construction of Electrical Plants and Electric Lines) Regulations, 2021
- SEBI extends the timeline for modified reporting requirements for AIFs
- DoT amends Voicemail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging Service License Agreement
- MeitY issues Amendments in PLI Scheme
- Delhi Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) General (Amendment) Rules, 2021
- FSSAI clarifies in respect of Display of Information in food Service establishments
- FSSAI issues Direction for Display of information for food service
- University Grants Commission (Establishment and Operation of Academic Bank of Credits in Higher Education) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2021
- FSSAI issues Extension of period for modification/migration of License
- FSSAI extends timeline for compliance of standards of packaged Drinking Water
- Ministry of Steel amends notification relating to PLI Scheme
- Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021
- The Medical Devices (Amendment) Rules, 2021
- Directorate General of Health Services evaluates FDCs
- Directorate General of Health Services issues notice regarding evaluation of FDCs
- CBIC Notifies on disposal of hazardous goods by revenue industries
- Directorate General of Health Services issues notice about evaluation of FDCs
- FSSAI issues online Renewal procedure of FSM certificates
- FSSAI instructs on Statutory inspections of premises of Food Business Operators as per FSS Act
- IFSCA defers the levy of regulatory fee
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulation, 2021
- TRAI extends last date for comments/counter comments on consultation paper Auction of Spectrum in frequency bands identified for IMT / 5G
- UGC issues adoption of e-Sign services across various citizen centric services
- TRAI extends the last date to receive comments/counter comments on TRAI Consultation Paper on “Ease of Doing Business in Telecom and Broadcasting Sector”
- CVC instructs to adhere to the provisions of SOP for implementation of integrity pact
- DoT amends UAS License Agreement for change in time period of storage of Call Detail Record (CDR)/ Exchange Detail Record (EDR)/ IP Detail Record (IPDR)
- DoT amends UL(VNO) Agreement for change in time period of storage of Call Detail Record (CDR)/ Exchange Detail Record (EDR)/ IP Detail Record (IPDR)

- DoT issues Revised Guidelines for Registration of Infrastructure Providers – Category – I (IP-I)
- Refrigerating Appliances (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2021
- DoT amends UL Agreement for change in time period of storage of Call Detail Record (CDR)/ Exchange Detail Record (EDR)/ IP Detail Record (IPDR)
- Draft Insecticides (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2021
- TRAI issues consultation paper on Promoting Local Manufacturing in the Television Broadcasting Sector
- Ministry of Power seeks comments on draft amendments to the Guidelines for Short-Term Procurement of Power by Distribution Licensees through Tariff based bidding process
- Mediation Bill, 2021
- Scheme for setting up of Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors Fab and Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) /OSAT facilities in India
- Use of Very Low Power Radio Frequency Devices or Equipments for Inductive Applications (Exemption from License) Rules, 2021
- MHI approves PLI scheme for manufacturing of Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC)
- Ministry of Mines has provided the extension for Mining Lease
- Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs in India
- Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme
- FSSAI notifies on Compliance with respect to limits of trans-fatty acids for food products as per the FSS regulations
- Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has extended the date for AADHAR enrolment for food subsidy under NFSA
- Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021
- Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021
- FSSAI issues Standard Operating Procedures for Aggregators or Intermediaries facilitating sales between Farmers/small original producers and producer organizations and end consumer
- SEBI issues directions to stock exchanges in Commodity Derivatives segment
- Central Silk Board Silk-worm Seed (Amendment) Regulations, 2021
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology issues Incentive scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions
- Indian Telegraph (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2021
- Tea (Marketing) Control (Second Amendment) Order, 2021
- Draft Prohibition of Streptomycin + Tetracycline in agriculture Order, 2021
- FSSAI clarifies sampling of Soybean De-Oiled Cakes/Soybean Meals intended for use in poultry/animal feed
- FSSAI amends appeal procedure
- TRAI invites comments on Consultation Paper on 'Regulatory Framework for Promoting Data Economy Through Establishment of Data Centres, Content Delivery Networks, and Interconnect Exchanges in India'
- Food Corporation of India (Staff) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2021
- UGC Grants Maternity Leave to Students
- Food Corporation of India (Staff) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations, 2021
- FSSAI notifies on Quicker processing of License Applications for Manufacturing KoB
- IFSCA issues circular regarding settlement of trades executed on stock exchange

- MeitY approves use of AADHAR Authentication for Parichay Applications
- PLI Scheme to Boost Steel Production
- IFSCA recognises International Bullion Exchange IFSC Limited as Bullion Exchange and Bullion Clearing Corporation
- BSE issues list of Holidays
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy issues Simplification of Guidelines for PM-KUSUM
- TRAI extends date for receiving counter comments on Draft Telecommunication Tariff (66th Amendment) Order, 2021
- Mineral (Auction) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2021
- Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Second Amendment Rules, 2021
- RBI issues PCA framework for NBFCs
- Ministry of Finance issues notification regarding Financial Product
- Central Govt. issues notification in relation to COVID-19 Vaccine
- DoT issues compliance to License Conditions
- SEBI notifies on Publishing of Investor Charter and disclosure of Investor Complaints by Research Analysts on their websites/mobile applications
- UGC instructs HEIs in respect of COVID Appropriate Behaviour in the Institution
- RBI introduces Legal Entity Identifier for Cross-border Transactions
- Draft Marine Aids to Navigation (Vessel Traffic Services) Rules, 2021
- Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Eighth Amendment) Order, 2021
- TRAI Extends last date to receive comments/counter comments on consultation paper "Licensing Framework for establishing Satellite Earth Station Gateway"
- Draft National Food Processing policy
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises issues incentives for MSMEs.
- The Drugs (7th Amendment) Rules, 2021
- The Medical Devices (.....Amendment) Rules, 2021
- RBI issues General permission for infusion of capital in overseas branches and subsidiaries and retention/ repatriation/ transfer of profits in these centres by banks incorporated in India.
- Air Conditioner and its related Parts, Hermetic Compressors and Temperature Sensing Controls (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2021
- DoT issues the instructions for reverification of existing mobile connections identified by the DoT/Licensee/Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA's)
- TRAI directs Telecom Service Providers for ensuring compliance with TRAI's Regulations/Directions in respect of outgoing SMS facility to porting out customers
- TRAI issues consultation paper on "Ease of Doing Business in Telecom and Broadcasting Sector"
- TRAI implements Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Register of Interconnection Agreements and all such other matters Regulations, 2019
- IFSCA Invites public comments on proposed IFSCA (Insurance Web Aggregator) Regulations, 2021
- NPPA fixes price of certain goods
- FSSAI exempts Fish and Fishery Processing Units being inspected by EIC
- Ministry of Fisheries ,Animal husbandry and Dairying amends a notification which specifies "live- stock products" and procedure for the issue of sanitary import permit for import of such products

- FSSAI clarifies regarding use of blend of oils intended for use in premixes/admixtures intended to be sold as intermediary ingredients
- FSSAI issues order for Testing of coumarin in imported cinnamon
- Ministry of Heavy Industries issues Component Champion Incentive scheme to identify and incentivize Auto component champions.
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Issues Steps to increase public participation in Rooftop Solar Scheme
- DGFT issues ban on import of beef
- IFSCA notifies on Investment banking in the IFSC
- MoF amends certain clauses of general conditions for cultivating licensed opium poppy
- Farm Laws Repeal Act, 2021
- CBIC instructs on Import of Sajji khar / Papad khar
- TRAI issues consultation paper on Auction of spectrum in the frequencies identified for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) / 5G
- Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (Conditions of service of the Officers and other Employees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021
- IFSCA clarifies on disclosure of dealing in securities by Directors and Key Management Personnel
- MoF issues implementation date of certain sections of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021
- NPPA further extends the date of capping the trade margin of Oxygen Concentrator at first point of sale
- Consultation paper on Draft International Financial Services Authority (Insurance Web Aggregator) Regulations, 2021
- DGFT notifies on E-filing of RCMC / RC through common digital portal
- SEBI notifies on Publishing of Investor Charter and disclosure of complaints by Debenture Trustees (DTs) on their Websites

Commercial

- Toluene (Quality Control) Order, 2021
- Terephthalic Acid (Quality Control) Order, 2021
- Ethylene Glycol (Quality Control) Order, 2021
- Ministry of Textiles orders mandatory use of jute bags for packaging of certain commodities
- n-Butyl Acrylate (Quality Control) Order, 2021
- Phthalic Anhydride (Quality Control) Order, 2021
- Boiler Operation (Amendment) Rules, 2021
- Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021
- Vinyl Acetate Monomer (Quality Control) Order, 2021
- Methyl Acrylate, Ethyl Acrylate, (Quality Control) Order, 2021
- Polyphosphoric Acid (Quality Control) Order, 2021
- BIS notifies date of Establishment for certain Indian Standards
- BIS notifies date of establishment and withdrawal for certain Indian Standards
- Bicycles- Retro Reflective Devices (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2021
- BIS notifies establishment date of an Indian Standard

- Ministry of Women and Child Development has issued a press release regarding Child Security in Cyber Space
- Essential Commodities Order, 2021
- Soya Meal Stock Control Order, 2021
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy issues a press release regarding Steps taken by the government to promote Renewable Energy
- BIS notifies on amendment of certain Indian Standards and their establishment date
- BIS amends an Indian Standard and its establishment date
- BIS notifies to amend certain Indian Standards and their establishment date
- Dam Safety Act, 2021
- Use of Low Power Equipment in the Frequency Band 865-868 MHz for Short Range Devices (Exemption from Licence) Rules, 2021
- BIS amends Date of establishment and withdrawal of certain Indian Standards
- BIS issues withdrawal date of Electrical Equipment of Machines
- BIS amends certain withdrawal/establishment dates for some Indian Standards
- Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations, 2021
- Ministry of Heavy Industries has issued Production Linked Incentive Scheme for manufacturing of Advance Chemistry Cell
- Ministry of Heavy Industries commences the application for the PLI Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component Industry
- Department of School Education and Literacy notifies of the required documents to avail benefit under Scheme of Samagra Shiksha
- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers amends the Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane) (Quality Control) Order, 2021
- BIS issues date of remain in force for an Indian Standard

Labour

- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (Exits and Withdrawals under the National Pension System) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2021
- NATIONAL CRÈCHE SCHEME
- Ministry of Labour and Employment rescinds certain notification
- Ministry of Labour and Employment issues notification regarding services engaged in the industry of defence establishments
- MoLE further extends the Uranium Industry being a public industry
- DoPPW extends the timeline for submission of Life Certificate by Central Government pensioners

Secretarial

- SEBI issues circular regarding Non-compliance with provisions related to continuous disclosures
- MCA relaxes levy of additional fees in filing of certain e-forms
- Ministry of Finance declares "Electronic Gold Receipt" as securities
- SEBI issues Revision to operational circular for issue and listing of Non-Convertible Securities, Securitized Debt Instruments, Security Receipts

- IBBI invites comments from public on proposed changes to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution and Liquidation Framework under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 The Insolvency and bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on December 23, 2021 has issued a notice to seek comments from public on proposed changes to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution and Liquidation Framework under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
- Amendment to the IBBI(online delivery of educational course and continuing professional education by insolvency professional agencies and registered valuers organisations) guidelines, 2020
- SEBI issues extension of facility for conducting annual meeting and other meetings of unitholders of REITs and InvITs through VC or OAVM
- SEBI issues circular regarding validity of observation letter pertaining to Mutual Funds
- SEBI issues Portfolio Management Services for Accredited Investors
- SEBI issues Investment Advisory Services for Accredited Investors
- SEBI revises Operational Circular for issue and listing of Non-convertible Securities, Securitised Debt Instruments, Security Receipts, Municipal Debt Securities and Commercial Paper
- SEBI issues circular regarding Publishing of Investor Charter and Disclosure of Complaints
- SEBI amends circulars regarding RFP and verification of upfront collection of margins
- SEBI notifies on Publishing Investor Charter and Disclosure of Investor Complaints by Merchant Bankers on their Websites for private placement of units by InvITs proposed to be listed
- MCA issues clarification for AGMs held through VC and OAVM
- SEBI clarifies on Common and simplified norms for processing investor's service request by RTAs and norms for furnishing PAN, KYC details and Nomination
- NSE notifies regarding Changes in the reporting format of data towards 'Client Level Cash & Cash Equivalent Balances'
- SEBI notifies of Publishing Investor Charter and disclosure of Investor Complaints by Investment Advisers on their websites/mobile applications
- SEBI clarifies on amendment to SEBI (Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 2020
- SEBI issues a new Circular on Mutual Funds
- SEBI notifies on Publishing of Investor Charter and disclosure of Investor Complaints by Portfolio Managers on their websites
- SEBI issues circular for Publishing Investor Charter and Disclosure of complaints by AIFs
- SEBI issues circular for Publishing Investor Charter and disclosure of Investor Complaints by Mutual funds on their websites and AMFI website
- SEBI notifies on Transaction in Corporate Bonds through Request for Quote platform by Portfolio Management Services (PMS)
- MCA to allow companies to conduct EGM through video conferencing
- MCA clarifies on holding AGM through video conferencing or other methods
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2021
- SEBI issues publishing Investor Charter and disclosure of Investor Complaints by Stock Brokers on their websites
- SEBI issues Master Circular for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)
- Master Circular for Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)
- Insolvency Professionals to act as Interim Resolution Professionals, Liquidators, Resolution Professionals and Bankruptcy Trustees (Recommendation) (Second) Guidelines, 2021

- Credit Information Companies (Amendment) Regulations, 2021

EHS

- Mohfw issues guidelines for the COVID vaccination of children aged between 15 to 18
- CPCB seeks Start-ups/Firms in area of air quality monitoring and data management.

STATES

Andhra Pradesh

- APERC seeks comments and suggestions on the 5th amendment of Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Interim Balancing and Settlement Code) Regulation, 2006
- Andhra Pradesh Govt. amends Schedule VI of AP VAT act 2005
- AP electricity regulatory commission (conduct of business) sixth amendment regulation, 2021
- AP govt. Bans Gutka/Tobacco
- AP Govt. issues order imposing stock limits on Edible Oils and Edible oilseeds
- Hyderabad govt. issues extended date for revocation of cancellation of registration

Arunachal Pradesh

- Arunachal Pradesh Govt. issues Grant of Dearness Relief to State Government Pensioners/Family Pensioners – Revised Rates

Assam

- Ministry of Labour and Employment issues the date of implementation of certain provisions of ESI act in the districts of ASSAM
- Draft Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations 2017 (Fourth Amendment), 2021
- Assam Govt. gives partial tax exemption for sale of Aviation Turbine Fuel
- Assam Govt. issues clarification on refund related issues –reg
- Assam Govt. issues Clarification in respect of applicability of Dynamic Quick Response (QR) Code on B2C invoices and compliance.
- Draft Assam Industrial Code Rules, 2021

Bihar

- Bihar Goods and Services Tax (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2021
- Bihar Govt. amends the notification regarding tax on intra-State supplies paid by the electronic commerce operator
- Bihar Govt. amends the notification to rate on the intra-State supply of services
- Bihar Govt. amends the notification for exemption of certain goods from excess levy of state tax
- Bihar govt. amends the notification for rate of state tax leviable on certain goods

Chandigarh

- Draft Chandigarh Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Rules, 2021
- Draft Code on Social Security (Chandigarh) Rules, 2021

Dadra and Nagar Haveli

- Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Disaster Management Authority issues COVID-19 Ex-gratia assistance scheme

Delhi

- Delhi Govt. issues circular regarding stock transfer to manage excessive closing balances at FPSs
- Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2021
- Delhi Govt. amends an older notification to change certain dates related to compliance
- Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2021
- Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 2021
- Finance Department amends notification No. 35/2020
- Delhi Government amends fourth schedule of the Delhi Value Added Tax Act, 2004
- Delhi Government makes amendment in the notification which specifies compliance under DGST
- Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 2021

Goa

- Goa Govt. issues Notification regarding the “Promotion of Organic Farming” scheme
- Goa Govt. issues Development of Manures and fertilizers scheme
- Goa Govt. issues Notification regarding the “Assistance for fencing” scheme
- Goa Govt. issues Assistance for Purchase of Agriculture Inputs scheme
- Goa Govt. prohibits strike in any form in all sections/units of the Goa Medical College & Hospital, Bambolim-Goa

Gujarat

- Govt. of Gujarat notifies on Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi
- Gujarat Goods and Services Tax (Ninth amendment) Rules, 2021
- Gujarat Govt. has amended notification relating to exemption of tax
- Date of enforcement of ‘Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments(Amendment) Act, 2021’

Haryana

- Haryana Govt. releases dates for framers to register themselves under Mukhyamantri Pragatishil Kisan Samman Yojana
- Govt. of Haryana enhances DA for state Govt. Employees
- Govt. of Haryana enhances DA for state Govt. pensioners and their families
- Govt. of Haryana issues list of holidays under negotiable instruments act, 1881
- Haryana Govt. seeks stakeholders comment on new PwD policy
- Haryana Govt. Enhances the DA for their Haryana Govt. Employees
- Haryana Govt. re-calculates the amount of Gratuity and cash payment to the pensioners

Jammu Kashmir

- Jammu and Kashmir Food Security Rules, 2021

Karnataka

- Govt. of Karnataka reduces sales tax on Aviation fuel
- Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021
- Karnataka Municipal Corporations and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Bill, 2021
- Karnataka Goods and Services Tax (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2021
- Karnataka Goods and Services Tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2021
- Tripura Value Added Tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2021
- Karnataka Goods and Services Tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2021

Kerala

- Govt. of Kerala revises Kera Suraksha Insurance Scheme
- Govt. of Kerala waives stamp duty on loans to street vendors
- Draft Kerala Code on Wages Rules, 2021
- Draft Kerala Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Rules, 2021
- Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff) Regulations, 2021.

Lakshadweep

- Draft Lakshwadeep Value Added Tax, 2021.

Madhya Pradesh

- MP Govt. issues amendment to the MP Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules, 2017
- MP Govt. amends notification No e-way bill shall be required for intra-state movement of goods in the State

Manipur

- Manipur Govt. issues SOP for Covid-19
- Govt. of Manipur extends the validity of order related to opening of educational Operating of swimming pools and also imposing night curfew
- Manipur Govt. issues guidelines for International Arrivals
- Govt. of Manipur has issued a list of General/Restricted/Public holidays

Meghalaya

- Meghalaya Regulation of Gaming Rules, 2021
- Meghalaya Govt. issues Minor Veterinary Services to be rendered by non-graduate para-veterinarian

Nagaland

- Central Govt. declares Nagaland as Disturbed Area

Pondicherry

- Govt. of Puducherry notifies on premature condemnation of vehicles

Punjab

- Govt. of Punjab notifies holiday for factories and shops and Establishments
- Punjab Food Grains Transportation Policy, 2022
- Punjab Food grains Labour and Cartage Policy 2022
- Punjab Government amends CC No. 41/2021 dt. November 23, 2021 regarding reduction in the electricity tariff rates
- Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission issues notice Inviting Objections/Comments on Staff Paper in respect of Amendments in Interest on Working Capital of the PSERC MYT Regulations, 2019

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan Govt. issues Clarification on GST on service supplied by restaurants through e-commerce operators

Tamil Nadu

- TNPCB extends the time limit for TPUs to switch over Mechanical Evaporator followed by agitated thin film dryer for disposal

Tripura

- Govt. of Tripura appoints date of enforcement of certain sections of TGST act
- Ministry of Finance issues amendments to certain notifications under Customs Act, 1962
- Tripura Govt. has issues Circular on GST on service supplied by restaurants through e-commerce operators
- Tripura Govt. Exempts Tax for registered person who earns up to Rs. 2 crore Turnover
- Tripura Govt. issues notification to appoint date of section 6 coming into force
- Tripura Govt. has issued notification to appoint date of certain sections coming into force
- Tripura Government revises minimum basic wages for "Safai Karamchari"
- Tripura Government Revises VDA for cooperative stores and societies
- Tripura Government revises VDA for the "Stone Breaking and Stone Crushing workers"
- Tripura Govt. Revises VDA for Mechanical Workshops employees
- Tripura Govt. Revises VDA for Public Motor Transport employees
- Tripura Labour Department revises minimum rates of wages for "Rubber plantation"
- Tripura Government revised VDA for Hotel and Restaurant Workers
- Tripura Government Revised VDA for the employment of Incense Sticks
- Tripura Government revises Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) for "Rice Mill Workers"
- Tripura Govt. Revises VDA for Petrol Pump employees
- Tripura Govt. Revises VDA for Pvt. Security Guard employees

- Tripura Govt. Revises VDA for Pvt. Teaching Institutes/Coaching Schools (Excluding State Govt. Aided Pvt. Schools) employees
- Tripura Labour Department revises VDA for different categories of workers engaged in the employment of “Shops and Establishments”
- Tripura Government Revised VDA for the employment of Gold Smith
- Tripura Government Revised VDA for the employment of Loading and Unloading

Finance & Taxation

IRDAI issues Maintenance of Current Accounts in multiple banks by Insurance Intermediaries including entities sponsored by them

Dec 31, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation



The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) on December 29, 2021 has issued Maintenance of Current Accounts in multiple banks by Insurance Intermediaries including entities sponsored by them. The following was stated namely: - • Insurance intermediaries including entities sponsored by them may maintain current accounts in appropriate number of banks for the purpose of meeting regulatory requirements, reinsurance business, etc. • The insurance intermediaries shall review annually the need for having multiple current accounts [Notification No. Ref: IRDAI/INT/CIR/MISC/318/12/2021]

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Ministry of Finance issues certain amendments to various notifications under Customs Act, 1962

Dec 31, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance on December 30, 2021 has issued amendments to certain notifications under Customs Act, 1962. The following circulars which specify “Certain amendments made under Customs Act” were amended namely: - • In Notification No. 28/95-Customs dated March 16, 1995 made the following amendments namely: - 1. In serial number 9 which specify “2939 71” the following has been substituted namely: - “293972” • In Notification No. 75/2005- Customs, dated the July 22, 2005 made the following amendments namely: - 1. Against serial number 8, which specify “0206 30 00” has been substituted namely: - “030910” • In Notification No. 101/2007-Customs dated September 11, 2007 made the following amendments namely: - 1. In serial number 187 which specify “31043000 – All goods” the following has been inserted namely: - “187A - 1211 60 00 - All goods other than chilled or frozen”. [Notification No. 60/2021 – Customs]

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MoF amends certain Old customs notifications related to ADD

Dec 31, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 29, 2021 has issued a notification to amend certain older custom notifications related to Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD). The notifications and their amendments are as followed:

- Notification No. 30/2016-Customs (ADD) dated the July 11, 2016 published in Official Gazette vide G.S.R. 675(E), dated the July 11, 2016- The tariff item no “2903 39 19” has been substituted, namely: “2903 45 00” in column (2)
- Notification No. 13/2017-Customs(ADD) dated April 11, 2017 published in Official Gazette vide G.S.R. 344(E), dated April 11, 2017 The tariff item no “3907 20” has been substituted, namely: “3907 29” in column (2)
- Notification No. 57/2018-Customs (ADD) dated December 13, 2018 published in Official Gazette vide G.S.R. 1203 (E), dated December 13, 2018. In serial No. 1 in column (2) the tariff item no ■ “3824 90 90” shall be omitted.
- Notification No. 14/2020-Customs (ADD) dated June 09, 2020 published in Official Gazette vide G.S.R. 364 (E), dated June 09, 2020. The tariff item no “3907 20” has been substituted, namely: “3907 29” in column (2)
- Notification No. 14/2021-Customs (ADD) dated the March 18, 2021 published in Official Gazette vide G.S.R. 199 (E), dated March 18, 2021. For the word Tariff Item or Tariff Items the word “Title” has been substituted, wherever they occur.
- Notification No. 20/2021-Customs (ADD) dated April 05, 2021 published in Official Gazette vide G.S.R. 251 (E), dated April 05, 2021. The tariff item no “3907 20” has been substituted, namely: “3907 29” in column (2)
- Notification No. 76/2021-Customs (ADD) dated December 22, 2021 published in Official Gazette vide G.S.R. 876(E) dated December 22, 2021. o For the word Tariff Item or Tariff Items the word “Title” has been substituted, wherever they occur. o The Tariff item No. “3824 78 00 “ has been substituted, namely: “3827” [Notification No. 78/2021-Customs (ADD)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Finance issues amendment to notification regarding Exemption of excisable goods under Central Excise Act

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance on December 29, 2021 has issued amendments to Notification No. 3/2019 – Central Excise, dated the July 6, 2019 which specify “Exemption of excisable goods under Central Excise Act”. It shall come into force on January 1, 2022. The following has been amended namely: -

- Entry 27 Which specify “2404 11 00 - All goods - 0.5% has been inserted.
- Entry 28 which specify “2404 19 00 - All goods - 0.5% has been inserted. [Notification No. 10/2021-Central Excise]

[View Document](#)

MoF amends certain Headings of an older customs notification

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 29, 2021 has issued a notification to amend certain headings of an older customs notification that is Notification No. 11/2018-Customs, dated February 02, 2018. The following amendment has been made:

- In the Table, serial no. 1, column no. (2) has been amended. This notification shall come into force January 01, 2022. [Notification No. 58/2021-Customs]

[View Document](#)

Central Goods and Services Tax (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on December 29, 2021 has issued The Central Goods and Services Tax (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend The Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017. This shall come into force on December 29, 2021. The following amendments were made namely: - • In Rule 36(4) which specify “Input tax credit to be availed by a registered person in respect of invoices or debit notes, the details of which have not been uploaded by the suppliers under sub-section (1) of section 37, shall not exceed [10%] of the eligible credit available in respect of invoices or debit notes the details of which have been uploaded by the suppliers under sub-section (1) of section 37” has been substituted namely: - “No input tax credit shall be availed by a registered person in respect of invoices or debit notes the details of which are required to be furnished under sub-section (1) of section 37 unless the details of such invoices or debit notes have been furnished by the supplier in the statement of outward supplies in FORM GSTR-1 or using the invoice furnishing facility.” [Notification No. 40/2021 – Central Tax]

[View Document](#)

Income-tax (35th Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 29, 2021 has issued the Income-tax (35th Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Income-tax Rules, 1962. The following amendments have been made: • Rule 16DD, which specifies Form of particulars to be furnished along with return of income for claiming deduction under clause (b) of sub-section (1B) of Section (10A), has been inserted, namely: “The particulars, which are required to be furnished by the assessee along with the return of income under clause (b) of sub-section (1B) of section 10A shall be in Form No. 56FF.” • Form No. 56FF, which specifies Particulars to be furnished under clause (b) of sub-section (1B) of section 10A of the Income-tax Act, 1961 has been inserted. This notification shall come into force from July 29, 2021. [Notification No. G.S.R. 903(E)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Finance amends notification relating to exemption of specified the goods under the Custom Tariff Act

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance on December 29, 2021 has issued amendments to Notification No. 50/2017-Customs, dated June 30, 2017 which specify “Exemption of specified goods under the Custom Tariff Act. This shall come into force on January 1, 2022. The following few amendments were made namely: - • In Serial Number 418 which specify “3824 90 90 - Zeolite for use in the manufacture of wash coat for catalytic converters” The following shall be substituted namely: - “3824 99 00 - Zeolite for use in the manufacture of wash coat for catalytic converters” • In Serial Number 452 which specify “Water heaters, other than industrial

solar water heaters” the following shall be substituted namely: - “Water heaters” • In Serial Number 518 which specify “8548 10 10 or 8548 10 20 - Battery scrap and battery waste entry” The following shall be substituted namely: - “8549 (except 8549 99 00) – Battery scrap and battery waste entry” [Notification No. 55/2021-Customs]

[View Document](#)

MoF amends certain entries in the table of an older customs notification

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 29, 2021 has issued a notification to amend certain entries in the tables of an older customs notification which specifies list of exempted goods from import duty of customs leviable thereon under the First Schedule of the Customs Act as is in excess of the amount calculated at the rate, that is Notification No. 82/2017-Customs, dated October 27, 2017. The following amendments have been made: • In the Table against serial number 116, in column (2) which specifies Heading, for the entry, the entry ■5703 21, 5703 29■ has been substituted; • In the Table against serial number 117, in column (2) which specifies Heading, for the entry, the entry ■5703 31, 5703 39■ has been substituted; • In the Table against serial number 136, in column (2) which specifies Heading, for the entry, the entry ■5802 10 10 has been substituted; • In the Table against serial number 137, in column (2) which specifies Heading, for the entry, the entry ■5802 10 20, 5802 10 30, 5802 10 In the Table 40, 5802 10 50, 5802 10 60, 5802 10 90■ has been substituted; • In the Table Serial No. 214 to 219 and all the related entries have been omitted. • In the Table Serial No. 221 to 227 and all the related entries have been omitted. • In the table Serial No 213A to Serial 213H have also been substituted. • In the table Serial No 220A to Serial 220H have also been substituted. This notification shall come into force January 01, 2022. [Notification No. 56/2021-Customs]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Finance amends notification relating to exemption of specified the goods under the Customs Tariff Act

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance on December 29, 2021 has issued amendments to Certain Notifications. This shall come into force on January 1, 2022. The following few Notifications which specify “Exemption of specific good under Custom Tariff Act, 1975” were amended namely: - • In Notification No. 25/1998- Customs, dated June 2, 1998 the following amendment was made namely: - In serial number 45 which specify “8514.10” has been substituted namely:- “8514 19 00 or 8486” • In Notification No. 25/1999- Customs, dated February 28, 1999 the following amendment was made namely: - In serial number 226, which specify “7419 99 90” the following has been substituted namely:- “7419 80 90” • In Notification No. 25/2002- Customs, dated March 1, 2002 the following amendment was made namely: - In serial number 69 which specify “8514 30 90” shall be substituted namely: - “8514 39 00” • In Notification No. 25/2005- Customs, dated March 1, 2005 the following amendment was made namely: - In serial number 13 which specify “8525 89 00” has been substituted namely:- “8525 40 00” [Notification No. 57/2021-Customs]

[View Document](#)

MoF amends Heading of an older customs notification related to certain Taxes

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 29, 2021 has issued a notification to amend Heading of a serial no. in the table of an older customs notification which is related to the sales tax, value added tax, local tax and other taxes or charges leviable on sale or purchase or transportation of like goods in India, when imported into India, shall be liable to an additional duty of customs at the rate of four per cent ad valorem that is Notification No. 53/2017- Customs, dated June 30, 2017. The following amendment has been made; • In the table, serial No. (1), column (2) which specifies Heading/chapter no. of crude Petroleum has been substituted, namely: “2709 00 10” This notification shall come into force January 01, 2022. [Notification No. 59/2021-Customs]

[View Document](#)

Faceless Appeal Scheme, 2021

Dec 29, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on December 28, 2021 has issued the Faceless Appeal Scheme, 2021. This shall come into force on December 28, 2021. The following Clause has been introduced namely: -

- In Clause 4 which specify “Faceless Appeal Centres” The following shall be inserted namely: - “For the purposes of this Scheme, the Board may set up a National Faceless Appeal Centre to facilitate the conduct of e-appeal proceedings in a centralised manner”
- In Clause 5 which specify “Procedure in appeal” the following has been inserted namely:- “The appeal shall be disposed of under this Scheme as the National Faceless Appeal Centre shall assign the appeal for disposal to a Commissioner (Appeals) of a specific appeal unit through an automated allocation system”
- In Clause 6 which specify “Penalty proceedings” the following has been inserted namely: - “Commissioner (Appeals) may, in the course of appeal proceedings, for noncompliance of any notice, direction or order issued under this Scheme on the part of the appellant or any other person, as the case may be, send a notice to the appellant through the National Faceless Appeal Centre for initiation of any penalty proceedings calling upon the appellant to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed upon him under the relevant provisions of the Act.”
- In clause 13 which specify “Power to specify format, mode, procedure and processes” the following has been inserted namely: - “The Principal Chief Commissioner of Income-tax or the Principal Director General of Income-tax, in charge of the National Faceless Appeal Centre shall, with the prior approval of Board, lay down the standards, procedures and processes for effective functioning of the National Faceless Appeal Centre and the appeal unit set-up under this Scheme, in an automated and mechanised environment, including format, mode, procedure and processes” [Notification No. S.O. 5429(E)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Finance amends notification regarding rate of Integrated tax rate of certain items

Dec 29, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance on December 28, 2021 has issued amendments in the Notification No. 1/2017-Integrated Tax (Rate), dated the June 28, 2017 which specify “the rate of the integrated tax on certain items.” It shall come into force on January 1, 2022 Few of the Amendments made are namely: - • In Schedule I - 5% S. no. 87 which specify “Other fixed vegetable fats and oils (including jojoba oil) and their fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified” has been substituted namely: - “Other fixed vegetable or microbial fats and oils (including jojoba oil) and their fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified” • In Schedule II – 12% S. No. 28 which specify “Sausages and similar products, of meat, meat offal or blood; food preparations based on these products” has been substituted namely: - “Sausages and similar products, of meat, meat offal, blood or insects; food preparations based on these products” • In Schedule III – 18% S. No. 41 which specify “Nicotine polacrilex gum” has been omitted. • In Schedule IV – 28% S. No. 176 which specify “8802 – Aircrafts for personal use” has been substituted namely: “8806 – Aircrafts for personal use” [Notification No. 18/2021-Integrated Tax (Rate)]

[View Document](#)

MoF amends certain schedules of a notification to amend Union-Territory tax (Rates)

Dec 29, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of finance (MoF) on December 28, 2021 has issued a notification to amend certain schedules of an older notification to amend the Union Territory Tax (Rates) that is Notification No. 1/2017- Union Territory Tax (Rate), dated June 28, 2017. The following amendment has been made: • Schedule I, which specifies 5% of tax has been amended. • Schedule II, which specifies 12% of tax has been amended. • Schedule III, which specifies 18% of tax has been amended. • Schedule IV, which specifies 28% of tax has been amended. This notification shall come into force on January 01, 2022. [Notification No. 18/2021- Union Territory Tax (Rate)]

[View Document](#)

CBIC amends the Exchange Rate of Foreign Currency relating to Imported and Exported Goods on December 29, 2021

Dec 29, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on December 28, 2021, releases the Exchange Rate Notification for valuation of goods for purposes of assessment under the Customs Act, 1962. In international trade, the value of goods is determined by converting the foreign currency into INR using the customs exchange rate. This is the deemed value of goods on which a duty of customs will be chargeable. The CBIC has issued an exchange rate Notification No.98/2021-CUSTOMS (N.T.), dated December 16, 2021, with effect from December 29, 2021. determining the rate of exchange of conversion of the below-mentioned foreign currencies in Indian rupees. In the SCHEDULE-I of the said Notification, for serial No.18 and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be substituted, namely: - •Turkish Lira (Notification No.105/2021)

[View Document](#)

MoF amends certain schedules of Central Tax (rates)

Dec 29, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Finance & Taxation](#)

The Ministry of finance (MoF) on December 28, 2021 has issued a notification to amend certain schedules of an older notification to amend central tax rates that is Notification No.1/2017-Central Tax (Rate), dated June 28, 2017. The following amendments have been made: • Schedule I, which specifies 2.5% of tax has been amended. • Schedule II, which specifies 6% of tax has been amended. • Schedule III, which specifies 9% of tax has been amended. • Schedule IV, which specifies 14% of tax has been amended. This notification shall come into force on January 01, 2022. [Notification No. 18/2021-Central Tax (Rate)]

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MoF amends certain tables in an older notification to amend Integrated Tax (Rates)

Dec 29, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Finance & Taxation](#)

The Ministry of finance (MoF) on December 28, 2021 has issued a notification to amend certain Tables of an older notification to amend the Integrated Tax (Rates) that is Notification No. 22/2018-Integrated Tax (Rate), dated July 26, 2018. The following amendments have been made: • In the tables Serial No. 4, which specifies Wooden frames for painting, photographs, mirrors etc. has been substituted. • In the tables Serial No. 29, which specifies Art ware of brass, copper/ copper alloys, electro plated with nickel/silver has been substituted. This notification shall come into force on January 01, 2022. [Notification No. 20/2021- Integrated Tax (Rate)]

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MoF amends certain tables in an older notification to amend Central Tax (Rates)

Dec 29, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Finance & Taxation](#)

The Ministry of finance (MoF) on December 28, 2021 has issued a notification to amend certain Tables of an older notification to amend the Central Tax (Rates) that is Notification No. 21/2018-Central Tax (Rate), dated July 26, 2018. The following amendments have been made: • In the tables Serial No. 4, which specifies Wooden frames for painting, photographs, mirrors etc. has been substituted. • In the tables Serial No. 29, which specifies Art ware of brass, copper/ copper alloys, electro plated with nickel/silver has been substituted. This notification shall come into force on January 01, 2022. [Notification No. 20/2021- Central Tax (Rate)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Finance amends notification regarding rate of central tax rate of certain items

Dec 29, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Finance & Taxation](#)

The Ministry of Finance on December 28, 2021 has issued amendments in the Notification No. 1/2017-Central Tax (Rate), dated the June 28, 2017 which specify “The rate of the central tax of certain

items". It shall come into force on January 1, 2022. The following few amendments are made namely: - • In Schedule I – 2.5% S. No. 127 which specify "Dolomite, whether or not calcined or sintered, including dolomite roughly trimmed or merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of a rectangular (including square) shape; dolomite ramming mix; 2518 10 dolomite, Not calcined or sintered" The following shall be substituted namely: - "Dolomite, whether or not calcined or sintered, including dolomite roughly trimmed or merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of a rectangular (including square) shape; 2518 10 dolomite, Not calcined or sintered" • In Schedule III – 9% S. No. 195 which specify "Glass fibres (including glass wool) and articles thereof (for example, yarn, woven fabrics)" shall be substituted namely: - "Glass fibres (including glass wool) and articles thereof (for example, yarn, rovings, woven fabrics)" • In Schedule IV – 14% S. No. 176 which specify "8802 - Aircrafts for personal use" has been substituted namely: - "8806 - Aircrafts for personal use" [Notification No. 18/2021 – Central Tax (Rate)]

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Ministry of Finance amends notification regarding rate of Union Territory tax rate of certain items

Dec 29, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance on December 28, 2021 has issued amendments in the Notification No. 1/2017-Union Territory Tax (Rate), dated the June 28, 2017 which specify "the rate of the Union Territory tax on certain items. It shall come into force on January 1, 2022. Few of the amendments made are namely: - • In Schedule I – 2.5% S. No. 87 which specify "Other fixed vegetable fats and oils (including jojoba oil) and their fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified" has been substituted namely: - "Other fixed vegetable or microbial fats and oils (including jojoba oil) and their fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified" • In Schedule II – 6%, S. No. 15 which specify "Other nuts, dried, whether or not shelled or peeled, such as Almonds, Hazelnuts or filberts (*Corylus* spp.), walnuts, Chestnuts (*Castanea* spp.), Pistachios, Macadamia nuts, Kola nuts (*Cola* spp.) [other than dried areca nuts]" has been substituted namely: - "Other nuts, dried, whether or not shelled or peeled, such as Almonds, Hazelnuts or filberts (*Corylus* spp.), Chestnuts (*Castanea* spp.), Pistachios, Macadamia nuts, Kola nuts (*Cola* spp.), Pine nuts [other than dried areca nuts]" • In Schedule III – 9%, S. No. 41 which specify "Nicotine polacrilex gum" shall be omitted • In Schedule IV – 14% S. No. 176 which specify "8802 – Aircrafts for personal use" has been substituted namely: "8806 – Aircrafts for personal use" [Notification No. No. 18/2021-Union Territory Tax (Rate)]

[View Document](#)

MoF amends certain schedules of a notification to amend Integrated tax (Rates)

Dec 29, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of finance (MoF) on December 28, 2021 has issued a notification to amend certain schedules of an older notification to amend the Integrated Tax (Rates) which is Notification No.1/2017-Integrated Tax (Rate), dated June 28, 2017. The following amendment has been made: • Schedule I, which specifies 5% of tax has been amended. • Schedule II, which specifies 12% of tax has been amended. • Schedule III, which specifies 18% of tax has been amended. • Schedule IV, which specifies 28% of tax has been amended. This notification shall come into force on January 01, 2022. [Notification No. 18/2021-Integrated Tax (Rate)]

[View Document](#)

MoF amends certain tables in an older notification to amend Union- Territory Tax (Rates)

Dec 29, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of finance (MoF) on December 28, 2021 has issued a notification to amend certain Tables of an older notification to amend the Union-Territory Tax (Rates) that is Notification No. 21/2018- Union Territory Tax (Rate), dated the 26th July, 2018. The following amendments have been made: • In the tables Serial No. 4, which specifies Wooden frames for painting, photographs, mirrors etc. has been substituted. • In the tables Serial No. 29, which specifies Art ware of brass, copper/ copper alloys, electro plated with nickel/silver has been substituted. This notification shall come into force on January 01, 2022. [Notification No. 20/2021- Union-Territory Tax (Rate)]

[View Document](#)

BSE issues applicability of ST-ASM

Dec 28, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on December 27, 2021 has issued Notice regarding Applicability of Short Term Additional Surveillance Measure (ST-ASM). The following was stated namely: - • The applicable surveillance actions shall be as per provisions of the Short-Term Additional Surveillance Measure (ST-ASM) which are as under: “Applicable rate of margin shall be 50% or existing margin whichever is higher, subject to maximum rate of margin capped at 100%, w.e.f. December 29, 2021 on all open positions as on December 28, 2021 and new positions created from December 29, 2021”. • The applicable surveillance actions shall be as per provisions of the Short-Term Additional Surveillance Measure (ST-ASM) which are as under: “Applicable margin rate shall be 100% or existing margin whichever is higher subject to maximum rate of margin capped at 100%. w.e.f. December 29, 2021 on all open positions as on December 28, 2021 and new positions created from December 29, 2021.” [Notice No. 20211227-12]

[View Document](#)

CBIC amends the rate of exchange for Turkish Lira

Dec 28, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on December 27, 2021, releases the Exchange Rate Notification for valuation of goods for purposes of assessment under the Customs Act, 1962. In international trade, the value of goods is determined by converting the foreign currency into INR using the customs exchange rate. This is the deemed value of goods on which a duty of customs will be chargeable. The CBIC has issued an exchange rate Notification No.98/2021-CUSTOMS (N.T.), dated December 16, 2021, with effect from December 28, 2021. determining the rate of exchange of conversion of the below-mentioned foreign currency(ies) in Indian rupees. In the SCHEDULE-I of the said Notification, for serial No.18 and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be substituted, namely: - •Turkish Lira (Notification No. 104/2021 - Customs (N.T.))

[View Document](#)

Imposition of ADD on Décor Paper

Dec 28, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 27, 2021 has issued a notification to impose Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) on Décor Paper which falls under tariff item 4805 91 00 or 4802 20 90 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975) originates in, or exported from People's Republic of China. In the final findings the Designated Authority has come to the conclusion that: (i) dumping margin for the subject goods from the subject country is positive and significant; (ii) domestic industry has suffered material injury; (iii) material injury to the domestic industry has been caused by the dumped imports from the subject country, and has recommended imposition of an anti-dumping duty on the imports of subject goods, originating in, or exported from the subject country and imported into India, in order to remove injury to the domestic industry. The anti-dumping duty imposed under this notification shall be effective for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier) from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, and shall be payable in Indian currency. [Notification No. 77/2021-Customs (ADD)]

[View Document](#)

Income-tax (34th Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 28, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on December 27, 2021 has issued the Income-tax (34th Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Income-tax Rules, 1962. This shall come into force on December 27, 2021. The following amendments were made namely: - • In rule 2 which specify "Definitions" the following Rule 2DD shall be inserted namely: - "Computation of exempt income of specified fund - Income of the nature of capital gains, arising or received by a specified fund, which is attributable to units held by non-resident (not being a permanent establishment of a non-resident in India) in such specified fund shall be computed. • In Appendix II which specify "Forms, Returns, Statements, Reports etc" the following Form No. 10-II has been inserted namely: - "Statement of exempt income under clause (23FF) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961" [Notification No. G.S.R.883(E)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Finance issues amendment to Notification on exemption of goods of the description as specified

Dec 27, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance on December 24, 2021 has issued amendment to the Notification No. 46/2011-Customs Dated June 1, 2011 which specify "exemption of goods of the description as specified". This shall come into force on January 1, 2022. The following amendments were made namely: - • Serial Number 80 which specify "All Goods" shall be substituted namely: - "48.0" • Serial Number 81 which specify "All Goods" shall be substituted namely: - "48.0" • Serial Number 83 which specify "All Goods" shall be

substituted namely: - “51.0” • Serial Number 124 which specify “All Goods” shall be substituted namely: - “41.0” • Serial Number 125 which specify “All Goods” shall be substituted namely: - “51.0” [Notification No. No. 54/2021-Customs]

[View Document](#)

CBIC amends the exchange rates of Turkish Lira

Dec 27, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on December 24, 2021, releases the Exchange Rate Notification for valuation of goods for purposes of assessment under the Customs Act, 1962. In international trade, the value of goods is determined by converting the foreign currency into INR using the customs exchange rate. This is the deemed value of goods on which a duty of customs will be chargeable. The CBIC has issued an exchange rate Notification No.98/2021-CUSTOMS (N.T.), dated December 16, 2021, with effect from December 25, 2021. determining the rate of exchange of conversion of the below-mentioned foreign currencies in Indian rupees. In the SCHEDULE-I of the said Notification, for serial No.18 and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be substituted, namely: - •Turkish Lira (Notification No. 103/2021 - Customs (N.T.))

[View Document](#)

Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs issues Notification regarding issuance of Non-Preferential COO

Dec 27, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs on December 24, 2021 has issued Notification regarding issuance of Non-Preferential Certificate of Origin (COO). The following was stated namely: - • Interested Members who wish to have Non-Preferential COO may kindly get them registered on <https://coo.dgft.gov.in/manuals/RegistrationManual.pdf> and use the Non preferential COO issued by EPCES. • Members already registered on this online facility are requested to get COOs issued through EPCES. The COO will be issued on the same day. [Circular No – 390]

[View Document](#)

RBI issues restriction on storage of actual card data

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on December 23, 2021 has issued Restriction on storage of actual card data [Card on File (CoF)] The following was stated namely: - • The timeline for storing of CoF data is extended by six months, which is now till June 30, 2022 • In addition to tokenisation, industry stakeholders may devise alternate mechanism(s) to handle any use case (including recurring e-mandates, EMI option, etc.) or post-transaction activity (including chargeback handling, dispute resolution, reward / loyalty programme, etc.) that currently involves / requires storage of CoF data by entities other than card issuers and

card networks. [Notification No. RBI/2021-2022/142]

[View Document](#)

CBIC amends the Exchange Rate of Foreign Currency relating to Imported and Exported Goods on December 23, 2021

Dec 23, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on December 22, 2021, releases the Exchange Rate Notification for valuation of goods for purposes of assessment under the Customs Act, 1962. In international trade, the value of goods is determined by converting the foreign currency into INR using the customs exchange rate. This is the deemed value of goods on which a duty of customs will be chargeable. The CBIC has issued an exchange rate Notification No.98/2021-CUSTOMS (N.T.), dated December 16, 2021, with effect from December 23, 2021. determining the rate of exchange of conversion of the below-mentioned foreign currencies in Indian rupees. In the SCHEDULE-I of the said Notification, for serial No.18 and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be substituted, namely: - •Turkish Lira (Notification No. 102/2021 - Customs (N.T.))

[View Document](#)

Imposition of ADD on Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Blends. All blends other than 407 and 410 are excluded

Dec 23, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 22, 2021 has issued a notification to impose Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) on Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Blends. All blends other than 407 and 410 are excluded which falls under tariff item 3824 78 00 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975) originates in, or exported from the China PR. • After final findings the Designated Authority has come to the conclusion that: (i) the product under consideration has been exported at a price below normal value, thus resulting in dumping; (ii) the domestic industry has suffered material injury; (iii) there is causal link between dumping of product under consideration and injury to the domestic industry, and has recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of the subject goods, originating in, or exported from the subject countries and imported into India, in order to remove injury to the domestic industry. The Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) imposed in this notification shall be levied for a period of 5 years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier) from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette and shall be payable in Indian currency. * Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Blends. All blends other than 407 and 410 are excluded. [Notification No. 76/2021-Customs (ADD)]

[View Document](#)

CBIC brings certain sections of Central Goods and Services Tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2021 into force

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on December 21, 2021 has issued notification to enact certain sections under The Central Goods and Services Tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2021. This shall come into force on January 1, 2022. The Rules that came into force were: - • 2(6)(i)(2) has come into force • 2(6)(i)(3) has come into force • 2(7) has come into force These rules specify “Definitions”.
[Notification No. 38/2021–Central Tax]

[View Document](#)

CBIC amends Rate of Exchange of a foreign currency

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on December 21, 2022 has issued a notification to amend the rate of exchange of one unit of foreign currency equivalent to Indian rupees for Turkish Lira – 5.80 (for Imported goods) and 5.45 (for export goods) by making amendment in Notification No.98/2021-CUSTOMS (N.T.), dated December 16, 2021 with effect from December 22, 2021. [Notification No. 101/2021 - Customs (N.T.)]

[View Document](#)

CBIC brings certain sections of Finance Act, 2021 into force

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on December 21, 2021 has issued notification to enact certain sections under Finance Act, 2021. This shall come into force on January 1, 2022. The following Sections has come into force namely: - • Section 108 which specify “Insertion of clause under section 7 of CGST, Act” shall come into force. • Section 109 which specify “Insertion of clause under section 16 of CGST, Act” shall come into force. • Section 113 which specify “In section 74 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, in Explanation 1, in clause (ii), for the words and figures “sections 122, 125, 129 and 130”, the words and figures “sections 122 and 125” shall be substituted.” shall come into force • Section 122 which specify “In Schedule II of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, paragraph 7 shall be omitted.” shall come into force.
[Notification No. 39/2021-Central Tax]

[View Document](#)

Imposition of ADD on Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Component R-32

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 21, 2021 has issued a notification to impose Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) on Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Component R-32 which falls under tariff sub-heading 2903 39 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975) originates in, or exported from the China PR. After final findings the Designated Authority has come to the conclusion that: (i) the product under consideration has been exported at a price below normal value, thus resulting in dumping; (ii) the domestic industry has suffered material injury; (iii) there is causal link between dumping of product under consideration and injury to

the domestic industry, and has recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of the subject goods, originating in, or exported from the subject countries and imported into India, in order to remove injury to the domestic industry. The Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) imposed in this notification shall be levied for a period of 5 years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier) from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette and shall be payable in Indian currency. [Notification No. 75/2021-Customs (ADD)]

[View Document](#)

Imposition of ADD on Silicone Sealants excluding silicon sealants used in manufacturing of solar photovoltaic modules, and thermal power applications

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 21, 2021 has issued a notification to impose Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) on Silicone Sealants excluding silicon sealants used in manufacturing of solar photovoltaic modules, and thermal power applications which falls under Chapter 32 and 35 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975) originates in, or exported from the China PR. After final findings the Designated Authority has come to the conclusion that: (i) the product under consideration has been exported at a price below normal value, thus resulting in dumping; (ii) the domestic industry has suffered material injury; (iii) there is causal link between dumping of product under consideration and injury to the domestic industry, and has recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of the subject goods, originating in, or exported from the subject countries and imported into India, in order to remove injury to the domestic industry. The following products are excluded from the product description: (i) Polyurethane Sealant (ii) Polyurethane Foam (iii) Polyurethane Foam Cleaner (iv) Solar Potting Silicone (v) Acrylic Sealant (vi) Acrylic Neutral Sealant (vii) Acrylic Weather Sealant (viii) Siliconised Acrylic Sealant (ix) RoHS grade Silicone Sealant (x) REACH grade Silicone Sealant (xi) Fire resistant/retardant Silicone Sealant (xii) Silicone Sealant used for car and bus windshield pasting (xiii) Silicone Sealant used for bus body pasting (xiv) Silicone Sealant used for building expansion joints (xv) MS Polymer based Sealant (xvi) Industrial RTV Silicone Sealant (xvii) High-temperature Neutral Silicone (xviii) Two-component Silicone Sealant (xix) Paintable Sealants (xx) Non-bleeding Weather Silicone (xxi) Insulating Glass Silicone (xxii) Nail free adhesive or Mirror fix adhesive Provided the product exclusion with regard to below mentioned products will be strictly limited to actual users only. The actual users shall provide declarations to customs at the time of import regarding bonafide usage in this regard. Actual users would also maintain the monthly record in the form of verifiable consumption register for presentation before any law enforcing agency on demand. The Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) imposed in this notification shall be levied for a period of 5 years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier) from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette and shall be payable in Indian currency. [Notification No. 74/2021-Customs (ADD)]

[View Document](#)

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) amends in the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Notification No.98/2021

Dec 21, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on December 17, 2021 amends Notification No.98/2021 dated December 16, 2021 with effect from December 18, 2021. In the SCHEDULE-I of the said Notification, for serial No.18 and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be substituted, namely: - [Notification No.99/2021]

[View Document](#)

Department of Commerce issues notification regarding Import Policy of Moong

Dec 21, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Department of Commerce on December 20, 2021 has issued Notification regarding “Import Policy of Moong”. The following was stated namely: - • The “Free” Import shall be up to March 31 2022. • The Bill of Lading/Lorry Receipt should be issued on or before March 3, 2022. • The import may be cleared if the “Out of charge” has been authorised by the Customs Authorities on or before June 30, 2022. [Notification no. S.O. 5317(E)]

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Department of Commerce issues notification regarding Import Policy of Tur/Pigeon Peas and Urad

Dec 21, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Department of Commerce on December 20, 2021 has issued Notification regarding Import Policy of Tur/Pigeon Peas and Urad. The following was stated namely: - • The “Free” Import shall be up to March 31 2022. • The Bill of Lading/Lorry Receipt should be issued on or before March 3, 2022. • The import may be cleared if the “Out of charge” has been authorised by the Customs Authorities on or before June 30, 2022. [Notification No. S.O. 5318(E)]

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DGFT corrects MEIS SI No. for notification on Harmonising MEIS Schedule

Dec 21, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Director General of Foreign Trade(DGFT) on December 20, 2021 has issued correction to Notification No. 43/2015-20 which specify “Harmonising MEIS Schedule in the Appendix 3B (Table-2) with amended ITC (HS), 2017” dated December 16, 2021. The following was amended namely: - • In Para A MEIS SI. No. 8145 which specified “Solar Cells, assembled in modules or made up into panels” has been corrected namely: - “MEIS SI No. 8147” [Notification No. F. No. 01/61/180/ 107/AM21/PC-3/E-23249]

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DGFT imposes FREE import policy for certain items

Dec 21, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on December 20, 2021 has issued a notification to amend the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP- 2015-2020) to impose FREE import policy on the following items followed by certain conditions: • EXIM code HS- 1511 9010 - Refined bleached deodorised palm oil • EXIM code HS- 1511 9020 - Refined bleached deodorised palm oil • EXIM code HS- 1511 9090 - Other The Import is free for a period up to December 31, 2022. Imports are not permitted through any port in Kerala. [Notification No. 46/2015-2020]

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Mof amends standard rate percentage for certain items

Dec 21, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 20, 2021 has issued a notification to amend standard rates percentage by amending an older notification that is Notification No. 48/2021-Customs, dated October 13, 2021. The following amendment has been made: • In the aforesaid notification in the table in serial No. 04, which specifies the standard rates of Refined bleached deodorized(RBD) palm oil, RBD palmolein, RBD palm stearin and any palm oil other than crude palm oil has been substituted from 17.5% to 12.5%. This notification shall come into effect on December 21, 2021. [Notification No. 53/2021-Customs]

[View Document](#)

Imposition of ADD on Calcined Gypsum Powder

Dec 20, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 17, 2021 has issued a notification to impose Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) on Calcined Gypsum Powder under tariff item 2520 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975) originates in or exported from Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates(UAE). The Designated authority after the findings has come to the conclusion that imposition of anti-dumping duty is required to offset the injury to the domestic industry caused by the dumped imports of subject goods from the subject country and has recommended imposition of definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of the subject goods, originating in or exported from the subject country and imported into India. The anti-dumping duty imposed under this notification shall be effective for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier) from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette and shall be paid in Indian currency. [Notification No. 73/2021-Customs (ADD)]

[View Document](#)

Imposition of ADD on Sodium Hydrosulphite

Dec 20, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 17, 2021 has issued a notification to impose Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) on Sodium Hydrosulphite which falls under headings 2831 and 2832 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975) originates in or exported from the People's Republic of China and Korea RP. The Designated authority after the findings has come to the conclusion that imposition of anti-dumping duty is required to offset the injury to the domestic industry caused by the dumped imports of subject goods from the subject country and has recommended imposition of definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of the subject goods, originating in or exported from the subject country and imported into India. The anti-dumping duty imposed under this notification shall be effective for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier) from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette and shall be paid in Indian currency. [Notification No. 71/2021-Customs (ADD)]

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DGFT amends MEIS Schedule

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on December 16, 2021 has issued for harmonizing MEIS Schedule in the Appendix 3B (Table-2) with amended ITC (HS), 2017. This is in effect from March 27, 2020. The following amendment was made in Appendix 3B, Table 2 which specify "ITC (HS) code wise list of products with reward rates under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)" namely: - • ITC(HC) Code 85414012 which specify "Solar Cells, assembled in modules or made up into panels" has been inserted. • ITC(HC) Code 85414011 which specify "Solar Cells/Photovoltaic Cells Whether or not Assembled in Module/Panel" has been substituted namely: - "Solar cells whether or not assembled in modules or panels" [Notification No. F. No. 01/61/180/ 107/AM21/PC-3/E-23249]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Finance amends notification on taxes which are being subsumed into GST

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance on December 16, 2021 has issued amendment to notification No. 1/2018 (Goods and Service Tax Compensation) dated 14th November, 2018. Which specifies taxes which are being subsumed into the goods and services tax. The following amendment were made namely: - • Serial Number 99 which specifies "Tamil Nadu Sugar Cane Cess (Validation) Act, 1963" has been substituted namely: - "Tamil Nadu Sugar Factories Control Act, 1949 (Section 14)" [Notification No. 1/2021-Goods and Services Tax Compensation]

[View Document](#)

CBIC determines the rate of exchange for certain foreign currencies

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on December 16, 2021 releases the Exchange Rate Notification for valuation of goods for purposes of assessment under the Customs Act, 1962. In international trade, the value of goods is determined by converting the foreign currency into INR using the customs exchange rate. This is the deemed value of goods on which a duty of customs will be chargeable. The CBIC has issued an exchange rate Notification determining the rate of exchange of conversion of the below mentioned foreign currencies in Indian rupees which will be effective from December 17, 2021: • Australian Dollar • Bahrain Dinar • Canadian Dollar • Chinese Yuan • Danish Kroner • EURO • Hong Kong Dollar • Kuwait Dinar • New Zealand Dollar • Norwegian Kroner • Pound Sterling • Qatari Riyal • Saudi Arabian Riyal • Singapore Dollar • South African Rand • Swedish Kroner • Swiss Franc • Turkish Lira • UAE Dirham • US Dollar • Japanese Yen • Korean Won [Notification No.98/2021 - Customs (N.T.)]

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RBI issues working paper on An Alternative Perspective on Demand and Supply to Forecast Inflation

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on December 16, 2021 has issued a press release on working paper on An Alternative Perspective on Demand and Supply to Forecast Inflation. The Key findings of the paper are as followed: • The paper develops a new method to construct a measure of demand-supply imbalance in the economy using a Bayesian Dynamic Factor Model. • The estimated index of demand-supply mismatch is found to have a causal relationship with headline inflation. • It is also found to be a competing predictor of headline inflation, as compared to other conventional measures of slack such as the output gap and level of capacity utilisation. [Press Release: 2021-2022/1373]

[View Document](#)

RBI issues working paper on “Reassessing Investment Dynamics – Newer Insights into Leverage and Investment of the Indian Corporate Sector

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on December 16, 2021 has issued a press release on working paper on “Reassessing Investment Dynamics – Newer Insights into Leverage and Investment of the Indian Corporate Sector. The Key findings of the paper are as followed: i. Based on the annual account data of non-government non-financial companies for the period 1980-81 to 2018-19, it is found that financial variables have a greater role in determining the investment dynamics of the Indian corporate sector; ii. A model-driven estimate of a threshold for Indian corporate leverage - estimated at around 60 per cent for debt to equity ratio and 28 per cent for debt to asset ratio, beyond which corporate leverage drags growth. With current readings at 48 per cent and 19 per cent respectively for debt to equity and debt to asset ratios, these indicate a space for further corporate borrowing which will lead to higher investment and growth; iii. Cash holdings of the companies have a negative impact on fixed investment, implying cash holdings not to be realising into fixed assets; and iv. The business expectations of the corporates and economic policy uncertainties are seen to have a significant impact on India’s investment process. [Press Release: 2021-2022/1372]

[View Document](#)

CBIC amend Tariff rates for crude palm oil, Areca Nuts and other items

Dec 16, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on December 15, 2021 amends the Notification No. 36/2001- Customs (N.T.) dated August 03, 2001 which specifies the fixation of tariff value for the following goods: • Crude Palm Oil • RBD Palm Oil • Others- Palm Oil • Crude Palmolein • RBD Palmolein • Others – Palmolein • Crude Soya Bean Oil • Brass Scrap (all grades) • Gold, in any form, in respect of which the benefit of entries at serial number 356 of the Notification No. 50/2017-Customs dated June 30, 2017 is availed. • Silver, in any form, in respect of which the benefit of entries at serial number 357 of the Notification No. 50/2017-Customs dated June 30, 2017 is availed. • Silver, in any form, other than medallions and silver coins having silver content not below 99.9% or semi-manufactured forms of silver. • Medallions and silver coins having silver content not below 99.9% or semi-manufactured forms of silver falling under sub-heading 7106 92, other than imports of such goods through post, courier, or baggage. • Gold coins having gold content not below 99.5% and gold findings, other than imports of such goods through post, courier, or baggage. • Areca Nuts The Table 1, 2 and 3 provided in the Notification will be substituted for the existing tables in its parent Notification. These tables contain the details about Chapter headings, descriptions of goods and tariff value. [Notification No. 97/2021- Customs (N.T.)]

[View Document](#)

RBI seeks comments on Draft master direction on minimum capital requirements for operational risk

Dec 16, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on December 15, 2021 has issued a press release to invite comments on the Draft master direction on minimum capital requirements for operational risk which shall be applicable to all Commercial Banks (excluding Local Area Banks, Payments Banks, Regional Rural Banks, and Small Finance Banks). The foremost provisions of the Master Directions are as followed: • Application of Basel III SA within a banking group o At the consolidated level, the Basel III SA calculations shall be based on fully consolidated BI figures, which net all the intragroup income and expenses. o The calculations at a sub-consolidated level shall be based on BI figures for the banks consolidated at that particular sub-level. o The calculations at the subsidiary level shall be based on BI figures from the subsidiary. o A sub-consolidated bank or a subsidiary bank shall use only the losses it has incurred at that particular sub-level. • Loss data identification, collection, and treatment for banks in buckets 2 & 3 o Identification and collection of the operational risk loss data shall be guided by the criteria provided in point no.4 of Technical Guidance Note, Annex 2. o Banks which do not meet the five years of high quality loss data criteria shall be required to hold capital at a minimum equal to the BIC. The Reserve Bank (Department of Supervision) may however require the bank to apply an ILM which is greater than 1 to calculate the capital requirements if the bank's ILM is greater than 1 and supervisors believe the losses are representative of the bank's operational risk exposure. The exclusion of internal loss data due to non-compliance with the loss data criteria, and the application of any resulting multipliers, shall be publicly disclosed in accordance with the Pillar 3 requirements. o Inclusion of losses related to mergers and acquisitions and exclusion of losses shall be

guided by the criteria provided in point no. 4.3 & 4.4 resp. of Technical Guidance Note, Annex 2. • Inclusion of BI items related to mergers and acquisitions o BI items from merged entities or acquired businesses shall be included in the calculation of ORC immediately after the merger/acquisition and shall be disclosed under Pillar 3. • Exclusions of divested activities from the BI o Divested activities shall be excluded from the calculation of the BI amount used for the calculation of ORC only after the Reserve Bank's (Department of Supervision's) approval. Such exclusions shall be disclosed under Pillar 3. • Disclosure o Each of the BI sub-items for each of the three years of the BI component calculation window shall be disclosed in accordance with the Pillar 3 requirements. o For banks in buckets 2 & 3, annual loss data for each of the last ten years or each of the years with available annual loss data shall be disclosed in accordance with the Pillar 3 requirements. Loss data shall be reported net of recoveries, both before and after loss exclusions. o The disclosures on general qualitative information on a bank's operational risk framework and quantitative information on BI sub-items and loss data shall be made as prescribed in Annex 3. The following instructions and guidelines have also been repealed by this direction: • Paragraph 3. S. No. b. & c. of Introduction of Advanced Approaches of Basel II Framework in India – Time Schedule - DBOD.BP.BC.No.23/21.06.001/2009-10 dated July 7, 2009 • Implementation of The Standardised Approach (TSA) for Calculation of Capital Charge for Operational Risk - DBOD.No.BP.BC.84/21.06.001/2009-10 dated March 31, 2010 • Implementation of the Advanced Measurement Approach (AMA) for Calculation of Capital Charge for Operational Risk - DBOD.No.BP.BC.88/21.06.014/2010-11 dated April 27, 2011 • Revisions to Basel II-Advanced Approaches of Operational Risk- TSA and AMA - DBOD.No.BP.BC.43/21.06.017/2014-15 dated October 16, 2014 • Paragraph 9 on 'Capital charge for Operational Risk' and Table- DF-8 on 'Operational Risk' of Master Circular- Basel III Capital Regulations - DBR.No.BP.BC.1/21.06.201/2015-16 dated July 1, 2015 The comments on the draft Master Directions from all stakeholders may be sent by email with the subject line "Comments on Draft Master Direction on Minimum Capital Requirements for Operational Risk", by January 31, 2022. [Press Release: 2021-2022/1358]

[View Document](#)

CBDT issues e-Verification Scheme, 2021

Dec 14, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on December 13, 2021 has issued the e-Verification Scheme, 2021. It shall come into force on December 13, 2021. The following has been introduced namely: - • Rule 4 which specify "Electronic Collection and Verification" has been inserted namely:- "The Commissioner of Income-tax (e-Verification) shall collect the information referred to in sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 3, in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Principal Director General of Income-tax (Systems) or Director General of Income-tax (Systems), as the case may be." • Rule 5 which specify "Random Allocation of information" has been inserted namely: - "The Principal Director General of Income-tax (Systems) or the Director General of Income-tax (Systems), as the case may be, shall, with the approval of the Board, devise a process to randomly allocate or transfer the information, referred to in sub-paragraph (6) of paragraph 4, to the Prescribed Authority." • Rule 6 which specify "Issue and service of notice" has been inserted namely: - "For the purpose of verification of information, the Prescribed Authority shall issue notice to a person requiring him to furnish information or documents as necessary for such verification." • Rule 8 which specify "No personal appearance" has been inserted namely: - "No person shall be required to appear personally or through authorised representative before the Prescribed Authority in connection with any proceedings." • Rule 9 which specify "Communication exclusively by electronic mode" has been inserted namely: - "all communications between the Commissioner of Income-tax (e-Verification) and various authorities from whom

the information is received, shall be in the electronic mode.” [Notification No. S.O.5187(E)]

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DGFT makes correction in Initiation of anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of Stainless-Steel Seamless Tubes & Pipes originating in or exported from China PR

Dec 14, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on December 13, 2021 has issued a corrigendum to make correction in the Initiation of anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of Stainless-Steel Seamless Tubes & Pipes originating in or exported from China PR by making amendment in Notification No. 6/13/2021-DGTR dated September 10, 2021, in respect of the subject original anti- dumping Investigation. The following amendment has been made: • Paragraph 3, of the said notification has been substituted, namely: 3. “Stainless-Steel Seamless Tubes and Pipes with diameter up to and including 6 NPS, or comparable thereof in other unit of measurement, whether manufactured using hot extrusion process or hot piercing process and whether sold as hot finished or cold finished pipes and tubes, including subject goods imported in the form of defectives, non- prime or secondary grades.” [Case No-AD (OI)-13/2021]

[View Document](#)

MoF imposes ADD on ‘Axle for Trailers’

Dec 14, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 3, 2021 has issued a notification to make certain changes in the imposition of Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) in the current imposition of ADD on ‘Axle for Trailers’ which falls under the tariff item 8716 90 10 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975), originating in or exported from the People’s Republic of China. The designated authority has come to the conclusion that: • there has been a change in pattern of trade in case of subject goods from the subject country; • the value addition in converting the Axle for Trailers in CKD/SKD condition into subject goods is significantly less than that the prescribed threshold in the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-dumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995 (hereinafter referred to as the Anti-dumping Rules); • imports of Axle for Trailers in CKD / SKD condition from the subject country are entering at dumped prices. • the import of Axle for Trailers in CKD/SKD condition from the subject country has undermined the remedial effect of existing anti-dumping measure on the imports of Axle for Trailers originating in or exported from the People’s Republic of China; The ADD imposed under this notification shall be effective from publication of this notification in the Official Gazette and will be co-terminus with the anti-dumping duty on Axle for Trailers as levied by notification No. 54/2016-Customs (ADD), dated the November 29, 2016 (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier), and the anti-dumping duty shall be paid in Indian currency. [Notification No. 69/2021-Customs (ADD)]

[View Document](#)

RBI instructs banks to return to normal dispensation

Dec 13, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on December 10, 2021 has issued a notification to ask all the banks to return to normal dispensation related to the maintenance Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) by referring to the circular DOR.RET.REC.36/12.01.001/2021-22 dated August 09, 2021 and paragraph 15(i) of the Master Direction DOR.No.RET.REC.32/12.01.001/2021-22 dated July 20, 2021, wherein the banks were allowed to avail of funds under the MSF by dipping into the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) up to three per cent of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) outstanding at the end of the second preceding fortnight. This facility, which was initially available up to June 30, 2020, was later extended up to December 31, 2021. The Governor has proposed to return to the normal dispensation. Accordingly, banks will be able to dip into the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) up to two percent of NDTL instead of three percent for overnight borrowing under the MSF with effect from January 1, 2022. [Notification No. RBI/2021-22/138 DOR.RET.REC.73/12.01.001/2021-22]

[View Document](#)

Income-tax (33rd Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 13, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on December 10, 2021 has issued the Income-tax (33rd Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Income-tax Rules, 1962. This shall come into effect from December 10, 2021. The following amendments were made recently: - • Rule 21 AK which specifies “Conditions for the purpose of clause (4E) of section 10.” Has been inserted namely: “The income accrued or arisen to, or received by, a non-resident as a result of transfer of non-deliverable forward contracts under clause (4E) of section 10 of the Act, shall be exempted subject to fulfilment of conditions.” [Notification No. G.S.R. 815 (E)]

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CBIC issues instructions to test coumarin in imported cinnamon-reg

Dec 10, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), on November 9, 2021 has issued Instructions regarding testing of coumarin in imported cinnamon-reg. with respect notification F.No. 1-1403/FSSAI/Imports/2015 (part 1) which specifies “Testing of coumarin in imported cinnamon – Reg.” The following was stated namely: - • Sensitize officers to ensure that all imported consignments of cinnamon get tested for coumarin content (on dry basis), which should not be more than 0.3 percent by weight. [Notification No. 28/2021-Customs]

[View Document](#)

RBI makes changes in External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) and Trade Credits (TC) Policy

Dec 09, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on December 08, 2021 has issued a circular to make certain changes in External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) and Trade Credits (TC) Policy due to the LIBOR transition. By amending the Master Direction No.5 dated March 26, 2019, on “External Commercial Borrowings, Trade Credits and Structured Obligations”, prescribing the benchmark rates and the maximum spread over benchmark for calculating the all-in-cost for foreign currency (FCY) ECBs and TCs. RBI has decided to make the following changes to the all-in-cost benchmark and ceiling for FCY ECBs/ TCs: i. Redefining Benchmark Rate for FCY ECBs and TCs: Currently, the benchmark rate is defined in paragraph 1.5 of the master direction as “benchmark rate in case of FCY ECB/TC refers to 6-months LIBOR rate of different currencies or any other 6-month interbank interest rate applicable to the currency of borrowing, e.g., EURIBOR”. Henceforth, benchmark rate in case of FCY ECB/TC shall refer to any widely accepted interbank rate or alternative reference rate (ARR) of 6-month tenor, applicable to the currency of borrowing. ii. Change in all-in-cost ceiling for new ECBs/ TCs: To take into account differences in credit risk and term premia between LIBOR and the ARR, the all-in-cost ceiling for new FCY ECBs and TCs has been increased by 50 bps to 500 bps and 300 bps, respectively, over the benchmark rates. iii. One Time Adjustment in all-in-cost ceiling for existing ECBs/ TCs: To enable smooth transition of existing ECBs/ TCs linked to LIBOR whose benchmarks are changed to ARRs, the all-in cost ceiling for such ECBs/ TCs has been revised upwards by 100 basis points to 550 bps and 350 bps, respectively, over the ARR. AD Category-I banks must ensure that any such revision in ceiling is only on account of transition from LIBOR to alternative benchmarks. [Circular No. RBI/2021-22/135 A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 19]

[View Document](#)

RBI issues Option for prepayment of funds availed under Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations

Dec 08, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on December 08, 2021 has issued Option for prepayment of funds availed under Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations to the banks which had availed of funds under TLTRO and TLTRO 2.0 with one more option to prepay the outstanding amount before maturity. Banks who are willing to prepay the outstanding amount are advised to submit their requests via email to the Financial Markets Operations Department (Ph: 022-2263 0982 / 2263 4925) in the prescribed format in Annexure 1 (Provided in the given link) on or before December 17, 2021. The prepayment exercise for different operations will be undertaken on the following dates: 1. March 27, 2020 (TLTRO), Date of prepayment would be December 21, 2021. 2. April 3, 2020 (TLTRO)), Date of prepayment would be December 21, 2021. 3. April 9, 2020 (TLTRO)), Date of prepayment would be December 21, 2021. 4. April 17, 2020 (TLTRO), Date of prepayment would be December 22, 2021 5. April 23, 2020 (TLTRO 2.0), Date of prepayment would be December 22, 2021. *Disclaimer – Kindly find the annexure and email in the provided link. [Press Release: 2021-2022/1324]

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DGFT notifies the procedure for import of Water Melon Seeds

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on December 06, 2021 has issued a public notice regarding the procedure for import of Water Melon Seeds - Other under ITC(HS) 12077090 for the period of January 01, 2022 to March 31, 2022. According to the recommendations from Ministry of commerce and Industry, the import of watermelon seeds shall not exceed 15,000 MT. DGFT will invite fresh applications for import authorisation for Water Melon Seeds – Other (ITC(HS) 12077090) with effect from the date of this Public Notice and not later than December 13, 2021 as follows - i. Applications where the date of issuance of their Importer-Exporter Code (IEC) is on or after the date of this Public Notice shall not be considered. ii. The applications shall be considered on Actual User basis to processors only based upon their own processing capacity. iii. For each processing unit, applicants shall provide self-certified copy of a document issued by Central/State/District Authorities, indicating its processing capacity. The certificate should be dated prior to issue of this Public Notice. iv. A valid FSSAI License is required to be provided along with the online application. v. Only one application against one IEC shall be considered. While examining the applications will take into considerations; inter alia, the monthly/annual processing capacity and earlier imports of the applicant. DGFT reserves the right to make any changes in the allocation as deemed fit at any point of time. All import authorisation holders shall ensure that the import consignments against the said authorisations reach the Indian ports on or before March 31, 2022. [Public Notice No. 41/2015-2020]

[View Document](#)

CBDT advises Taxpayers to file their ITRs for AY 2021- 22 at the earliest

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on December 5, 2021 has advised Taxpayers to file their ITRs for AY 2021- 22 at the earliest. The following was stated namely: - • Taxpayers need to view Form 26AS and Annual Information Statement (AIS) through the e-filing portal to verify the accuracy of the TDS and Tax Payments and avail of pre-filing of ITRs. • The process of e-verification through Aadhaar OTP and other methods is important to commence processing of the ITR and to issue refunds. • Ensure that the bank account selected for credit of refund must have the PAN number linked at the bank to avoid refund failures. • The Legal Heir functionality has been enabled for registrations and compliance.

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MCI has fixed two new Standard Input Output Norms (SIONs) at SION A-3680 and A-3681 under 'Chemical & Allied Product' (Product Code 'A')

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry on December 02, 2021 has issued a notification to fix two new Standard Input Output Norms (SIONs) at SION A-3680 and A-3681 under 'Chemical & Allied Product' (Product Code 'A'). These new entries shall be as under: [Notification No. 01/82/171/00005/AM22/DES-III]

[View Document](#)

MoF amends Road and Infrastructure Cess (RIC) on Petrol and Diesel

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on November 03, 2021 has issued a notification to amend an earlier notification which specifies the items exempted from additional duty of customs and the excess of the amount calculated at the rate specified that is notification no. 18/2017 dated July 06, 2019. The following amendment has been made: • Motor spirit commonly known as petrol – Rs. 13/- • High speed diesel oil – Rs. 8/- This notification shall come into force with effect from the November 04, 2021 [Notification No.52 /2021-Customs]

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CBIC issues Guidelines for the sale of seized/confiscated gold

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on December 03, 2021 has issued Guidelines for the sale of seized/confiscated gold. CBIC has decided that henceforth seized/confiscated gold will be sold (other than gold ornaments/jewellery/articles) to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) only. In this regard, Board has consulted RBI and Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) and also signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with them. The MOU, inter alia, provides for roles and obligations of CBIC, RBI and SPMCIL regarding collection, transportation and standardization of seized/confiscated gold, delivery of standard gold bars and payment thereon. The text of MOU is given at Annexure-I. The following guidelines are issued for disposal of seized/confiscated gold (other than gold ornaments/jewellery/articles): • Henceforth, the seized/confiscated gold (other than gold ornaments/jewellery/articles) shall be sold to RBI only. Any mention of gold in subsequent paragraphs shall refer to gold other than gold ornaments/jewellery/articles. For this purpose, SPMCIL has been engaged for collection, transportation, conversion into standard gold bars and delivery to RBI. The SPMCIL has facility to melt gold at India Government Mints (IG Mint) located at Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai. Therefore, Hyderabad, West Bengal (P) and Mumbai (General) Customs Commissionerate have been designated as Focal Customs Commissionerate. Customs Commissionerate have been mapped to one of the three mints on the basis of their location (Annexure-II). IG Mints will be carrying out processes such as pre-melting, assaying and weighing in the presence of Customs Officer. • As soon as the seized/confiscated gold is ready for disposal, the Deputy/Assistant Commissioner of Customs in-charge of the disposal, shall intimate SPMCIL on the availability of gold for collection. The form of intimation is given at Annexure-III. • Thereafter, SPMCIL will collect the gold from the Customs Commissionerate. The Customs Commissionerate shall take adequate precautions during handing over gold to SPMCIL for keeping the evidentiary value of the gold intact, including but not limited to ensuring presence of witnesses, videography of the process of handing over, accounting and obtaining acknowledgement in the form of 'Note of Handing over Gold' to SPMCIL (HOGS Note). The form of HOGS Note is given at Annexure-IV. The printed HOGS Note shall be prepared in quadruplicate; original copy shall be handed over to SPMCIL; duplicate copy shall be forwarded to the focal Commissionerate; triplicate copy shall be forwarded to Directorate of Logistics (DoL), New Delhi; Quadruplicate copy shall be kept by the Customs Commissionerate concerned. The HOGS note shall be prepared for each packet separately. The HOGS note shall have reference to the seizure to which the packet belongs. • SPMCIL will perform preliminary assay procedure at IG Mints in the presence of nominated officer

of the focal Customs Commissionerate. SPMCIL will conduct preliminary X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analysis for each packet of gold separately HOGS Note wise. The preliminary XRF analysis will be recorded in CCTV camera. It shall carry out pre-melting, and sampling process which will also be recorded in CCTV camera. Upon completion of preliminary XRF analysis, SPMCIL will issue copies of XRF Assay Readings along with the weight slip to the nominated officer of the focal Customs Commissionerate. Based on the copy of the XRF Assay Readings along with the weight slip, issued by SPMCIL, the Deputy/Assistant Commissioner of the focal customs Commissionerate shall prepare a Preliminary Weight Note (PW Note) in the form given at Annexure- V in triplicate. The original copy, shall be sent to the respective field Commissionerate from where the gold was collected; the duplicate copy shall be forwarded to the DoL. Triplicate copy enclosing a copy of XRF Assay Readings along with the weight slip shall be retained by the focal Customs Commissionerate. • The gold collected from the Customs Commissionerate will be converted into standard gold bars (around 11-13 kg) at IG Mints. SPMCIL will communicate the quantity of gold converted into standard gold bars and the number of such standard gold bars to the nominated officer of the focal Customs Commissionerate through Out Turn Certificate. Based on such communication, the Deputy/Assistant Commissioner of the focal Customs Commissionerate shall prepare a Note on Final Weight (FW Note) in the form prescribed at Annexure-VI in duplicate. The original copy shall be sent to the Principal Commissioner, DoL. The duplicate copy along with the copy of the Out Turn Certificate shall be retained by the focal Customs Commissionerate. • The focal Customs Commissionerate shall maintain a register in the format prescribed in Annexure-VII for recording the receipt of HOGS Note, issuance of PW Note and FW Note. • It may be noted that: the SPMCIL will deliver the standard gold bars to the RBI at Issue Department, RBI, Fort, Mumbai preferably within one month of collection of seized/confiscated gold; the quantity of remnant gold, if any, after conversion into standard bars shall be kept by the SPMCIL and the same will be included in the next lot of gold collected and processed; the price of the fine gold to be purchased by RBI shall be determined based on the average LBMA rate of gold for the preceding 30 days from the date of receipt of gold by the RBI at Mumbai and the same shall be converted into INR (rounded off to the nearest INR) using the Financial Benchmarks India Private Limited (FBIL) USD: INR exchange rate of that day. • RBI shall, on its part, before making payment to CBIC, share the details of the final weight of the gold as mentioned in the delivery cum acknowledgement memo received from SPMCIL and price of the gold to the Principal Commissioner, DoL. The DoL shall acknowledge the receipt of delivery memo in the form given at Annexure-VIII. • The DoL shall maintain proper account of gold for which an appropriate physical/electronic ledger shall be devised. The ledger shall contain the details of HOGS Notes received from Customs Commissionerate, PW Notes and FW Notes received from focal Customs Commissionerate, Delivery Memo received from RBI and invoice received from SPMCIL. These details should clearly bring out the gold handed over by the Customs Commissionerate, the charges payable to SPMCIL, gold deposited with RBI, amount credited by RBI to CBIC, adjustment in weight required on account of melting and refining and balance quantity of gold carried over to the next cycle by SPMCIL. As mentioned supra, SPMCIL should complete the processes on the gold collected from the Customs Commissionerate within one month of such collection. The Principal Commissioner, DoL shall monitor this time limit. DoL shall also make the payment to SPMCIL upon receipt of the invoice from SPMCIL and delivery cum acknowledgement memo from RBI. • The Customs Commissionerate can treat the Seized/confiscated gold as disposed only when the following processes are completed, namely, - i. Receipt of PW Note from focal Customs Commissionerate; and ii. Necessary entries in their stock register (refer to Para 3.4.1 & Form 5 of Chapter 3 of Disposal Manual, 2019) are made accordingly. These guidelines shall come into force from the date of issue. All the formations and officers concerned may be suitably sensitised about the above guidelines. *Disclaimer – All the abovesaid Annexures are provided in the link. [Instruction No.-27/2021-Customs]

[View Document](#)

MoEF issues Guidelines for submission of applications for Custom Duty Exemption Certificate for availing duty benefits on import of CNG/LPG/Propane Conversion Kit/System

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) on November 02, 2021 has issued the guidelines for submission of applications for Custom Duty Exemption Certificate for availing duty benefits on import of CNG/LPG/Propane Conversion Kit/System under the Notification no. 50/2017 (G.S.R. 785 (E)) dated June 30, 2017 of Ministry of Finance. The following Points to be considered while applying: i. Name and designation should be mentioned with every signature in all the applications. ii. The practice of submitting multiple applications from the same supplier is discontinued. A single application enclosing multiple invoices from the same supplier should be submitted. *Disclaimer - Pro-Forma for Custom Duty Exemption Certificate for availing duty benefit is in the provided link.

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MoF imposes ADD on 'Certain Flat Rolled Products of Aluminium'

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 06, 2021 has issued a notification to impose Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) on 'Certain Flat Rolled Products of Aluminium' falling under chapter heading 7606 or 7607 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, originating in, or exported from People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the subject country), and imported into India. The Designated Authority has come to the conclusion that: (i) the dumping margin for the subject goods from the subject country is positive and significant; (ii) domestic industry has suffered material injury and the injury margin is positive; (iii) the material injury suffered by the domestic industry has been caused by the dumped imports, and has recommended imposition of an anti-dumping duty on the imports of subject goods, originating in, or exported from the subject country and imported into India, in order to remove injury to the domestic industry. *The following products are excluded from the scope of the subject goods: i. Can-body Stock – also includes Can End Stock (CES) used to make aluminium cans ii. Aluminium Foil up to 80 microns. 2. The anti-dumping duty imposed under this notification shall be effective for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier) from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, and shall be payable in Indian currency. [Notification No. 68/2021-Customs (ADD)]

[View Document](#)

CBIC determines Exchange Rate of Foreign Currency relating to Imported and Exported Goods on December 02, 2021

Dec 03, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on December 02, 2021 releases the Exchange Rate Notification for valuation of goods for purposes of assessment under the Customs Act, 1962. In

international trade, the value of goods is determined by converting the foreign currency into INR using the customs exchange rate. This is the deemed value of goods on which a duty of customs will be chargeable. The CBIC has issued an exchange rate Notification determining the rate of exchange of conversion of the below mentioned foreign currencies in Indian rupees which will be effective from November 19, 2021: • Australian Dollar • Bahrain Dinar • Canadian Dollar • Chinese Yuan • Danish Kroner • EURO • Hong Kong Dollar • Kuwait Dinar • New Zealand Dollar • Norwegian Kroner • Pound Sterling • Qatari Riyal • Saudi Arabian Riyal • Singapore Dollar • South African Rand • Swedish Kroner • Swiss Franc • Turkish Lira • UAE Dirham • US Dollar • Japanese Yen • Korean Won [Notification No.96/2021 - Customs (N.T.)]

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Central Goods and Services Tax (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 02, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on December 1, 2021 has issued the Central Goods and Services Tax (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017. The following amendment has been made: • Rule 137, which specifies Tenure of Authority has been substituted, namely: Tenure of Authority.-The Authority shall cease to exist after the expiry of [five years]253 from the date on which the Chairman enters upon his office unless the Council recommends otherwise. with effect from November 30, 2021. • FORM GST DRC-03 has also been amended. *Disclaimer – Kindly find the detailed amendment of FORM GST DRC-03 in the provided link. [Notification No. 37/2021–Central Tax]

[View Document](#)

National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021

Dec 02, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Finance on December 1, 2021 has issued the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021. This shall come into force on December 1, 2021. The following amendments have been made to the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021 namely: - • In Section 15(1) which specify “The Board shall constitute a Nomination and Remuneration Committee, a Risk Management Committee and an Audit Committee, each consisting of a minimum of three directors with independent directors forming a majority.” The following proviso shall be inserted namely: - “Provided that, the first Nomination and Remuneration Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and the directors nominated by the Central Government under clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 6” [Order No. S.O. 4915(E)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Commerce and Industry issues approval for continuation of the SIP

Dec 01, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry on November 29, 2021 has issued notification to inform the approval for continuation of the Scheme for Investment Promotion (SIP). The following “Scheme for Investment Promotion” has been approved with the following components namely: - • Investor targeting & facilitation – Domestic & International activities • Investment promotion - Amplification & outreach activities • Project management activities • Foreign Travel [Notification No. P-36017/256/2020]

[View Document](#)

CBIC amends tariff values for certain goods

Dec 01, 2021 | Central | Finance & Taxation

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) on November 30, 2021 has issued amendment to the notification S. O. 748 (E) which specify “tariff values for certain goods”. This shall come into force with effect from December 1, 2021. The tariff value of the following goods has been amended namely: - • Crude Palm Oil • RBD Palm Oil • Others – Palm Oil • Crude Palmolein • RBD Palmolein • Others – Palmolein • Crude Soya bean Oil • Brass Scrap (all grades) • Gold • Silver • Areca Nuts [Notification No. S.O. 4912(E)]

[View Document](#)

Industry Specific

Draft Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Construction of Electrical Plants and Electric Lines) Regulations, 2021

Dec 31, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific



The Ministry of Power on December 30, 2021 has issued the Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Construction of Electrical Plants and Electric Lines) Regulations, 2021 to replace the Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Construction of Electrical Plants and Electric Lines) Regulations, 2010. The foremost provisions of the act are as followed: • General Requirements- (1) The Electrical Plants and Electric Lines shall be suitable for full range of ambient and other environmental conditions as prevailing at site. (2) The various parts or components or assemblies of equipment and systems shall be of proven materials with well-established physical and chemical properties appropriate to the service as intended. (3) All equipment and systems installed shall comply with the provisions of statutes, regulations and safety codes, as applicable. (4) The Electrical Plants and Electric Lines shall be designed to comply with requirements stipulated in other CEA Regulations as well, framed under Electricity Act 2003. (5) (a) The design, construction and testing of all equipment, facilities, components and systems shall be in accordance with latest version of relevant standards and codes issued by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and/or reputed international standards viz. IEC Standard/ ASME/ DIN or equivalent and codes. However, in the event of any conflict between the requirements of the international standards or codes and the requirements of the BIS (Bureau of Indian standards) standards or codes, the latter shall prevail. (b) For standardization of Test Protocols in Power Sector, "CEA Guidelines for the validity period of Type Test Certificate for Major Electro-Mechanical Equipment in Power Sector" shall be followed. (6) All materials, components and equipment shall be tested at all stages of procurement, manufacturing, erection, commissioning as per comprehensive Quality Assurance Programme to be agreed mutually between the Owner and the equipment supplier and which shall comply to the "CEA Guidelines on Model Quality Assurance Programme (QAP) for Major Electro-Mechanical Equipment in Power Sector". (7) The SI (International System) or MKS (metre, kilogram and second) system of units shall be used for design, drawings, diagrams, instruments etc. (8) The owner shall retain at the site following documents: (a) As-built drawings including, but not limited to the civil and architectural works; (b) Copies of the project design memorandum, technical description, data sheets, operating manuals and manufacturer's warranties for all major items and/ or equipment; (c) Copies of the results of all tests performed as per contract and; (d) Technical documents relating to the design, engineering and construction of the electrical plant and/or electric line. (9) (a) The Owner shall implement information technology based system for effective project monitoring so as to facilitate timely execution of the projects of capacity equal to or higher than capacity indicated below : (i) Thermal generating station : 250 MW; (ii) Hydro generating station : 100 MW; (iii) Transmission lines and sub-stations : 220 kV and above. (b) The system shall monitor status of ordering, engineering, supplies and physical progress of site activities and help in identifying the bottlenecks in

achieving the scheduled completion of the project. The system shall be web based and shall have connectivity with major suppliers/contractors and shall also have provision for connection to centralized project monitoring system of the Authority. • Protective Guard, Anti Climbing Devices and Danger Plates - Protective Guard, anti-climbing devices and danger plates shall be provided in accordance with Central Electricity Authority (Measures Relating to Safety and Electricity Supply), Regulations, 2010 as amended from time to time. • Repeal and Saving (1) The Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Construction of Electrical Plants and Electric Lines) Regulations, 2010 is hereby repealed. (2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or purported to have been done under the repealed regulations shall be deemed to have been done or purported to have been done under the relevant provisions of these regulations. • Relaxation of Regulations- The Authority may, by order and for reasons to be recorded in writing, relax any of provisions of these regulations in respect of the matters referred to the Authority on case-to-case basis. All the Stakeholders and members of public are requested to send their comments/ suggestions/ objections on aforementioned draft regulations to Chief Engineer (Legal), Sewa Bhawan (North Wing), Room No. 622, 6th Floor, R. K. Puram, New Delhi-110066 by post or through e-mail (celegal-cea@gov.in) latest by February 14, 2022. Notification NO. CEA/TETD/MP/R/01/2010]

[View Document](#)

SEBI extends the timeline for modified reporting requirements for AIFs

Dec 31, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 30, 2021 has issued a circular to extend the timeline for modified reporting requirements for AIFs, which was specified in the Circular No. SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-I/DOF6/CIR/2021/549 dated April 07, 2021 after receiving certain requests from AIF Industry to extend the aforesaid timeline for applicability of the modified reporting requirements. The SEBI has decided that the modified reporting requirements shall be applicable for quarter ending September 30, 2022 onwards. [Circular No. SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-I/DOF6/CIR/2021/700]

[View Document](#)

DoT amends Voicemail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging Service License Agreement

Dec 31, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on December 30, 2021 has issued amendment in Voicemail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging Service License Agreement. This will come into effect from January 1, 2022. The following amendments were made namely: - • In the Condition which specify "Ownership of Licensee Company" the following was substituted namely: - "FDI up to 100% under automatic route subject to observance of licensing and security conditions by licensee as well as investors as notified by the DoT from time to time". • In the condition which specify "Fees Payable" the following shall be substituted namely: - "An annual License fee as a percentage of adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) shall be paid by the Licensee service-area wise, from the date of issue of the amendment to the license agreement. The License fee shall be 8% of the AGR, inclusive of USO Levy which is presently 5% of AGR. Provided that from Second Year from the date of issue of this amendment, the License fee shall be subject to a minimum of One Lakh. • In the Condition which specify "Technical Conditions" the following was substituted namely:- "The technology for Voice Mail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging/Audio Conferencing Services shall be based on latest

standards/service requirements issued by TEC as amended or issued from time to time. • In the Condition which specify "The Applicable System" the following substituted namely: - The equipment/system capable of providing Voice Mail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging Services/Audio Conference services shall be as per technical and quality requirement contained in latest standard/service requirements for the said services, as issued from time to time. [File No. 11/10/2020-Policy]

[View Document](#)

MeitY issues Amendments in PLI Scheme

Dec 31, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on December 30, 2021 has issued Amendments in Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for IT Hardware – reg. The following were amended namely: - • The PCB Assembly may be localized if Assembled domestically by the applicant company itself or through one of its vendors subject to the condition that investment for PCB Assembly will be capitalized in the books of accounts of the applicant company. It has Applicable incentive of 4% from April 1, 2022. • The Battery Packs may be localized if Assembled domestically, either by the applicant company itself or through one of its vendors. (not applicable for All-in-One PCs and Servers). It has Applicable incentive of 2% from April 1, 2023. • The Power Adapters / SMPS may be localized if Assembled domestically, either by the applicant company itself or through one of its vendors. It has Applicable incentive of 1% from April 1, 2024. [Notification No. File No. W-17/9/2021-IPHW]

[View Document](#)

Delhi Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) General (Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi on December 27, 2021 has issued the Delhi Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) General (Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Delhi Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) General Rules, 2000. The following amendment has been made: In Rule 24(1) which specifies intimation about a change of constitution of a firm, the words "fifteen days" shall be substituted with the words "sixty days" (Order No. 2917)

[View Document](#)

FSSAI clarifies in respect of Display of Information in food Service establishments

Dec 29, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Food safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on December 28, 2021 has issued clarification on provision of sub-regulation 2.4.6 of regulation 2.4 of Food safety and standards (Packaging labelling) Regulations, information in food .and service establishments. clause (4) of the sub-regulation specifically requires food service establishments having central license or outlet at ten or more locations to provide nutritional information as specified under clause (3) of sub-regulation 2.2.2 for the food items sold by them to

consumers upon request in the form of booklets or handouts or on their website. FSSAI has clarified that clause (3), proviso (i) of sub-regulation 2.2.2 related to exemption from nutritional labelling is a generic provision and the sub-regulation 2.4.6 that requires display of information in food service establishments is a specific provision of later origin and, therefore, has an overriding effect on the provision related to general exemption from nutritional labelling. All the Food Service Establishments shall comply to this regulation from January 01, 2022. [Notification No. F. No. RCD-12001/ L/2021-Regulatory-FSSAI (E-3842)]

[View Document](#)

FSSAI issues Direction for Display of information for food service

Dec 29, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on December 28, 2021 has issued Direction on provisions for Display of information for food service. The following was stated namely: - • The provisions for 'Display of information in food service establishments' as per the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011 shall be enforced from January 1, 2022. • To give relaxation for the practice of Menu Labelling, no sampling of the food items listed on the menu cards/boards/booklets by the FBOs shall be carried out to check/verify/ the respective declarations of calorific value and nutritional information till June 30, 2022. [Notification No. RCD-15001/6/2021-Regulatory-FSSAI-Part(2) (E-1788)]

[View Document](#)

University Grants Commission (Establishment and Operation of Academic Bank of Credits in Higher Education) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2021

Dec 29, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on December 28, 2021 has issued the University Grants Commission (Establishment and Operation of Academic Bank of Credits in Higher Education) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2021 to amend the University Grants Commission (Establishment and Operation of Academic Bank Of Credits in Higher Education) Regulations, 2021. The following amendments have been made: • In regulation 7, which specifies Eligibility Criteria for approval of HEIs to register with Academic Bank of Credits, sub-regulation (1) has been substituted, namely: "(1) Universities and Autonomous Colleges satisfying sub-regulation (2) of regulation 1 and the Institutions of National Importance as declared by the Government of India and specially empowered by an Act of Parliament to confer or grant degrees." • In regulation 7, which specifies Eligibility Criteria for approval of HEIs to register with Academic Bank of Credits, sub-regulation (2) has been omitted. And Sub regulations 3, 4, 5 and 6 of regulation 7 shall be read as 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively. [Notification No. F. No. 14-31/2018(CPP-II)]

[View Document](#)

FSSAI issues Extension of period for modification/migration of License

Dec 28, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on December 27, 2021 has issued Extension of period for modification/migration of License by existing FSSAI Licensed Manufacturers – reg The following was stated namely: - • The last date for mandatory modification/migration has been extended to March 31, 2022. FBOs who do not get their license modified/migrated after this, shall not be able to apply for renewal of license. [Order No. 15(31)2020/FoSCoS/RCD/FSSAIpt9]

[View Document](#)

FSSAI extends timeline for compliance of standards of packaged Drinking Water

Dec 28, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on December 23, 2021 has issued Extension of timeline for the compliance regarding to standards of packaged Drinking Water (other than Mineral Water). The following was stated namely: - • The timeline for compliance in respect of the limits of Calcium and Magnesium specified in the standards of Packaged Drinking Water (other than Mineral Water) is extended up to July 1, 2022. [Notification No. Stds/SP-water & Beverages /Misc(2)/2019-FSSAI]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Steel amends notification relating to PLI Scheme

Dec 27, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Steel on December 24, 2021 has issued amendment to Notification No. S-21018/1/2020-TRADE-TAX-PART (1) dated July 29, 2021 which specify “Production linked incentive scheme (PLI) for specialty steel in India” The following amendments have been made namely: - • Table-1 of Para 3 which specify “production-linked incentive provided to companies” the PLI Slab has been amended in the following manner namely: - 2023-24 2024-25 2025-26 2026-27 2027-28 • Para 9.1 will be substituted namely: - “Incentive under the Scheme shall be provided for a maximum period of five (05) years. The release of incentive will be from FY 2024-25 to 2030-31 based on the achievements made by different companies in keeping with the details to be notified in the Scheme guidelines. The incentive shall be payable to eligible companies for incremental production on a year-on-year basis, subject to such production being above the eligible threshold prescribed for each product category and achievement of committed eligible investment threshold for ‘Specialty Steel’ manufactured in India and covered under the PLI Scheme. The period of five (05) years will commence from FY 2023-24 (PLI to be released in FY 2024-25). The initial year may, however, be deferred by up to two (02) years in case of specific product categories within the overall budgetary allocation. [Notification No. S-21018/1/2020-TRADE-TAX-PART(1)]

[View Document](#)

Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021

Dec 27, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Law and Justice on December 25, 2021 has issued the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 to constitute National Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Board, State Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Boards and appointment of appropriate authorities for regulation of the practice and process of surrogacy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The foremost provisions of the act are as follows:

- **Prohibition and regulation of surrogacy clinics.** On and from the date of commencement of this Act,— (i) no surrogacy clinic, unless registered under this Act, shall conduct or associate with, or help in any manner, in conducting activities relating to surrogacy and surrogacy procedures; (ii) no surrogacy clinic, paediatrician, gynaecologist, embryologist, registered medical practitioner or any person shall conduct, offer, undertake, promote or associate with or avail of commercial surrogacy in any form; (iii) no surrogacy clinic shall employ or cause to be employed or take services of any person, whether on honorary basis or on payment, who does not possess such qualifications as may be prescribed; (iv) no registered medical practitioner, gynaecologist, paediatrician, embryologist or any other person shall conduct or cause to be conducted or aid in conducting by himself or through any other person surrogacy or surrogacy procedures at a place other than a place registered under this Act; (v) no surrogacy clinic, registered medical practitioner, gynaecologist, paediatrician, embryologist or any other person shall promote, publish, canvass, propagate or advertise or cause to be promoted, published, canvassed, propagated or advertised which— (a) is aimed at inducing or is likely to induce a woman to act as a surrogate mother; (b) is aimed at promoting a surrogacy clinic for commercial surrogacy or promoting commercial surrogacy in general; (c) seeks or aimed at seeking a woman to act as a surrogate mother; (d) states or implies that a woman is willing to become a surrogate mother; or (e) advertises commercial surrogacy in print or electronic media or in any other form; (vi) no surrogacy clinic, registered medical practitioner, gynaecologist, paediatrician, embryologist, intending couple or any other person shall conduct or cause abortion during the period of surrogacy without the written consent of the surrogate mother and on authorisation of the same by the appropriate authority concerned: Provided that the authorisation of the appropriate authority shall be subject to, and in compliance with, the provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971; (vii) no surrogacy clinic, registered medical practitioner, gynaecologist, paediatrician, embryologist, intending couple or any other person shall store a human embryo or gamete for the purpose of surrogacy: Provided that nothing contained in this clause shall affect such storage for other legal purposes like sperm banks, IVF and medical research for such period and in such manner as may be prescribed; (viii) no surrogacy clinic, registered medical practitioner, gynaecologist, paediatrician, embryologist, intending couple or any other person shall in any form conduct or cause to be conducted sex selection for surrogacy.
- **Prohibition of conducting surrogacy** No person including a relative or husband of a surrogate mother or intending couple or intending woman shall seek or encourage to conduct any surrogacy or surrogacy procedures on her except for the purpose specified in clause (ii) of section 4.
- **Rights of surrogate child.** A child born out of surrogacy procedure, shall be deemed to be a biological child of the intending couple or intending woman and the said child shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges available to a natural child under any law for time being in force.
- **Prohibition of abortion.** No person, organisation, surrogacy clinic, laboratory or clinical establishment of any kind shall force the surrogate mother to abort at any stage of surrogacy except in such conditions as may be prescribed.
- **Registration of surrogacy clinics** (1) No person shall establish any surrogacy clinic for undertaking surrogacy or to render surrogacy procedures in any form unless such clinic is duly registered under this Act. (2) Every application for registration under sub-section (1) shall be made to the appropriate authority in such form, manner and shall be accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed. (3) Every surrogacy clinic which is conducting surrogacy or surrogacy procedures, partly or exclusively, referred to in clause (ii) of section 4 shall, within a period of sixty days from the date of appointment of appropriate authority, apply for registration: Provided that such clinic shall cease to conduct any such counselling or procedures on the expiry of six months from the date of commencement of this Act, unless such clinic has applied for registration and is so registered separately or till such application is disposed of, whichever is

earlier. (4) No surrogacy clinic shall be registered under this Act, unless the appropriate authority is satisfied that such clinic is in a position to provide such facilities and maintain such equipment and standards including specialised manpower, physical infrastructure and diagnostic facilities as may be prescribed.

• **Cancellation or suspension of registration** (1) The appropriate authority may, suo motu or on receipt of a complaint, issue a notice to the surrogacy clinic to show cause as to why its registration should not be suspended or cancelled for the reasons mentioned in the notice. (2) If after giving a reasonable opportunity of being heard to the surrogacy clinic, the appropriate authority is satisfied that there has been a breach of the provisions of the Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder, it may, without prejudice to any criminal action that it may take against such clinic, suspend its registration for such period as it may think fit or cancel its registration, as the case may be. (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-sections (1) and (2), if the appropriate authority is of the opinion that it is necessary or expedient to do so in the public interest, it may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, suspend the registration of any surrogacy clinic without issuing any notice under sub-section (1).

• **OFFENCES AND PENALTIES**

o **Prohibition of commercial surrogacy, exploitation of surrogate mothers and children born through surrogacy.** (1) No person, organisation, surrogacy clinic, laboratory or clinical establishment of any kind shall— (a) undertake commercial surrogacy, provide commercial surrogacy or its related component procedures or services in any form or run a racket or an organised group to empanel or select surrogate mothers or use individual brokers or intermediaries to arrange for surrogate mothers and for surrogacy procedures, at such clinics, laboratories or at any other place; (b) issue, publish, distribute, communicate or cause to be issued, published, distributed or communicated, any advertisement in any manner regarding commercial surrogacy by any means whatsoever, scientific or otherwise; (c) abandon or disown or exploit or cause to be abandoned, disowned or exploited in any form, the child or children born through surrogacy; (d) exploit or cause to be exploited the surrogate mother or the child born through surrogacy in any manner whatsoever; (e) sell human embryo or gametes for the purpose of surrogacy and run an agency, a racket or an organisation for selling, purchasing or trading in human embryos or gametes for the purpose of surrogacy; (f) import or shall help in getting imported in, whatsoever manner, the human embryo or human gametes for surrogacy or for surrogacy procedures; and (g) conduct sex selection in any form for surrogacy. (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Penal Code, contraventions of the provisions of clauses (a) to (g) of sub-section (1) by any person shall be an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years and with fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees. (3) For the purposes of this section, the expression “advertisement” includes any notice, circular, label, wrapper or any other document including advertisement through internet or any other media, in electronic or print form and also includes any visible representation made by means of any hoarding, wall-painting, signal light, sound, smoke or gas.

o **Punishment for not following altruistic surrogacy** Any intending couple or intending woman or any person who seeks the aid of any surrogacy clinic, laboratory or of a registered medical practitioner, gynaecologist, paediatrician, embryologist or any other person for not following the altruistic surrogacy or for conducting surrogacy procedures for commercial purposes shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees for the first offence and for any subsequent offence with imprisonment which may extend to ten years and with fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees.

o **Penalty for contravention of provisions of Act or rules for which no specific punishment is provided.** Whoever contravenes any of the provisions of this Act, rules or regulations made thereunder for which no penalty has been provided in this Act, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees and in the case of continuing contravention with an additional fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees for every day during which such contravention continues after conviction for the first such contravention.

o **Presumption in the case of surrogacy** Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, the court shall presume, unless the contrary is proved, that the women or surrogate mother was compelled by her husband, the

intending couple or any other relative, as the case may be, to render surrogacy services, procedures or to donate gametes for the purpose other than those specified in clause (ii) of section 4 and such person shall be liable for abetment of such offence under section 40 and shall be punishable for the offence specified under that section.

o Offence to be cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, every offence under this Act shall be cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable.

o Cognizance of offences. (1) No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act except on a complaint in writing made by— (a) the appropriate authority concerned, or any officer or an agency authorised in this behalf by the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, or the appropriate authority; or (b) a person including a social organisation who has given notice of not less than fifteen days in the manner prescribed, to the appropriate authority, of the alleged offence and of his intention to make a complaint to the court. (2) No court inferior to that of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence punishable under this Act.

o Certain provisions of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 not to apply Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, Chapter XXI A of the said Code relating to plea bargaining shall not apply to the offences under this Act.

• Power to make rules (1) The Central Government may, by notification and subject to the condition of pre-publication, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act. (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for— (a) the prescribed expenses under clauses (b), (f) and (q) of sub-section (1) of section 2; (b) the minimum qualifications for persons employed at a registered surrogacy clinic under clause (iii) of section 3; (c) the period and manner in which a person shall store human embryo or gamete under clause (vii) of section 3; (d) the form and manner of application for obtaining certificate of recommendation from the Board under proviso to sub-clause (a) of clause (ii) of section 4; (e) the insurance coverage in favour of the surrogate mother from an insurance company and the manner of such coverage under item (III) of sub-clause (a) of clause (iii) of section 4; (f) the number of attempts of surrogacy or providing of gametes under the proviso to item (III) of sub-clause (b) of clause (iii) of section 4; (g) the form in which consent of a surrogate mother has to be obtained under clause (ii) of section 6; (h) the number of oocytes or embryos to be implanted in the uterus of the surrogate mother under section 9; (i) the conditions under which the surrogate mother may be allowed for abortion during the process of surrogacy under section 10; (j) the form and manner in which an application shall be made for registration and the fee payable thereof under sub-section (2) of section 11; (k) the facilities to be provided, equipment and other standards to be maintained by the surrogacy clinics under sub-section (4) of section 11; (l) the period, manner and form in which a certificate of registration shall be issued under sub-section (1) of section 12; (m) the manner in which the certificate of registration shall be renewed and the fee payable for such renewal under sub-section (3) of section 12; (n) the manner in which an appeal may be preferred under section 14; (o) the qualifications and experiences of the Members as admissible under clause (f) of sub-section (2) of section 17; (p) the procedures for conducting an inquiry against the Members under sub-section (2) of section 21; (q) the conditions under which a Member of the Board eligible for re-appointment under section 24; (r) the other functions of the Board under clause (g) of section 25; (s) the manner in which reports shall be furnished by the State Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Board and the Union territory Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Board to the Board and the Central Government under clause (iii) of section 26; (t) the other functions of the State Board under clause (iv) of section 26; (u) the qualifications and experiences of the members as admissible under clause (f) of section 27; (v) the age of the person to be appointed as a member, referred to in clause (f) of section 27, under the proviso to clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 28; (w) the procedures for conducting an inquiry against the members under sub-section (2) of section 31; (x) the conditions under which the members of State Board eligible for re-appointment under section 34; (y) empowering the appropriate authority in any other matter under clause (d) of section 36; (z) the other powers of appropriate authority under clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 37; (za) the particulars

of the details of registration of surrogacy clinics, cancellation of registration, etc., in such format under sub-section (2) of section 37; (zb) the manner of giving notice by a person under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 44; (zc) the period up to which records, charts, etc., shall be preserved under sub-section (1) of section 46; (zd) the manner in which the seizure of documents, records, objects, etc., shall be made and the manner in which seizure list shall be prepared and delivered under sub-section (1) of section 47; and (ze) any other matter which is to be, or may be, or in respect of which provision is to be made by rules. • Power to make regulations The Board may, with the prior approval of the Central Government, by notification, make regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder to provide for— (a) the fulfilment of any other condition under which eligibility certificate to be issued by the appropriate authority under sub-clause (d) of clause (v) of section 4; (b) the time and place of the meetings of the Board and the procedure to be followed for the transaction of business at such meetings and the number of Members which shall form the quorum under sub-section (1) of section 19; (c) the manner in which a person may be temporarily associated with the Board under sub-section (1) of section 22; (d) the time and place of the meetings of the State Board and the procedure to be followed for the transaction of business at such meetings and the number of members which shall form the quorum under sub-section (1) of section 29; (e) the manner in which a person may be temporarily associated with the Board under sub-section (1) of section 32; and (f) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, specified by regulations. [(ACT NO. 47 OF 2021)]

[View Document](#)

The Medical Devices (Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 26, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on December 23, 2021 has issued the Medical Devices (.....Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend Medical Device Rules, 2017. The following amendment has been made: • In Rule 46, the following rule shall be substituted, namely:— “46. Unique device identification of the medical device.— With effect from the date as may be specified by Central Government, a medical device, approved for manufacture for sale or distribution or import, shall bear unique device identification in the manner as may be determined.” [Notification No. S.O. 877(E)]

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Directorate General of Health Services evaluates FDCs

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Directorate General of Health Services on December 21, 2021 has issued notice on Evaluation of certain pre 1988 permitted Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) de novo for manufacture for sale in the country without due approval from Central Licensing Authority. The following was stated namely: - • The concerned stakeholders are invited to attend and present via Video Conference (WebEX) on December 29 and 30, 2021 with respect to FDCs • Confirm Participation at fdc@cdsco.nic.in [Notification No. 4-01/2013-DC (Misc. 13 PSC Part III)]

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Directorate General of Health Services issues notice regarding evaluation of FDCs

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Directorate General of Health Services on December 21, 2021 has issued notice on Evaluation of certain pre 1988 permitted Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) de novo for manufacture for sale in the country without due approval from Central Licensing Authority. The following was stated namely: - • The concerned stakeholders are invited to attend and present via Video Conference (WebEX) on December 29 and 30, 2021 with respect to FDCs • Confirm Participation at fdc@cdsco.nic.in [Notification No. 4-01/2013-DC (Misc. 13 PSC Part III)]

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CBIC Notifies on disposal of hazardous goods by revenue industries

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs (CBIC) on December 23, 2021 has issued a notification regarding the infrastructure available for testing of samples related to disposal of the Hazardous goods by revenue industries. Identification of hazardous goods is key to effective monitoring. Towards this objective, the Annexure-I & Annexure-II enclosed with this instruction provide details of infrastructure available in various CRCL laboratories for testing of samples as per Schedule-III (List of Hazardous Wastes) and Schedule II (List of waste constituents with their limits) of Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2016. The DG Systems has also enabled a 'CRCL module', in ICES with the objective of automating paperwork related to sampling, forwarding of test memos to CRCL and other Revenue Laboratories, and electronic receipt of test reports, by the Customs Officers. *Disclaimer – Kindly find Annexure I and Annexure II in the provided link. [Instruction No. 29 of 2021 – customs]

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Directorate General of Health Services issues notice about evaluation of FDCs

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Directorate General of Health Services on December 21, 2021 has issued notice on Evaluation of certain pre 1988 permitted Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) de novo for manufacture for sale in the country without due approval from Central Licensing Authority. The following was stated namely: - • The concerned stakeholders are invited to attend and present via Video Conference (WebEX) on December 29 and 30, 2021 with respect to FDCs • Confirm Participation at fdc@cdsco.nic.in [Notification No. 4-01/2013-DC (Misc. 13 PSC Part III)]

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FSSAI issues online Renewal procedure of FSM certificates

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on December 22, 2021 has issued the online Renewal procedure of FSM certificates. The following was stated namely: - • Application for renewal of the certificate is possible from a period of 6 months before the expiry date and upto 6 months after the expiry date of the certificate. • FSM applying for 50 or more Licenses/Registrations in the period from the date of issuance of the last certificate to the date of expiry of the certificate, shall be allowed for the instant renewal of his/her certificate and extend the validity by 2 years on providing the Consent/Declaration. • FSM who have not applied, will be required to reappear for the FSM test on the deposition of exam registration fee of Rs.500 • Application for withdrawal of FSM Certificate and Security Deposit, can take place through the FSM portal only. [Notification No. 1-2/Food Safety Mitra/FSSAI/2019-2020]

[View Document](#)

FSSAI instructs on Statutory inspections of premises of Food Business Operators as per FSS Act

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) on December 23, 2021 has issued a notification on Statutory inspections of premises of Food Business Operators as per FSS Act. It is noticed by FSSAI that statutory inspections of the premises of Food Business Operators (FBOs) are being carried out by the Technical Officers and on the basis of such inspections various penal provisions as per FSS Act, 2006 including sanction for prosecution are being enforced. Now under Section 38 of FSS Act, 2006 under which the Food Safety Officers (State/Central) are empowered to inspect the premises of the FBOs for taking enforcement action against defaulting FBOs as per the provisions of the Act and Rules/Regulations made thereunder. FSSAI advised to adhere to the statutory provisions of the FSS Act, 2006 and diligently follow the procedure laid down under the Act and Rules/Regulations made thereunder while taking actions against the Food Business Operators, including carrying of inspections, sampling etc., so that the persecution/ adjudication cases are not vitiated due to technical and legal lacunae.

[View Document](#)

IFSCA defers the levy of regulatory fee

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) on December 23, 2021 has issued circular regarding Regulatory fee structure for recognised stock exchanges in the IFSC. The following was stated namely: - • It has been decided to defer the levy of regulatory fee of USD 1,000/- in respect of listing of privately placed debt securities, till March 31, 2023. [Notification No. IFSCA-PLNP/5/2021-Capital Markets]

[View Document](#)

Khadi and Village Industries Commission Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulation, 2021

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Micro, small and Medium Enterprises on December 13, 2021 has issued the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulation, 2021 to amend the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Regulations, 2003. The following amendment has been made: • In regulation (7), which specifies Authority to institute proceedings, the following sub-regulations have been inserted, namely: (3) (a) The departmental proceedings if instituted while the employee was in service, whether before his retirement or during his re-employment, shall, after the final retirement of the employee of the Commission be deemed to be proceedings under this regulation and shall be continued or concluded by the authority by which they were commenced in the same manner as if the employee of the Commission had continued in service: Provided that where the departmental proceedings are instituted by an authority subordinate to the Commission, that authority shall submit a report recording its findings to the Commission. (b) The departmental proceedings, if not instituted while the Commission's employee was in service whether before his retirement or during his re-employment,- (i) shall not be instituted save with the sanction of the Commission; (ii) shall not be in respect of any event which took place, more than four years before such institution; and (iii) shall be conducted by such authority and in such places as the Commission may direct and in accordance with the procedure applicable to departmental proceedings in which an order of dismissal from service could be made in relation to the employee of the Commission during his service. (c) An employee covered under the provisions of clause-(a) of Sub-Regulation-3 of Regulation – 7 referred to above shall not be entitled to receive any retiral benefits till the proceedings are completed and final order is passed thereon, except those permissible under the relevant Rules. [Notification No. G.S.R. 878 (E)]

[View Document](#)

TRAI extends last date for comments/counter comments on consultation paper Auction of Spectrum in frequency bands identified for IMT / 5G

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on December 23, 2021 has issued Extension of last date to receive comments/counter comments on TRAI Consultation Paper on "Auction of Spectrum in frequency bands identified for IMT / 5G". The following was stated namely: - • The last date of submissions is namely: - Written Comments – January 10, 2022 Counter Comments – January 24, 2022 • The comments/counter comments can be sent at advmn@traigov.in. [Press Release No.62/2021]

[View Document](#)

UGC issues adoption of e-Sign services across various citizen centric services

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on December 22, 2021 has issued Adoption of e-Sign services across various citizen centric services – Reg The following was stated namely: - • Higher Education Institutes

(HEIs) are requested to adopt the e-Sign services of 'e-Hastakshar' under the Digital India programme.
[Notification No. 1 -31/2021 (e-Gov.)]

[View Document](#)

TRAI extends the last date to receive comments/counter comments on TRAI Consultation Paper on “Ease of Doing Business in Telecom and Broadcasting Sector”

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Telecom and Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on December 23, 2021 has issued a press release on extension of the last date to receive comments/counter comments on TRAI Consultation Paper on “Ease of Doing Business in Telecom and Broadcasting Sector” which was published on December 08, 2021 and for which the last date for receiving written comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper from the stakeholders was fixed as January 05, 2022 and for counter comments as January 19, 2022. After receiving certain requests from the stakeholders and Industry Associations, TRAI has decided to extend the last date for submission of written comments and counter comments up to January 19, 2022 and February 02, 2022 respectively. No further requests for extension would be considered. The comments/counter comments may be sent to Shri Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Advisor (B&CS), TRAI, preferably in electronic form at dyadvbcs-1@traigov.in. For any clarification/information, Advisor (B&CS) may be contacted at Telephone Number +91-11-23237922. [(Press Release No. 61/2021)]

[View Document](#)

CVC instructs to adhere to the provisions of SOP for implementation of integrity pact

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) on December 20, 2021 has issued a circular regarding the adherence to the provisions of Standard of procedure (SOP) for implementation of integrity pact. According to the provisions of SOP, Independent External Monitors (IEMs) to be appointed by the respective organizations to oversee implementation of Integrity Pact, it has been provided that meetings of IEMs in each organization are to be held on quarterly basis and if need be, on monthly or bimonthly basis. CVC also instructs organisation to have structured meetings of IEMs with the Chief Executive of the respective organizations, on half yearly basis. [Circular No. 23/12/21]

[View Document](#)

DoT amends UAS License Agreement for change in time period of storage of Call Detail Record (CDR)/ Exchange Detail Record (EDR)/ IP Detail Record (IPDR)

Dec 23, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on December 21, 2021 has issued a notification to amend Unified Access Service (UAS) License Agreement for change in time period of storage of Call Detail Record (CDR)/ Exchange Detail Record (EDR)/ IP Detail Record (IPDR) under Condition 5.1 of Part-I of UAS

License Agreement, the Licensor reserves the right to modify at any time the terms and conditions of the LICENSE, if in opinion of the Licensor it is necessary or expedient to do so in public interest or in interest of the security of the State or for the proper conduct of the telegraphs. The following amendment has been made: • In PART-VI, which specifies SECURITY CONDITIONS, has been substituted, namely: 41.17 The Licensee shall maintain all commercial records/ Call Detail Record (CDR)/ Exchange Detail Record (EDR)/ IP Detail Record (IPDR) with regard to the communications exchanged on the network. Such records shall be archived for at least two years for scrutiny by the Licensor for security reasons and may be destroyed thereafter unless directed otherwise by the Licensor. Licensor may issue directions /instructions from time to time with respect to commercial records/CDR/IPDR/ EDR. [Notification No. 20/271/2010 AS-I (VOL-III)]

[View Document](#)

DoT amends UL(VNO) Agreement for change in time period of storage of Call Detail Record (CDR)/ Exchange Detail Record (EDR)/ IP Detail Record (IPDR)

Dec 23, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on December 21, 2021 has issued a notification to amend Unified License (Virtual Network Operators) (UL(VNO)) Agreement for change in time period of storage of Call Detail Record (CDR)/ Exchange Detail Record (EDR)/ IP Detail Record (IPDR) under Condition 5.1 of Chapter-I of UL (VNO) License Agreement, the Licensor reserves the right to modify at any time the terms and conditions of the License, if in the opinion of the Licensor it is necessary or expedient to do so in public interest or in the interest of the security of the State or for the proper conduct of the telegraphs. The following amendments have been made: • In PART-I, CHAPTER-VI, which specifies SECURITY CONDITIONS has been substituted, namely: o 38.20- The Licensee shall, if equipment is owned by Licensee, maintain all commercial records/ Call Detail Record (CDR)/ Exchange Detail Record (EDR)/ IP Detail Record (IPDR) with regard to the communications exchanged on the network. Such records shall be archived for at least two years for scrutiny by the Licensor for security reasons and may be destroyed thereafter unless directed otherwise by the Licensor. Licensor may issue directions/ instructions from time to time with respect to commercial records/ CDR/IPDR/ EDR. [Notification No. 20/271/2010 AS-I (VOL-III)]

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DoT issues Revised Guidelines for Registration of Infrastructure Providers – Category – I (IP-I)

Dec 23, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on December 22, 2021 has issued Revised Guidelines for Registration of Infrastructure Providers – Category – I (IP-I). The following was stated namely: - • Applicant must be an Indian company, registered under the Companies Act, 1956/2013. • The company shall submit the application for registration in the prescribed form. • The applicant company shall be informed of the approval or rejection of the application as far as practicable within 15 days of submission of the application. • The IP-I registered company shall submit a copy of an agreement entered into with the telecom service providers to the DOT within 15 days of signing of such agreement. • The applicant company shall pay a processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (non-refundable) through digital payments. [Notification No. 10-12/2021-CS-III]

[View Document](#)

Refrigerating Appliances (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2021

Dec 23, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry on December 22, 2021 has issued The Refrigerating Appliances (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2021 to further amend The Refrigerating Appliances (Quality Control) Order, 2020. This shall come into force from December 22, 2021. The following amendments has been made namely: -

- The table which specify “The Indian Standard of goods” has been substituted namely: - Household Refrigerating Appliances - IS 17550 (Part 1): 2021 - Household Refrigerating Appliances—Characteristics and Test Methods Part-1 General Requirements. Freezers - IS 7872: 2018 – Freezers – Specification [Order No. S.O 5339(E)]

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DoT amends UL Agreement for change in time period of storage of Call Detail Record (CDR)/ Exchange Detail Record (EDR)/ IP Detail Record (IPDR)

Dec 23, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on December 21, 2021 has issued a notification to amend Unified License Agreement for change in time period of storage of Call Detail Record (CDR)/ Exchange Detail Record (EDR)/ IP Detail Record (IPDR) under Condition 5.1 of Chapter-I of Unified License (UL) Agreement, the Licensor reserves the right to modify at any time the terms and conditions of the License, if Licensor it's necessary or expedient to do so in public interest or in the interest of the security of the State or for the proper conduct of the telegraphs.

- The following amendments have been made: In PART-I, CHARTER VI, which specifies SECURITY CONDITIONS has been substituted, namely: o 39.20 - The Licensee shall maintain all commercial records/ Call Detail Record (CDR)/ Exchange Detail Record (EDR) IP Detail Record (IPDR) with regard to the communications exchanged on the network. Such records shall be archived for at least two years for scrutiny by the Licensor for security reasons and may be destroyed thereafter unless directed otherwise by the Licensor. Licensor may issue directions /instructions from time to time with respect to commercial records/ CDR/IPDR/EDR.
- In Part-II, CHAPTER-IX INTERNET SERVICE, point 7, which specifies Security conditions has been substituted, namely: 7.1 The Licensee shall maintain CDR/IPDR for Internet including Internet Telephony Service for a minimum period of two years. Parameters of IPDR shall be maintained as per the directions/ instructions issued by the Licensor from time to time. 7.2 The Licensee shall maintain log in/log-out details of all subscribers for services provided such as internet access, e-mail, Internet Telephony, IPTV etc. These logs shall be maintained for a minimum period of two years. [Notification No. 20/271/2010 AS-I (VOL-III)]

[View Document](#)

Draft Insecticides (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 23, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) on December 17, 2021 has published the Insecticides (Draft Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Insecticides Rules, 1971. The Amendment is brought in rule 10, in sub-rule (1A) which specifies that all retailers or dealers possessing a valid licence without the prescribed qualification for the figures, letters, and word "December 31, 2021" the figures, letters, and word "December 31, 2022" shall be substituted. It will come into force on the date of their final publication in the Official Gazette. (Notification No G.S.R. 5327(E))

[View Document](#)

TRAI issues consultation paper on Promoting Local Manufacturing in the Television Broadcasting Sector

Dec 23, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on December 22, 2021 has issued consultation paper on Promoting Local Manufacturing in the Television Broadcasting Sector. The following was stated namely: - • The paper aims to identify underlying challenges as well as enabling measures that can facilitate the transition from an import-driven industry to a sustained 'Atmanirbhar ecosystem' • Submissions Can be made namely: - Written comments on the consultation paper are invited from the stakeholders by January 19, 2022. Counter comments, may be submitted by February 2, 2022. The comments and counter-comments may be sent at:- advbcs-2@traigov.in and jtadvbcs-3@traigov.in [(Press Release No. 60/2021)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Power seeks comments on draft amendments to the Guidelines for Short-Term Procurement of Power by Distribution Licensees through Tariff based bidding process

Dec 23, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Power on December 22, 2021 has issued a notification seeking comments of public and stakeholders on draft amendments to the Guidelines for Short-Term Procurement of Power (i.e. for a period of more than one day to one year) by Distribution Licensees through Tariff based bidding process, which was introduced on March 30, 2016. The following amendment has been made for which the comments and suggestions are required: • A new clause may be added after Clause 6.4 (vi) () of the existing guidelines: o 6.4 (vi), which specifies, PPA proposed to be entered with the Selected Bidder(s) shall include necessary details on: (g) Consequences on Sale of Contracted Power to Third Party without consent of the Procurer. o In case the Seller fails to offer the contracted power as per the Agreement to the Procurer and sells this power without Procurer's consent to any other party, the Procurer shall be entitled to claim damages from the Seller for an amount equal to the higher of (a) twice the Tariff as per the PPA; and (b) the entire sale revenue accrued from third Parties on account of sale of the contracted power. These damages shall be in addition to Liquidated Damages as per Para 64 (vi) (e) of existing guidelines, for failure to supply the Instructed Capacity. Further, there will not be any fixed charge liability to the procurers, for the power which was not

supplied. o On a complaint to this effect by the Procurer to the concerned load dispatch centre, the Seller shall be debarred from participating in power exchanges and scheduling of this power in any short term/ medium term / long term contracts from that generating station for a period of three months from the establishment of default, in the complaint. The period of debarment shall increase to six months for second default and shall be one year for each successive default. All persons and stakeholders are requested to provide your comments, if any, to this Ministry within 21 days from the date of this letter i.e. by 12-01-2022. At debranjan.chattopadhyay@nic.in. [Notification No.3/27/2021 – R&R]

[View Document](#)

Mediation Bill, 2021

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Rajya Sabha on December 20, 2021 has introduced the Mediation Bill, 2021 to promote and facilitate mediation, especially institutional mediation, for resolution of disputes, commercial or otherwise, enforce mediated settlement agreements, provide for a body for registration of mediators, to encourage community mediation and to make online mediation as acceptable and cost effective process and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Applicability: This Act shall apply where mediation is conducted in India, and— (i) all or both parties habitually reside in or are incorporated in or have their place of business in India; or (ii) the mediation agreement provides that any dispute shall be resolved in accordance with the provisions of this Act; or (iii) there is an international mediation. The Highlights of the Bill are as followed: • Section 7, which specifies Disputes or matters not fit for mediation. (1) A mediation under this Act shall not be conducted for resolution of any dispute or matter contained in the indicative list under the First Schedule: Provided that nothing contained herein shall prevent any court, if deemed appropriate, from referring any dispute to mediation relating to compoundable offences or matrimonial offences connected with or arising out of civil proceedings between the parties: Provided further that the outcome of such mediation shall not be deemed to be a judgment or decree of court referred to in sub-section (2) of section 28, and shall be further considered by the court in accordance with the law for the time being in force. (2) If the Central Government is satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do, it may, by notification, amend the First Schedule. • Section 9, which specifies Power of court or tribunal to refer parties to mediation: (1) Notwithstanding the failure to reach any settlement under sub-section (1) of section 6, the court or tribunal may, at any stage of proceeding, refer the parties to undertake mediation, if a request to this effect is made by them. (2) If the court or tribunal refers the parties to undertake mediation, it may pass suitable interim order to protect the interest of any party if deemed appropriate. (3) The parties shall not be under obligation to come to a settlement in the mediation pursuant to a reference under sub-section (1). • Section 12, which specifies conflict of Interest and Disclosures: (1) The person appointed as a mediator shall, prior to the conduct of mediation, disclose in writing to the parties regarding any circumstance or potential circumstance, personal, professional, financial, or otherwise, that may constitute any conflict of interest or that is likely to give rise to justifiable doubts as to his independence or impartiality as a mediator. (2) During the mediation, the mediator shall, without delay, disclose to the parties in writing any conflict of interest, referred to in sub-section (1), that has newly arisen or has come to his knowledge. (3) Upon disclosure under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), the parties shall have the option to waive any objection if all of them express in writing, which shall be construed as the consent of parties. (4) Upon disclosure under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), if either party desires to replace the mediator, then, in case of— (i) institutional mediation, such party shall apply to the mediation service provider for termination of the mandate of mediator; (ii) mediation other than institutional mediation, such party shall terminate the mandate of mediator. • Section 17, which specifies Conduct of Mediation: (1)

The mediator shall assist the parties in an independent, neutral and impartial manner in their attempt to reach an amicable settlement of their dispute. (2) The mediator shall at all times be guided by the principles of objectivity and fairness and protect the voluntariness, confidentiality and self-determination of the parties, and the standards for professional and ethical conduct as may be specified. (3) The mediation process may include the mediator taking such measures as may be considered appropriate, taking into account the circumstances of the case, including meeting with parties or participants, jointly or separately, as frequently as deemed fit by the mediator, both in order to convene the mediation, and during the mediation for the orderly and timely conduct of the process and to maintain its integrity. (4) The mediator shall not be bound by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, or the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. (5) The mediator with the consent of the parties shall determine the language or languages to be used in the mediation process.

• Section 21, which specifies Time limit for the completion of mediation: (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, mediation under this Act shall be completed within a period of one hundred and eighty days from the date fixed for the first appearance before the mediator. (2) The period for mediation mentioned under sub-section (1) may be extended for a further period as agreed by the parties, but not exceeding one hundred and eighty days.

• Section 25 which specifies termination of Mediation The mediation proceedings under this Act shall be deemed to terminate— (a) on the date of signing and authentication of the mediated settlement agreement; or (b) on the date of the written declaration of the mediator, after consultation with the parties or otherwise, to the effect that further efforts at mediation are no longer justified; or (c) on the expiry of seven days from the date of the second mediation session, where a party fails to appear before the mediator consecutively for the first two mediation sessions, and the mediator has not received any communication from such party; or (d) on the date of the communication by a party or parties in writing, addressed to the mediator and the other parties to the effect that the party wishes to opt out of mediation: Provided that the parties shall have to attend at least two mediation sessions before giving such communication; or (e) on the expiry of time limit under section 21.

• Section 32, which specifies Online Mediation: (1) Online mediation including pre-litigation mediation may be conducted at any stage of mediation under this Act, with the written consent of the parties including by the use of electronic form or computer networks but not limited to an encrypted electronic mail service, secure chat rooms or conferencing by video or audio mode or both. (2) The process of online mediation shall be in such manner as may be specified. (3) The conduct of online mediation shall be in the circumstances, which ensure that the essential elements of integrity of proceedings and confidentiality are maintained at all times and the mediator may take such appropriate steps in this regard as he deems fit. (4) Subject to the other provisions of this Act, the mediation communications in the case of online mediation shall, ensure confidentiality of mediation.

• Section 48, which specifies Power of Central Government to issue directions. (1) Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Act, the Council shall, in exercise of its powers or the performance of its functions under this Act, be bound by such directions on questions of policy as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time: Provided that the views of the Council shall be taken into consideration before any direction is given under this sub-section. (2) The decision of the Central Government whether a question is one of policy or not shall be final.

• Section 49, which specifies Power of Governments to frame schemes or guidelines. Nothing contained in this Act shall prevent the Central Government or State Government, as the case may be, from framing any scheme or guidelines, to be notified, for resolution of any dispute through mediation or conciliation in cases where the Central Government or State Government or any of its entity or agencies is one of the parties and in such cases mediation or conciliation may be conducted in accordance with such scheme or guidelines.

• Section 52, which specifies power to make rules: (1) The Central Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act. (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may make provision for— (a) the salaries and allowances and the terms and conditions of the Chairperson and Full-Time Members under sub-section (3) of section 34; (b) the travelling and other allowances payable to the Part-Time Member under sub-section (4) of section 34;

(c) the form and manner of annual statement of accounts, including the balance sheet under sub-section (1) of section 47; and (d) any other matter which is to be, or may be prescribed. • Section 53, which specifies power to make regulations: (1) The Council may, with the previous approval of the Central Government, by notification, make regulations consistent with this Act and the rules made thereunder to carry out the provisions of this Act. (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such regulations may make provision for— (a) such other forum under Explanation I to clause (l) of section 3; (b) qualification, experience and accreditation for mediators of foreign nationality under the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 10; (c) standards for professional and ethical conduct of mediators under sub-section (2) of section 17; (d) manner of registration of mediated settlement agreement under sub-section (7) of section 22; (e) fees for registration of mediated settlement agreement under the proviso to sub-section (9) of section 22; (f) manner of process of conducting online mediation under sub-section (2) of section 32; (g) the terms and conditions of experts and committees of experts under section 38; (h) qualifications, appointment and other terms and conditions of service of the Chief Executive Officer under sub-section (2) of section 39; (i) functions and duties to be performed by the Chief Executive Officer under sub-section (3) of section 39; (j) the number of officers and employees of the Secretariat of the Council under sub-section (4) of section 39; (k) the qualification, appointment and other terms and conditions of the employees and other officers of the Council under sub-section (5) of section 39; (l) conditions for registration of mediators and renewal, withdrawal, suspension or cancellations of such registrations under clause (d) of section 40; (m) criteria for recognition of mediation institutes and mediation service providers under clause (i) of section 40; (n) manner of maintenance of electronic depository of mediated settlement agreement under clause (m) of section 40; (o) manner for grading of mediation service provider under section 41; (p) such other functions of mediation service provider under clause (f) of section 42; (q) duties and functions to be performed by mediation institutes under section 43; and (r) any other matter in respect of which provision is necessary for the performance of functions of the Council under this Act. [Bill No. XLIII of 2021]

[View Document](#)

Scheme for setting up of Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors Fab and Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) /OSAT facilities in India

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) on December 21, 2021 has issued the Scheme for setting up of Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors Fab and Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) /OSAT facilities in India to attract investments for setting up Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics (SiPh) / Sensors (including MEMS) Fabs and Semiconductor ATMP / OSAT facilities in the country to strengthen the electronics manufacturing ecosystem and help establish a trusted electronics value chain in the areas of application of these fabrication and packaging technologies. The foremost provisions of the scheme are as follows: • Financial Support o Fiscal support The scheme shall extend a fiscal support of 30% of the Capital Expenditure for setting up of Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics (SiPh) / Sensors (including MEMS) Fab and Semiconductor ATMP / OSAT facilities in India. o Additional financial support ,if any, offered by the State Government or any of its agencies or local bodies may also be availed. However, an applicant under this Scheme will not avail incentive under the Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECs) under the Semiconductor Fab, Compound Semiconductors Fab and ATMP category. • Demand Aggregation Support Compound Semiconductors / Silicon Photonics / Sensors Fabs and ATMP / OSAT units

set up in India will be supported through purchase preference in procurement of electronic products by the Government under the Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017. • Support for R&D, Skill Development and Training Up to 2.5% of the outlay of the scheme shall be earmarked for meeting the R&D, skill development and training requirements for the development of compound semiconductors and ATMP ecosystem in India. • Capital Expenditure “Capital Expenditure” for the purpose of the scheme shall include expenditure incurred on building, clean rooms, plant, machinery, equipment & associated utilities (including used / second hand / refurbished); transfer of technology (ToT) including cost of technology; and research & development (R&D). Details regarding the eligibility of capital expenditure shall be provided in the scheme guidelines. • Tenure of the Scheme The scheme shall be open for applications initially for a period of Three Years starting from January One, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two (01/01/2022). [Notification No. F. No. W-38/23/2021-IPHW]

[View Document](#)

Use of Very Low Power Radio Frequency Devices or Equipments for Inductive Applications (Exemption from License) Rules, 2021

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Communications on December 21, 2021 has issued the Use of Very Low Power Radio Frequency Devices or Equipments for Inductive Applications (Exemption from License) Rules, 2021. They shall come into force on December 21, 2021. The following few rules has been introduced namely: - • Rule 4 which specify “Interference” has been inserted namely: - “Radio frequency interference is the effect of unwanted energy due to one or a combination of emissions, radiations or induction upon reception in a radio communication system, manifested by any performance degradation, misinterpretation, or loss of information which could be extracted in the absence of such unwanted energy, and where any person whom a license has been issued under the provisions of section 4 of the Act, informs the Authority that such licensed system is getting harmful interference from any other radio communication system exempted under these rules, then the Authority shall call upon the user of such unlicensed wireless equipment to take necessary steps to avoid interference by relocating the equipment, reducing the power and using special type of antennae, failing which the Authority shall recommend discontinuation of such wireless use” • Rule 5 which specify “Equipment type approval” has been inserted namely: - “The wireless equipment shall be designed and constructed in such a manner that the bandwidth of emission and other parameters shall conform to the limits specified in rule 3 and such equipment shall be type approved, and the application for obtaining equipment type approval shall be made to the Central Government in the format given in the Annexure to these rules.” [Notification No. G.S.R. 870(E)]

[View Document](#)

MHI approves PLI scheme for manufacturing of Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC)

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) on December 22, 2021 has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for manufacturing of Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) to bring down prices of battery in the country. MHI has already Launched Phase-II of FAME India Scheme for a period of 5 years w.e.f. April 01, 2019 with a total budgetary support of Rs. 10,000 crores. The Ministry also emphasise on use of electric

vehicles in the country. Following steps have been taken by the Government in this regard:

- o The Government on 12th May, 2021 approved a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for manufacturing of Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) in the country in order to bring down prices of battery in the country. Drop in battery price will result in cost reduction of electric vehicles.
- o Electric Vehicles are covered under Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Automobile and Auto Components, which was approved on 15th September 2021 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 25,938 crore for a period of five years.
- o GST on electric vehicles has been reduced from 12% to 5%; GST on chargers/ charging stations for electric vehicles has been reduced from 18% to 5%.
- o Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) announced that battery-operated vehicles will be given green license plates and be exempted from permit requirements.
- o MoRTH issued a notification advising states to waive road tax on EVs, which in turn will help reduce the initial cost of EVs. [(Release ID: 1783827)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Mines has provided the extension for Mining Lease

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

Ministry of Mines on December 20, 2021, has issued the provision for extension of the Mining Lease. As per section 8A which specifies periods for which mining leases may be granted or renewed of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, on and from the date of commencement of the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 (w.e.f January 12, 2015), all mining leases shall be granted for the period of fifty years. On the expiry of the lease period, the lease shall be put for auction as per the procedure specified under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. However, in the case of government companies or corporations, the period of mining leases, other than the mining leases granted through auction, shall be extended on payment of such additional amount as specified in the Fifth Schedule of the MMDR Act for further periods of twenty years at a time by State Government upon an application made to it by government company or corporation. (Release ID :228847)

[View Document](#)

Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs in India

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on December 21, 2021 has issued the Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs in India to attract large investments for setting up semiconductor wafer fabrication facilities in the country to strengthen the electronics manufacturing ecosystem and help establish a trusted value chain. The foremost provisions of the scheme are as followed:

- Financial Support oFiscal support: The scheme will extend fiscal support for Silicon Semiconductor Fab subject to the ceilings mentioned in Para 3. oAdditional financial support, if any, offered by the State Government or any of its agencies or local bodies may also be availed.
- Infrastructure Support o Support for development of Infrastructure / Common Facility Centres: Government of India may extend the benefits of Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme for development of infrastructure / Common Facility Centre subject to the proposal satisfying the EMC 2.0 framework requirements.
- Demand Aggregation Support: Semiconductor Fab(s) set up in India will be supported through purchase preference in procurement of electronic products by the Government under the Public Procurement (Preference to Make in

India) Order 2017. • Support for R&D, Skill Development and Training: Up to 2.5% of the outlay of the scheme shall be earmarked for meeting the R&D, skill development and training requirements for the development of semiconductor ecosystem in India. • Tenure of the Scheme: Support under the scheme shall be provided for a period of six years. The tenure of the actual fiscal support outflow may be extended based on the approval of the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology. • Financial Appraisal of the Scheme: The scheme shall be appraised by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) led by Secretary, Department of Expenditure. o Expenditure Finance Committee shall determine the structure and quantum of fiscal support to be provided under the scheme in consultation with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Nodal Agency. o In case of fiscal support being provided as equity either in part or in full, Government of India's share will not exceed 49% of total project equity. • Application Procedure: Applications under the scheme shall be invited for a period of forty-five days initially from 01.01.2022 which may be extended with the approval of Minister of Electronics and Information Technology. The scheme may also be reopened for applications anytime during its tenure with the approval of Minister of Electronics and Information Technology. [Notification No. W-38/30/2021-IPHW]

[View Document](#)

Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on December 21, 2021 has issued Notification regarding Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme. The following was stated namely: - • Support will be extended to domestic companies, startups and MSMEs engaged in semiconductor design for Integrated Circuits (ICs), Chipsets, System on Chips (SoCs), Systems & IP Cores and semiconductor. • Applications under the Scheme will be initially open for three years from January 1, 2022. • Financial incentives shall be provided to approved applicants under the Scheme in the prescribed manner. • The scheme will be implemented through C-DAC. • Mid-term appraisal of the scheme will be done after two years of its implementation or as per recommendations of C-DAC to assess the impact of the scheme. [Notification No. No. EE-9/5/2021-R&D-E.—1]

[View Document](#)

FSSAI notifies on Compliance with respect to limits of trans-fatty acids for food products as per the FSS regulations

Dec 21, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) on December 17, 2021 has issued a notification on Compliance with respect to limits of trans-fatty acids for food products as per the Food Safety and Standards Regulations. The Food Safety and standards (Prohibition and Restriction of sales) Regulations, 2011 stipulates that "Food Products in which edible oils and fats are used as an ingredient shall not contain industrial trans fatty acids more than 2% by mass of the total oils/fats present in the product", which is effective on and from January 01, 2022. FSSAI advised all the commissioners of Food Safety of states/UTs and central Licensing Authorities are requested to carry out a 100% inspection drive of all such units which are licensed for manufacture/processing of vegetable oils/fats under their respective jurisdiction and check for compliance of the products being manufactured through surveillance samples. A report on the matter shall be

submitted to FSSAI HQ by January 20, 2022.

[View Document](#)

Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021

Dec 21, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The Ministry of Law and Justice on December 20, 2021 has issued the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021 to further amend the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003. The following amendment has been made: • In section 25, which specifies, Appointments, etc., of officers of Directorate of Enforcement, the following provisos have been inserted, namely: "Provided that the period for which the Director of Enforcement holds the office on his initial appointment may, in public interest, on the recommendation of the Committee under clause (a) and for the reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended up to one year at a time: Provided further that no such extension shall be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment;" [(NO. 46 OF 2021)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has extended the date for AADHAR enrolment for food subsidy under NFSA

Dec 21, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on December 20, 2021 has issued a notification to extend the date for AADHAR enrolment for food subsidy under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) by amending an older notification that is Notification No. S.O. 371(E), dated February 08, 2017. The following amendments have been made: • In paragraph (1), sub-para (2) of the aforesaid notification has been substituted, namely: (2) All such eligible beneficiaries entitled to receive subsidised food grains or Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA, who do not possess the Aadhaar Number or, are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, but are desirous of availing subsidised food grains or Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA are hereby required to make the application for Aadhaar enrolment by March 31, 2022, provided he or she is entitled to obtain Aadhaar as per Section 3 of the said Act. All such individuals may visit any Aadhaar enrolment centre (list available at www.uidai.gov.in) to get enrolled for Aadhaar. • In paragraph (2), sub-para (1) of the aforesaid notification has been substituted, namely: (1) Wide publicity through media and individual notices through the district food supply office or fair price shops, etc., shall be given to beneficiaries of subsidised food grains or Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA to make them aware of the requirement of Aadhaar under the scheme and they may be advised to get themselves enrolled at the nearest enrolment centres available in their areas by March 31, 2022 in case they are not already enrolled. The list of locally available enrolment centres shall be made available to them. [Notification No. S.O. 5314(E)]

[View Document](#)

Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021

Dec 21, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Law and Justice on December 20, 2021 has issued The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021. This shall come into force on December 20, 2021. The following few sections were introduced in the act namely: - • Section 17 which specify “The registration granted under section 16, may be renewed for a further period of five years by the appropriate authority, on an application made by the applicant, under such conditions, in such form and on payment of such fee as may be prescribed. has been inserted. • Section 25 which specify “The Pre-Implantation Genetic testing shall be used to screen the human embryo for known, pre-existing, heritable or genetic diseases only” has been inserted. • Section 28 which specify “The standards for the storage and handling of gametes, gonadal tissues and human embryos in respect of their security, recording and identification shall be such as may be prescribed” has been inserted. • Section 35 which specify “No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act, save on a complaint made by the National Board or the State Board or by an officer authorised by it.” Has been inserted. • Section 46 which specify “If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty” [Notification No. CG-DL-E-21122021-232025]

[View Document](#)

Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021

Dec 21, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Government of India of December 16, 2021 has issued the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 to further amend the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The following amendment has been made: • In chapter II, the heading has been substituted, namely: “REGULATION OF ACCESS TO BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES” • In section 3, which specifies Certain persons not to undertake Biodiversity related activities without approval of National Biodiversity Authority, in sub-section (2), in clause (c), for sub-clause (ii) has been substituted, namely: “(ii) incorporated or registered in India under any law for the time being in force, which is a foreign controlled company.”; Explanation.—For the purposes of this section,— (a) “associated knowledge” shall include traditional knowledge or contemporary knowledge in any form relating to the biological resources; (b) “foreign controlled company” means a foreign company within the meaning of clause (42) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013 which is under the control of a foreigner.” • Section 4, which specifies Results of research not to be transferred to certain persons without approval of National Biodiversity Authority has been substituted, namely: “4. No person or entity shall share or transfer any result of the research on any biological resource occurring in, or obtained or accessed from, India or associated traditional knowledge thereto, for monetary consideration or otherwise, to a person referred to in sub-section (2) of section 3, without the prior written approval of the National Biodiversity Authority, except the codified traditional knowledge which is only for Indians: Provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply if publication of research papers or dissemination of knowledge in any seminar or workshop involving financial benefit is as per the guidelines issued by the Central Government: Provided further that where the results of research are used for further research, then, the registration with National Biodiversity Authority shall be necessary: Provided also that if the results of research are used for commercial utilisation or for obtaining any intellectual property rights, within or outside India, prior approval of National Biodiversity Authority shall be required to be taken in accordance with the provisions of this Act.” • In section 5, which specifies Sections 3 and 4 not to apply to

certain collaborative research projects, sub-section (1) has been substituted, namely: “(1) The provisions of section 3 shall not apply to collaborative research projects involving transfer or exchange of biological resource or associated traditional knowledge thereto between institutions, including Government sponsored institutions of India, and such institutions in other countries, if such collaborative research projects satisfy the conditions specified in sub-section (3).” • In section 6, which specifies Application for intellectual property rights not to be made without approval of National Biodiversity Authority, sub-section (1) has been substituted and certain new sub-section has been inserted, namely: “(1) Any person or entity applying for an intellectual property right, covered under sub section (2) of section 3, by whatever name called, in or outside India, for any invention based on any research or information on a biological resource which is accessed from India, including those deposited in repositories outside India, or associated traditional knowledge thereto, shall obtain prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority before grant of such intellectual property rights. (1A) Any person applying for any intellectual property right, covered under section 7, by whatever name called, in or outside India, for any invention based on any research or information on a biological resource which is accessed from India, including those deposited in repositories outside India, or associated traditional knowledge thereto, shall register with the National Biodiversity Authority before grant of such intellectual property rights. (1B) Any person covered under section 7 who has obtained intellectual property right, by whatever name called, in or outside India, for any invention based on any research or information on a biological resource which is accessed from India, including those deposited in repositories outside India, or associated traditional knowledge thereto, shall obtain prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority at the time of commercialisation.” • Section 7, which specifies Prior intimation to State Biodiversity Board for obtaining biological resource for certain purposes, has been substituted, namely: “7. (1) No person, other than the person covered under sub-section (2) of section 3, shall access any biological resource and its associated knowledge for commercial utilisation, without giving prior intimation to the concerned State Biodiversity Board, subject to the provisions of clause (b) of section 23 and sub-section (2) of section 24: Provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to the codified traditional knowledge, cultivated medicinal plants and its products, local people and communities of the area, including growers and cultivators of biodiversity, vaid, hakims and registered AYUSH practitioners who have been practicing indigenous medicines, including Indian systems of medicine for sustenance and livelihood. (2) The manner of issuing certificate of origin for cultivated medicinal plants shall be such as may be prescribed.” • In section 8, which specifies Establishment of National Biodiversity Authority sub-section (3) has been substituted, namely: “(3) The Head office of the National Biodiversity Authority shall be at Chennai and the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish regional offices in other places in India.” • In section 8, which specifies Establishment of National Biodiversity Authority sub-section (4), clause (a), (b) and (c) has been substituted, namely: “(a) a Chairperson, who shall be an eminent person having adequate knowledge, expertise and experience in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and in matters relating to fair and equitable sharing of benefits, to be appointed by the Central Government; (b) sixteen ex officio members to be appointed by the Central Government, representing the Ministries dealing with— (i) Agricultural Research and Education; (ii) Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; (iii) Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, Yoga and Naturopathy and Homoeopathy; (iv) Biotechnology; (v) Environment and Climate Change; (vi) Forests and Wildlife; (vii) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education; (viii) Earth Sciences; (ix) Panchayati Raj; (x) Science and Technology; (xi) Scientific and Industrial Research; (xii) Tribal Affairs; (c) four representatives from State Biodiversity Boards on rotational basis; • Section 10A, which specifies Member- Secretary, has been inserted, namely: “10A. (1) The Member-Secretary shall be the chief coordinating officer and the convener of the National Biodiversity Authority and shall assist that Authority in the discharge of its functions under this Act. (2) The Member-Secretary shall perform such other functions as may be prescribed.” • In section 13, which specifies Committees of National Biodiversity Authority, sub-section (2) has been substituted, namely: “(2) The National Biodiversity Authority may also constitute

such number of committees as it deems fit for the efficient discharge of its duties and performance of its functions under this Act.”. • In section 18, which specifies Functions and powers of National Biodiversity Authority, sub-section (1), (2) and (4) has been substituted, namely: “(1) The National Biodiversity Authority shall, with the approval of the Central Government, make regulations to provide for access to biological resources and associated traditional knowledge thereto, and for determination of fair and equitable sharing of benefits. (2) It shall be the duty of the National Biodiversity Authority to regulate any activity referred to in sections 3, 4 and 6 by granting or rejecting approvals.” “(4) The National Biodiversity Authority may, on behalf of the Central Government, take any measures necessary to oppose the grant of intellectual property rights in any country outside India on any biological resource which is found in or brought from India, including those deposited in repositories outside India, or associated traditional knowledge thereto accessed.” • In section 19, which specifies Approval by National Biodiversity Authority for undertaking certain activities, sub-section (1) and (2) has been substituted, namely: “(1) Any person referred to in sub-section (2) of section 3 who intends to access biological resource or associated traditional knowledge thereto for commercial utilisation, shall make an application to the National Biodiversity Authority, in such form and on payment of such fee, as may be prescribed. (2) Any person referred to in sub-section (2) of section 3 who intends to apply for a patent or any other form of intellectual property rights, whether in India or outside India, referred to in sub-section (1) of section 6, may make an application to the National Biodiversity Authority in such form, on payment of such fee, and in such manner, as may be prescribed. • In section 19, which specifies Approval by National Biodiversity Authority for undertaking certain activities, sub-section (2A) and (3A) has been Inserted, namely: (2A) Any person referred to in sub-section (1A) of section 6 shall register with National Biodiversity Authority at the time of making application under sub-section (2), and persons referred to in sub-section (1B) of section 6 shall obtain prior approval from National Biodiversity Authority at the time of commercialisation.” “(3A) The National Biodiversity Authority shall, while granting approval under this section, determine the benefit sharing in such manner as may be specified by regulations made in this behalf: Provided that if the National Biodiversity Authority is of the opinion that such an activity is detrimental or contrary to the objectives of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of such activity, it may, by order, for reasons to be recorded in writing, prohibit or restrict any such activity: Provided further that no such order for rejection shall be made without giving an opportunity of being heard to the person concerned. • In section 19, which specifies Approval by National Biodiversity Authority for undertaking certain activities, sub-section (4) has been substituted, namely: “(4) The National Biodiversity Authority shall place in public domain details of every approval granted or rejected under this section.” • In section 20, which specifies Transfer of biological resource or knowledge, sub-section (1), (3) and (4) has been substituted, namely: “(1) Any person or entity who intends to transfer the results of any research on biological resources, which are found in or brought from India, including those deposited in repositories outside India or associated traditional knowledge thereto, to persons referred to under sub-section (2) of section 3 for monetary consideration or otherwise, he shall make an application to the National Biodiversity Authority in such form and on payment of such fee, as may be prescribed.” “(3) On receipt of an application under sub-section (2), the National Biodiversity Authority may, after making such enquiries, as it deems fit, by order, grant approval, subject to such terms and conditions, as it may deem fit, including benefit sharing or otherwise, as per the guidelines or for reasons to be recorded in writing, or reject the application: Provided that no such order for rejection shall be made without giving an opportunity of being heard to the person concerned. (4) The National Biodiversity Authority shall place in public domain the details of every approval granted or rejected under this section.”. • In section 21, which specifies Determination of equitable benefit sharing by National Biodiversity Authority, sub-section (1) has been substituted, namely: “(1) The National Biodiversity Authority shall, while determining benefit sharing for the approval granted under this Act, ensure that the terms and conditions subject to which the approval is granted secures fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of accessed biological resources, their derivatives, innovations and

practices associated with their use and applications and knowledge relating thereto in accordance with mutually agreed terms and conditions between the person applying for such approval, and the Biodiversity Management Committee represented by the National Biodiversity Authority.” • In section 22, which specifies Establishment of State Biodiversity Board, In sub-section (4), Clause (a), (b) and (c) have been substituted, namely: “(a) a Chairperson, who shall be an eminent person having adequate knowledge, expertise and experience in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and in matters relating to fair and equitable sharing of benefits, to be appointed by the State Government; (b) not more than seven ex officio members to be appointed by the State Government to represent the concerned departments of the State Government, including departments dealing with Panchayati Raj and tribal affairs; (c) not more than five non-official members to be appointed from amongst specialists, legal experts, scientists having special knowledge in matters relating to conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.” • In section 23, which specifies Functions of State Biodiversity Board, clause (a) and (b) have been substituted, namely: “(a) advise the State Government on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of biological resources or associated traditional knowledge thereto, in conformity with the regulations or guidelines, if any, issued by the Central Government or the National Biodiversity Authority; (b) regulate any activity referred to in section 7 by granting or rejecting approvals; (ba) determine the fair and equitable sharing of benefits as provided under the regulations made in this behalf by the National Biodiversity Authority while granting approvals;” • In section 23, which specifies Power of State Biodiversity Board to restrict certain activities violating the objectives of conservation, etc, sub-section (1) and (3) have been substituted, namely: “(1) Any person other than the person referred to in sub-section (2) of section 3, intending to undertake any activity covered under section 7, shall give prior intimation to the State Biodiversity Board in such form as may be prescribed by the State Government.” “(3) If the State Biodiversity Board is of the opinion that such activity is detrimental or contrary to the objectives of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of such activity, it may by order, restrict or reject such activity: Provided that no such order of rejection shall be made without giving an opportunity of being heard to the person concerned. • In section 27, which specifies Constitution of National Biodiversity Fund, sub-section (2), clause (b) and (c) have been substituted, namely: “(b) conservation and sustainable use of biological resources; (c) socio-economic development of areas from where such biological resources or associated traditional knowledge have been accessed in consultation with the Biodiversity Management Committee or local body concerned: Provided that when it is not possible to identify the area from where the biological resources or associated traditional knowledge have been accessed, the fund shall be utilised for socio-economic development of the area where such biological resources occur; • In section 36, which specifies Central Government to develop National strategies, plans, etc., for conservation, etc., of biological diversity sub-section (6) has been inserted, namely: “(6) The Central Government shall involve the National Biodiversity Authority or State Biodiversity Boards to undertake measures for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or associated traditional knowledge thereto.” • Section 36A, which specifies Measures to be taken by National Biodiversity Authority has been inserted, namely: “36A. The Central Government may authorise National Biodiversity Authority or any other organisation to take any measures necessary to monitor and regulate within the territory of India, the access and utilisation of biological resources obtained from a foreign country in order to meet the international obligations to which India is a signatory. • Section 36B, which specifies State Government to develop strategies and plans for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity has been inserted, namely: 36B. (1) The State Government shall develop strategies, plans, programmes for the conservation and promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity, including measures for identification and monitoring of areas rich in biological resources, promotion of in situ and ex situ conservation of biological resources, including cultivars, folk varieties and landraces, incentives for research, training and public

education to increase awareness with respect to biodiversity, in conformity with the national strategies, plans and programmes. (2) The State Government shall, as far as practicable, wherever it deems appropriate, integrate the conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral policies or cross-sectoral plans and programmes.” • In section 37, which specifies Biodiversity heritage sites, sub0section (1) has been substituted, namely: “(1) Without prejudice to any other law for the time being in force, based on the recommendations of the State Biodiversity Board, the State Government may, from time to time, notify in the Official Gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as biodiversity heritage sites under this Act: Provided that the State Biodiversity Board shall consult the local body and the Biodiversity Management Committee concerned before making such recommendations.” • In section 38, which specifies Power of Central Government to notify threatened species the following proviso has been inserted, namely: “Provided that the Central Government may delegate such power to the State Government: Provided further that where such power is delegated to the State Government, it shall consult the National Biodiversity Authority before issuing any such notification.” • Section 40, which specifies Power of Central Government to exempt certain biological resources, has been substituted, namely: “Provisions of this Act not to apply in certain cases , 40. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Central Government may, in consultation with the National Biodiversity Authority, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare that all or any of the provisions of this Act shall not apply to biological resources when normally traded as commodities or to the items derived from them, including agricultural wastes, as notified and cultivated medicinal plants and their products for entities covered under section 7, registered as per the regulations made or as prescribed: Provided that no exemption shall be made for the activities referred to in sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 6.” • In section 41, which specifies Constitutions of Biodiversity Management Committees, sub-section (1) has been substituted, namely: “(1) Every local body at the Gram Panchayat level in the rural areas and act the Nagar Panchayat or Municipal Committee or Municipal Corporation level in the urban areas shall constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee (by whatever name called) within its area for the purpose of promoting conservation of landraces, folk varieties, farmers’ varieties, and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity: Provided that the State Government may constitute Biodiversity Management Committees at the intermediate or district Panchayat level for achieving the objectives of this Act. • In section 41, which specifies Constitutions of Biodiversity Management Committees, sub-section (1A) and (1B) have been inserted, namely: (1A) The functions of Biodiversity Management Committee so constituted shall include conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity, including conservation of habitats, landraces, folk varieties, cultivars, domesticated breeds of animals, and microorganisms, and chronicling of associated traditional knowledge thereto relating to biological diversity. (1B) The composition of the Biodiversity Management Committee shall be such as may be prescribed by the State Government: Provided that the number of members of the said Committee shall not be less than seven and not exceeding eleven.” • Section 44, which specifies, Application of Local Biodiversity Fund, has been inserted, namely: “44. (1) The Local Biodiversity Fund shall be utilised in accordance with the regulations and the guidelines made in this behalf, for— (a) the conservation of biodiversity including restoration of areas; (b) the socio-economic development of the community without compromising the conservation concerns; and (c) the administrative expenses of the Biodiversity Management Committee. (2) The Fund shall be utilised in such manner as may be prescribed by the State Government.” • In section 45, which specifies Annual report of Biodiversity Management Committees has been substituted, namely: “45. The custodian of the Local Biodiversity Fund shall prepare, in such form and during each financial year at such time as may be prescribed by the State Government, its annual statement giving a full account of its activities during the previous financial year, and submit the same to the local body concerned with a copy to the State Biodiversity Board.” • In section 46, which specifies Audit of accounts of Biodiversity Management Committees has been substituted, namely: “46. (1) The Biodiversity Management

Committee shall maintain the accounts which shall be audited in such manner as may be prescribed by the State Government. (2) The Biodiversity Management Committee shall furnish to the local body concerned and to the State Biodiversity Board, before such date as may be prescribed by the State Government, its audited copy of accounts together with auditor's report thereon." • Section 55, which specifies Penalties has been substituted, namelyL "55. If any person or entity covered under sub-section (2) of section 3 or section 7 contravenes or attempts to contravene or abets the contravention of the provisions of section 3 or section 4 or section 6 or section 7, such person shall be liable to pay penalty which shall not be less than one lakh rupees, but which may extend to fifty lakh rupees, but where the damage caused exceeds the amount of penalty, such penalty shall be commensurate with the damage caused, and in case, the failure or contravention continues, an additional penalty may be imposed, which shall not exceed one crore rupees and such penalty shall be decided by the adjudicating officer appointed under section 55A. • Section 55A, which specifies Adjudication of penalties, has been inserted, namely: 55A. (1) For the purposes of determining the penalties under section 55, the Central Government may appoint an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India or a Secretary to the State Government to be the adjudicating officer, to hold inquiry in the prescribed manner and to impose the penalty so determined Provided that the Central Government may appoint as many adjudicating officers as may be required. (2) While holding an inquiry, the adjudicating officer shall have power to summon and enforce the attendance of any person acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case to give evidence or to produce any document, which in the opinion of the adjudicating officer, may be useful for, or relevant to, the subject-matter of the inquiry and if, on such inquiry, he is satisfied that the person concerned has failed to comply with the provisions of section 3 or section 4 or section 6 or section 7, he may impose such penalty as he thinks fit in accordance the provisions of section 55: Provided that no such penalty shall be imposed without giving the person concerned an opportunity of being heard in the matter. (3) Any person aggrieved by the order made by the adjudicating officer under sub-section (2) may prefer an appeal to the National Green Tribunal established under section3oftheNationalGreenTribunalAct,2010. (4) Every appeal under sub-section (3) shall be filed within sixty days from the date on which the copy of the order made by the adjudicating officer is received by the aggrieved person. (5) The National Green Tribunal may, after giving the parties to the appeal an opportunity of being heard, pass such order as it thinks fit, confirming, modifying or setting aside the order appealed against. • Section 55B, which specifies Power to enter, inspect, survey, etc has been inserted, namely: 55B. Any authority or officer empowered by the Central Government may, for the purposes of carrying out inspection, survey or any such activity, have all or any of the following powers, namely:— (a) the power to enter upon any land, vehicle, or premises and to inspect, investigate, survey, and collect information and make a map of the same and seize the materials and records; (b) the powers of a civil court to compel the attendance of anyone, including witnesses and production of documents and material objects; (c) the power to issue a search-warrant; (d) the power to hold an inquiry and in the course of such inquiry, receive and record evidence; (e) such other power as may be prescribed." • Section 58, which specifies Offences to be cognizable and non-bailable has been omitted. • Section 59A, which specifies Act not to apply to certain persons has been inserted, namely: "59A. The provision of this Act shall not apply to any person who has been given any approval or granted any right under any law relating to protection of plant varieties enacted by Parliament to the extent that such approvals or rights given under that Act does not require similar approval under this Act." [BILL NO. 158 OF 2021]

[View Document](#)

FSSAI issues Standard Operating Procedures for Aggregators or Intermediaries facilitating sales between Farmers/small original producers and producer organizations

and end consumer

Dec 21, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on December 20, 2021 has issued Standard Operating Procedures for Aggregators or Intermediaries facilitating sales between Farmers/small original producers and producer organizations and end consumers - Exempt Entities. The following was stated namely: - • Exemption from the requirement of certification shall be applicable to aggregators and intermediaries namely: - Who collect organic food from farmers/ small producers and sell it to consumer Annual Turnover less than or equal to Rs. 50L • Aggregators/ intermediaries shall ensure that exempted organic produce is displayed in a manner distinguishable from the display of in-conversion/certified organic food. • Documents to be maintained by aggregators/ intermediaries for such exempted category of organic products are namely: - List of organic products in compliance with rules and logo Separate List of exempted organic products, to be prominently displayed List of farmers with their address and contact details • Aggregators or Intermediaries shall not engage in conflicting branding or brand labeling of exempted organic product. [Notification No. 11274/2021/Standards-FSSAI]

[View Document](#)

SEBI issues directions to stock exchanges in Commodity Derivatives segment

Dec 21, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 20, 2021 has issued directions to stock exchanges in Commodity Derivatives segment. It will be in effect from December 20, 2021. The following was stated namely: - • The directions have been issued for the following commodities namely: - The Paddy (non-basmati) Wheat Chana Mustard seeds and its derivatives (its complex) Soya bean and its derivatives (its complex) Crude palm oil Moong • No new position will be allowed to be taken. Only squaring up of position will be allowed. • The directions are applicable for a period of 1 year. [Notification No. 36/2021]

[View Document](#)

Central Silk Board Silk-worm Seed (Amendment) Regulations, 2021

Dec 20, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Textiles on December 13, 2021 has issued The Central Silk Board Silk-worm Seed (Amendment) Regulations, 2021 to further amend The Central Silk Board Silk-worm Seed Regulations, 2010. This shall come into force on December 13, 2021. The following has been amended namely: - • The following shall be inserted namely: - “Export and import of silk-worm seed and quarantine procedures – The export and import of silk-worm seed and its quarantine procedures shall be as specified in the Schedule annexed to these regulations” • Schedule which specify “Export and Import of Silkworm Seed and Quarantine Procedures” has been inserted. [Notification No. G.S.R. 861(E)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology issues Incentive scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions

Dec 20, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on December 17, 2021 has issued Incentive scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (P2M). This is in effect from April 1, 2021. The following incentives are provided namely: - RuPay Debit Card PoS and eCom transactions (other than Industry Programmes) - 0.40% capped at ₹ 100 PoS and eCom transactions (Industry Programmes*) - 0.15% capped at ₹ 6 BHIM-UPI P2M Transactions (upto ₹ 2,000) Other than Industry Programmes - 0.25% Industry Programmes - 0.15% [Notification No. 24(1)/2020-DPD-Part(2)]

[View Document](#)

Indian Telegraph (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 20, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Department of Telecommunications(DoT) on December 14, 2021 has issued The Indian Telegraph (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend The Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951. This shall come into force on December 14, 2021. The following amendments has been made namely: - • In rule 525(2)(v) which specifies "Scope of Support from Universal Service Obligation Fund" The following Sub-rule (p) has been inserted namely: - "For hiring/restoration of 10Gbps International Bandwidth for internet connectivity to Agartala from BSCCL, Bangladesh via Cox Bazar/Kuakata, BSNL shall be funded by the USOF for a period of three years from the actual date of hiring/restoration of the aforesaid bandwidth." [Notification No. G.S.R. 862(E)]

[View Document](#)

Tea (Marketing) Control (Second Amendment) Order, 2021

Dec 20, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Department of Commerce on December 17, 2021 has issued The Tea (Marketing) Control (Second Amendment) Order, 2021 to further amend The Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003. This shall come into force on December 17, 2021. The following has been amended namely: - • In paragraph 30 A (5) which specify "Fixation of price sharing formula and its compliance" the following shall be substituted namely: - "to monitor the average green leaf price payable to the small tea growers for each month based on the average auction price of tea manufactured by the Bought leaf factories of such district for the same month by applying the price sharing formula specified under sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 30" [Notification No. S.O. 5294(E)]

[View Document](#)

Draft Prohibition of Streptomycin + Tetracycline in agriculture Order, 2021

Dec 20, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Department of Agriculture and farmers welfare on December 17, 2021 has issued the Draft Prohibition of Streptomycin + Tetracycline in agriculture Order, 2021. The order states the following points: • No person shall import, manufacture or formulate Streptomycin + Tetracycline for use in agriculture in India with effect from the February 01, 2022. • No new certificate of registration to manufacture, import or formulate of Streptomycin + Tetracycline for use in Agriculture shall be issued with effect from the February 01, 2022. • The use of Streptomycin + Tetracycline shall be completely banned in agriculture with effect from January 01, 2024. • Every State Government shall take all such steps under the provisions of the said Act and rules framed there under, as it considers necessary, for the execution of this order in the state. All persons likely to be affected thereby and notice is accordingly hereby given that the said draft Order shall be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of forty five days from the date on which the copies of the Gazette of India containing this Order are made available to the public; And whereas, any person desirous of making any objection or suggestion in respect of the said draft Order may submit the same for consideration of the Central Government, within the period so specified, to the Joint Secretary (Plant Protection), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001. [Notification No. S.O. 5295(E)]

[View Document](#)

FSSAI clarifies sampling of Soybean De-Oiled Cakes/Soybean Meals intended for use in poultry/animal feed

Dec 20, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on December 17, 2021 has issued Clarification regarding sampling of Soybean De-Oiled Cakes or Soybean Meals intended for use in poultry and animal feed-reg. It was stated namely: - • Products intended for animal feed do not fall under the definition of 'food' under FSS Act, 2006. • Sampling of Soybean De-Oiled Cakes or Soybean Meals intended for use in poultry and animal feed should be discontinued. [Notification No. RCD/15001/6/2021-Regulatory-FSSAI(E-1475)]

[View Document](#)

FSSAI amends appeal procedure

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on December 15, 2021 has issued order regarding appeal procedure specified in Food Safety and Standards (Approval for Non- Specified Food and food Ingredients) Regulations, 2017. It stated the following namely: - • The Food Business Operator may file an appeal before the Chief Executive Officer of the Food Authority against any decision of rejection of application within 30 days of the receipt of rejection letter. Such appeal shall be disposed off within 30 days of its receipt and any delay beyond this shall be allowed with reasons recorded thereof. • A Food Business Operator, who is aggrieved by the decision of the Chief Executive Officer of the Food Authority may file a review petition to be placed for consideration of the Chairperson of the Food Authority, within 30 days from the date of issue of appellate order. Decision of the Chairperson, Food Authority shall be final in this regard. Such review shall be disposed off within 30 days of its receipt and any delay beyond this shall be allowed with reasons recorded thereof.

[View Document](#)

TRAI invites comments on Consultation Paper on 'Regulatory Framework for Promoting Data Economy Through Establishment of Data Centres, Content Delivery Networks, and Interconnect Exchanges in India'

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on December 16, 2021 has issued a press release to invite comments on Consultation Paper on 'Regulatory Framework for Promoting Data Economy Through Establishment of Data Centres, Content Delivery Networks, and Interconnect Exchanges in India' for promoting the establishment of International Data Centres, Content Delivery Networks, and Independent Interconnect exchanges in India is one such strategy. This Consultation Paper (CP) has been initiated suo-moto by the Authority to seek the inputs of stakeholders on regulatory framework for promoting the establishment of (i) Data Centres, (ii) Content Delivery Networks, and (iii) Internet Exchange Points in the country. The Consultation Paper has been placed on TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in. Written comments on the Consultation Paper are invited from the stakeholders by January 13, 2022 and counter-comments, if any, by January 27, 2022. The comments shall be sent, preferably in electronic form at advbbpa@trai.gov.in with a copy to jtadvbbpa-1@trai.gov.in and jtadvbbpa-3@trai.gov.in respectively. For any clarification / information, Shri Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Advisor (Broadband and Policy Analysis), TRAI may be contacted at Telephone Number Tel. No. +91-11- 23236119. (Press Release No. 58 / 2021)

[View Document](#)

Food Corporation of India (Staff) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2021

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Food Corporation of India on December 8, 2021 has issued the Food Corporation of India (Staff) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2021 to further amend the Food Corporation of India (Staff) Regulations, 1971. This will come into force on December 8, 2021. The following have been amended namely: - • Regulation 18 which specify "Deputation of Officers of the Corporation to other organisation" the following shall be substituted namely: "Employees of the Corporation may be sent on deputation to other organization (including Central / State Government) with the prior approval of the Managing Director or any other subordinate authority as may be decided by the Managing Director as per delegation of powers. The deputation of such employees shall be governed by the terms to be mutually agreed upon between the Corporation and the borrowing authority." [Notification No. EP. 9(1)/2019]

[View Document](#)

UGC Grants Maternity Leave to Students

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on December 14, 2021 has issued Maternity Leave to women students. The following provision has been inserted in the UGC(Minimum Standards and Procedure for

Award of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degrees) Regulations, 2016. Namely: "the women candidate may be provided Maternity Leave/Child Care Leave once in the entire duration of M.Phil./Ph.D. for up to 240 days" [Notification No. 21-116/2021(CPP-II)]

[View Document](#)

Food Corporation of India (Staff) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations, 2021

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Food Corporation of India on December 8, 2021 has issued the Food Corporation of India (Staff) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations, 2021 to further amend the Food Corporation of India (Staff) Regulations, 1971. This will come into force on December 8, 2021. The following have been amended namely: - • Regulation 54 which specify "Penalties" the following paragraph (ix) has been inserted namely: "Provided that, in every case in which [the charge of possession of assets disproportionate to known sources of income or the charge of acceptance] from any person of any gratification, other than legal remuneration, as a motive or reward for doing or for bearing to do any official act is established, the penalty mentioned in Clause (viii) - removal from service which shall not be a disqualification for future employment under the Corporation / Government) or Clause (ix) - dismissal from service which shall ordinarily be a disqualification for future employment under the Corporation / Government) shall be imposed." [Notification No. EP.7(1)/2020]

[View Document](#)

FSSAI notifies on Quicker processing of License Applications for Manufacturing KoB

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on December 16, 2021 has issued an advisory to Food Business Operations (FBOs) due to face delay in processing of their license application when they apply for Manufacturer Kind of Business (KoB) for multiple food products. The licensing authorities have to raise multiple/similar queries on the application with respect to some food products. This could happen even if they are satisfied from details provided with respect to other food products and sections of application. FSSAI has advised that the Licensing Authorities may advise the FBOs to delete such food products from the license application, for which FBO is unable to make corrections despite making the queries several times. FBOs may delete such products so that the license may be issued for the eligible products, without any delay. Once the license is issued, FBO, if required, may file modification of its already issued license, with fee as applicable [Rs. 1000/- plus differential fee, if any] for remaining products. This will promote 'Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)'. The FBOs would not face delay in issuance of License for the products found eligible as per Food Safety and Standards Regulations.

[View Document](#)

IFSCA issues circular regarding settlement of trades executed on stock exchange

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) on December 16, 2021 has issued circular regarding settlement of trades executed on stock exchange in IFSC. The following was stated namely: - • The trading hours for all product categories shall be as decided by the recognised stock exchanges, and shall not exceed 23 hours and 30 minutes in a day and settlement shall be done at least twice a day • All the trades being executed on the stock exchanges in IFSC shall be done at least once a day. • The Clearing Corporations shall ensure that during the trading day/session, the Mark-to-Market losses on open futures contracts are collateralized at regular intervals based on risk assessment. [Circular No. 286/IFSCA/CMD-DMIIT/PM/202]

[View Document](#)

MeitY approves use of AADHAR Authentication for Parichay Applications

Dec 16, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on November 26, 2021 has issued a notification on Parichay (eKYC and verification of Users of Single Sign on Platform for G2G and G2C applications) regarding Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation Knowledge) Rules, 2020 which is framed by the GOI for the such purposes. Aadhaar Authentication in Parichay is on voluntary basis and user organizations shall provide alternate means of verifications of the user's personal details. The Government of India has already provided the approval of the Competent Authority to allow use of Aadhaar Authentication for the above said purpose. [Notification No. F. No. M/92/2021-ASD]

[View Document](#)

PLI Scheme to Boost Steel Production

Dec 16, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Steel on December 15, 2021 has issued a notification related to Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. This scheme provides incentive to companies registered under the Companies Act, 2013, which qualify through the application process given in the guidelines and achieve committed incremental production prescribed for each product sub-category and make minimum prescribed investment in creating new capacity for manufacturing the applied product sub-category. Decisions regarding investment are taken by various companies including SAIL on commercial considerations and market dynamics. Various arrangements have been made for inviting applications from the interested parties. Detailed guidelines for the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, covering 5 broad product categories of specialty steel with an outlay of ₹6,322 crores to be released over 5 years. (Release ID: 1781706)

[View Document](#)

IFSCA recognises International Bullion Exchange IFSC Limited as Bullion Exchange and Bullion Clearing Corporation

Dec 16, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) on December 10, 2021 has issued a notification to provide recognition to India International Bullion Exchange IFSC Limited on their application as Bullion Exchange and Bullion Clearing Corporation for one year, commencing on the December 09, 2021 to December 08, 2022 in respect of bullion spot delivery contract and bullion depository receipt with underlying bullion, subject to the following conditions stated or as may be prescribed or imposed hereafter: • The Bullion Exchange and Bullion Clearing Corporation shall comply with conditions specified by IFSCA from time to time. The following recognition has been granted under regulation 4, of International Financial Services Centres Authority (Bullion Exchange) Regulations, 2020 which specifies Grant of recognition to a bullion exchange or bullion clearing corporation.

[View Document](#)

BSE issues list of Holidays

Dec 16, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on December 16, 2021 has issued the list of holidays for the year 2022 for the mutual fund segment. The list of holidays is namely: - • Republic Day - January 26,2022 • Mahashivratri - March 01,2022 • Holi - March 18,2022 • Mahavir Jayanti / Dr.Baba Saheb Ambedkar Jayanti - April 14,2022 • Good Friday - April 15,2022 • Id-UI-Fitr (Ramzan Id) - May 03,2022 • Muharram - August 09,2022 • Independence Day - August 15,2022 • Ganesh Chaturthi - 31,2022 • Dussehra - October 05,2022 • Diwali Laxmi Pujan - October 24,2022 • Diwali Balipratipada - October 26,2022 • Gurunanak Jayanti - November 08,2022 [Notice No. 20211216-1]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy issues Simplification of Guidelines for PM-KUSUM

Dec 16, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on December 14, 2021 has issued Simplification of Guidelines for the implementation of PM-KUSUM. The following was stated namely: - • Due to insufficient vendors available for installation of standalone solar pumps, the states have been granted permission to invite their own bids for empanelment of vendors for different regions. However, the ceiling price for the bids would be the price discovered in the latest centralized tender. • The period for implementation of the scheme has been extended to 24 months from the date of issue of sanction. • The Feeder level solarisation scheme will be made optional to the farmers. [Notification no. F.No. 32/54/2018-SPV Division]

[View Document](#)

TRAI extends date for receiving counter comments on Draft Telecommunication Tariff (66th Amendment) Order, 2021

Dec 15, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on December 14, 2021 has issued invitation for counter comments on "Draft Telecommunication Tariff (66th Amendment) Order, 2021 on "Regulatory framework for USSD-based tariff." It stated the following namely: - • The date for sending counter comments have been extended from December 8, 2021 to December 17, 2021. • Counter comments can be sent at sro-fea@traigov.in [(Press Release No. 57/2021)]

[View Document](#)

Mineral (Auction) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2021

Dec 15, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The Ministry of Mines on December 14, 2021 has issued the Mineral (Auction) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2021 to further amend the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015. The following amendments have been made: • In rule 9, which specifies Bidding Process, in sub-rule (5), clause B, the following proviso has been inserted, namely: "Provided also that in case the area proposed by a person under sub-rule (1A) of rule 7 of the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 is put up for auction to grant a composite licence, such person shall be required to submit the bid security of only fifty per cent. of the amount specified in this clause for participating in the auction for the said area." [Notification No. G.S.R. 857(E)]

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Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Second Amendment Rules, 2021

Dec 15, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The Ministry of Mines on December 14, 2021 has issued the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Second Amendment Rules, 2021 to further amend the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015. The following amendment have been made: • In rule 7, which specifies Existence of mineral contents for grant of composite licence Sub-rule (1A), (1B), (1C) & (1D) has been inserted, namely: "(1A) Any person intending to obtain composite licence in respect of an area may submit a proposal to the State Government in the format specified in Schedule III along with available geoscience data for notification of the area for auction to grant a composite licence. (1B) In order to identify mineral potentiality of a block based on the available geoscience data where resources are yet to be established as referred in clause (a) of sub-rule (1), including in any block proposed by any person under the sub-rule (1A), the State Government shall place it before a committee consisting of the following members:— (a) Principal Secretary or Secretary in the Mining and Geology Department of State Government (by whatever name called) – Chairman; (b) Deputy Director General of Geological Survey of India – Member; (c) Director in the Mining and Geology Department of State Government (by whatever name called) – Member Secretary. (1C) On being satisfied of mineral potentiality of the area, the committee may recommend the area for notification for auction with such alteration in it as may be required. (1D) The committee shall recommend or reject the proposal within sixty days of its receipt in the State Government and thereafter the State Government shall notify recommended block for auction or reject the recommendation within sixty days of such recommendation." • Schedule III, which specifies FORMAT FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSAL FOR AUCTION OF AN AREA FOR GRANT OF COMPOSITE LICENCE has been inserted. *Disclaimer – Kindly find the Schedule III in the provided link. [Notification No. G.S.R. 856(E)]

[View Document](#)

RBI issues PCA framework for NBFCs

Dec 15, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on December 14, 2021 has issued Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). This shall come into effect from October 1, 2022. The following has been stated namely: - • Government NBFCs have been provided time up to March 31, 2022 to adhere to the capital adequacy norms provided for NBFCs. • Annexure which specify “PCA Framework for NBFCs” has been inserted. [Notification no. DoS.CO.PPG.SEC.7/11.01.005/2021-22]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Finance issues notification regarding Financial Product

Dec 15, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Finance on December 14, 2021 has issued contents specified under financial product. This shall come into force on December 14, 2021. It has been stated namely: - “Operating lease including any hybrid of operating and financial lease of such product or equipment as may be specified by International Financial Services Centres Authority, as financial product.” [Notification no. S.O. 5199(E)]

[View Document](#)

Central Govt. issues notification in relation to COVID-19 Vaccine

Dec 14, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Department of Health and Family Welfare on December 10, 2021 has issued notification in respect of COVID-19 vaccine. This shall come into force on December 10, 2021. The following was stated namely: - • Necessary to regulate the testing of COVID-19 Vaccine • In case of any inconsistency between this notification and any rule made, the provisions of this notification shall prevail over such rule. • This shall remain in force till November 30, 2022. [Notification no. S.O5139(E)]

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DoT issues compliance to License Conditions

Dec 14, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Department of telecommunications (DoT) on December 13, 2021 has issued Compliance to License Conditions issued by Department of Telecommunications – Actions to be taken by Telecom Service Providers-reg. It was stated namely: - • Licensees who have not submitted Authorization letter for appointing a Nodal Officer for Trusted Telecom need to submit the same on immediate basis. [Notification No. 20-1236/2021-AS-I]

[View Document](#)

SEBI notifies on Publishing of Investor Charter and disclosure of Investor Complaints by Research Analysts on their websites/mobile applications

Dec 14, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 13, 2021 has issued a notification regarding Publishing of Investor Charter and disclosure of Investor Complaints by Research Analysts on their websites/mobile applications to facilitate investor awareness about various activities which an investor deals with while availing the services provided by research analysts, SEBI has developed an Investor Charter for Research Analysts. This Charter is a brief document containing details of services provided to investors, their rights, dos and don'ts, responsibilities, investor grievance handling mechanism and estimated timelines thereof etc., at one single place, in a lucid language, for ease of reference and to enhance transparency in grievance redressal, Research Analyst (RA) shall disclose on their websites/mobile applications, all complaints including SCORES complaints received by them in the format mentioned in Annexure- B on a monthly basis. The information shall be made available by 07th of the succeeding month. Research Analysts not having websites/mobile applications shall send status of Investor Complaints to the investors on their registered email on a monthly basis in compliance of this circular. SEBI advised All registered Research Analysts to bring to the notice of their clients the Investor Charter as provided at Annexure- A by prominently displaying on their websites and mobile applications. Research Analysts not having websites/mobile applications shall, as a one-time measure, send Investor Charter to the investors on their registered e-mail address and to display link/option to lodge complaint with them directly on their websites and mobile apps. Additionally, link to SCORES website/ link to download mobile app (SEBI SCORES) may also be provided. The disclosure requirements under this circular shall come into effect from January 01, 2022. *Disclaimer – Kindly find Annexure A and B on the provided link. [Notification No. SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-II CIS/P/CIR/2021/0685]

[View Document](#)

UGC instructs HEIs in respect of COVID Appropriate Behaviour in the Institution

Dec 14, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on December 13, 2021 has issued a notification to request all the Hight Education Institutions (HEIs) with respect to re-opening of Campuses and conducting classes and examinations in offline / online / blended mode in accordance with the guidelines-issued by the UGC and following COVID Appropriate Behaviour and necessary protocols/guidelines/directions/advisories issued" by the Central / state Governments or competent authorities from time to time, in view of the COVID pandemic. [Notification D.O. No. 1-24/2021(CPP-II)]

[View Document](#)

RBI introduces Legal Entity Identifier for Cross-border Transactions

Dec 13, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The Reserve bank of India (RBI) on December 10, 2021 has issued Introduction of Legal Entity Identifier for Cross-border Transactions. The Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) is a 20-digit number used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data systems. The following has been stated namely: - • AD Category I banks, with effect from October 1, 2022, shall obtain the LEI number from the resident entities (non-individuals) undertaking capital or current account transactions. • Entities can obtain LEI from any of the Local Operating Units (LOUs) accredited by the GLEIF, the body tasked to support the implementation and use of LEI. [Notification No. RBI/2021-22/137]

[View Document](#)

Draft Marine Aids to Navigation (Vessel Traffic Services) Rules, 2021

Dec 13, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on December 07, 2021 has issued the Draft Marine Aids to Navigation (Vessel Traffic Services) Rules, 2021 to enhance the safety and efficiency of vessel traffic and to mitigate the risk of damage caused to the marine environment by vessel traffic by ensuring homogeneous platform and compliance of various national and international rules, regulations and guidelines for all the VTSS functional within the country. The foremost provisions of the Draft are as followed: • Type of services rendered under Vessel Traffic Services: The following types of services shall be rendered under VTS: (1) Information Service (INS) shall be provided by all VTS providers / coastal VTS, which involves maintaining a traffic image and allows interaction with traffic and response to developing traffic situations, providing essential and timely marine information to assist the on-board decision-making process. (2) Traffic Organisation Service (TOS) shall prevent the development of dangerous maritime situation and shall provide for safe and efficient movement of vessel traffic within the declared VTS area, in times of high traffic density or when vessel movements may affect the traffic flow, through operational management of traffic and the planning of vessel movements. (3) Navigational Assistance Service (NAS) shall provide essential and timely navigational information to assist on-board navigational decision-making process, which may be facilitated through navigational advice and / or instruction. (4) TOS and NAS may be considered by VTS providers depending on the navigational conditions within the port limit or the VTS area in consultation with the Competent Authority (5) Regular references to IALA Guidelines on Provisions of Vessel Traffic Services with regard to the services mentioned hereinabove shall be drawn by the Competent Authority and/ or VTS provider. (6) A VTS shall be operated using Standard Marine Communication Phrases in English. (7) A standard nomenclature as published in IALA Guideline 1083 shall be used for ensuring that the VTS are identifiable in a consistent manner to avoid any possible confusion to mariners and other stakeholders. (8) For efficient and flawless operation of a VTS Centre, the respective VTS provider shall mandatorily develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for VTS operations including contingency plan, in consultation with the Competent Authority, and the SOP once finalised shall be circulated to all the stakeholders by the VTS provider. (9) While preparation of the SOP by the VTS provider, references and guidance shall be made on operational procedures available in IALA Recommendation V-127 and the latest edition of the IALA VTS Manual. • Audit and Review of Performance of VTS: (1) The Competent Authority shall undertake audit and review of VTS to ascertain the effectiveness of the VTS in meeting its objectives, and document such evaluation as specified through VTS Circulars issued by the Competent Authority from time to time. (2) Information and guidance pertaining to such audit and review of VTS shall be specified through VTS Circulars issued by the Competent Authority from time to time. • Accreditation of VTS Training Organization: A person or entity may apply for accreditation of a VTS training organization in accordance with the Marine Aids to Navigation (Accreditation of Training Organisations) Rules, 2021. • Authorization of VTS Provider: (1)

The respective authority who shall establish and operate the respective VTS shall be designated and authorised as the “VTS provider” by the Competent Authority. (2) The authorisation granted by the Competent Authority shall be subject to compliance with the standards for manning, qualification and equipment specified by the circulars issued by the Competent Authority, from time to time. (3) Necessary information pertaining to the respective VTS shall be published by the Competent Authority, on national and international platforms. (4) Initially the authorization shall be valid for 05 years with the provision of mid-term performance review and shall be revalidated every 05 years. • Obligation of Masters participating in VTS: (1) The master of a vessel participating in VTS shall give report/reports to the concerned VTS provider or any required information, including but not limited to the identity, intended passage or geographical location of the vessel. (2) The master of participating vessel shall follow instructions given to him by a VTS provider. (3) Notwithstanding the above, the master of the participating vessel is responsible for safe manoeuvring of his vessel. • Power of the Competent Authority of Vessel Traffic Services: The Competent Authority shall be entitled to: (1) Issue circulars for implementation of VTS and standards for operation of such VTS, & qualification of VTS personnel in respect of all the VTS functional in India. (2) Issue notices as may be required for the compliance with the provisions of these Rules. (3) Authorize a VTS provider to establish VTS in a designated area. (4) Undertake audit of VTS. (5) Nominate any officer or group of officers to attend international event, seminar, and training related to VTS, with the prior approval of the Central Government. (6) Undertake risk assessment of vessel traffic in Indian coastal waters. (7) Setup test beds in Indian coastal area to undertake research related to VTS. (8) Engage the services of marine legal experts on need basis. (9) Charge fees for the following: (a) Consultation extended to VTS provider. (b) Audit of VTS centre. (10) Formulate additional set of VTS rules with the prior approval of the Central Government so as to accommodate the futuristic role of shipping, based on to the emerging technological needs. (11) Constitute sub-committees as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of functions under Rule 19. All persons likely to be affected thereby; and notice is hereby given that the said draft rules will be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of thirty days from the date on which copies of the Gazette of India in which this notification is published, are made available to the public; Objections or suggestions, if any, to these draft rules may be addressed to the Director General, Directorate of Lighthouses and Lightships, Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways, A-13, Sector 24, Noida - 201301, or by email at noida-dgll@nic.in, within the period specified above; The objections or suggestions which may be received from any person with respect to the said draft rules, within the period so specified will be considered by the Central Government. [Notification No. G.S.R. 852(E)]

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Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Eighth Amendment) Order, 2021

Dec 13, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on November 02, 2021 has issued the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Eighth Amendment) Order, 2021 to further amend the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003. In Schedule I to the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 under the heading “Airports”, after serial number 24 and the entries relating thereto the following serial numbers and entries shall be added, namely:- “25. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad (GJ)” In Schedule II of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003 after serial number 78 and the entries relating thereto, serial number 79 and entries has been inserted. (Notification no. S.O. 5103(E))

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TRAI Extends last date to receive comments/counter comments on consultation paper “Licensing Framework for establishing Satellite Earth Station Gateway”

Dec 13, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on December 13, 2021 has issued notification to intimate about the Extension of last date to receive comments/counter comments on TRAI Consultation Paper on “Licensing Framework for Establishing Satellite Earth Station Gateway”. The following was stated namely: - • The last date for submission of written comments and counter comments up to 20th December 2021 and 3rd January 2022. • The comment/counter comments can be sent at advmn@traigov.in [Press Release No. 56/2021]

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Draft National Food Processing policy

Dec 13, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries on December 10, 2021 has issued the draft National Food Processing policy to make strategy for unhindered growth of the sector by addressing these challenges through Promotion of clusters; Convergence of services provided by different Ministries / Departments; Focused interventions for improving competitiveness; Promotion of India's Unique Selling Proposition (USP); Strengthening unorganized food processing units; Increased access to institutional credit at affordable cost. • Some of the key objectives of the draft policy are- o Attaining a higher growth trajectory through significant increase in investment for strengthening supply chain infrastructure and expansion of processing capacity particularly in perishables; o Improving Competitiveness through technology upgradation, Research & Development, Branding and strengthening India's USP in food sector; o Attaining long term sustainability in growth of the sector through efficient use of water, energy, adoption eco-friendly technology in processing, storage, packaging and use of waste from FPI industry. [Release ID: 1780034]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises issues incentives for MSMEs.

Dec 13, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises on December 9, 2021 has issued incentive to establish MSMEs. Such as Online Portal “Champions” has launched on June 1, 2020 for redressal of grievances and handholding of MSMEs. The initiatives taken under the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan to support the MSME sector in the country are: • Rs. 20,000 crore Subordinate Debt for MSMEs. • Rs. 3 lakh crores Collateral Free Automatic Loans for business, including MSMEs (The existing overall guarantee limit under ECLGS has been enhanced from Rs. 3 lakh crore to Rs. 4.5 lakh crore). • Rs. 50,000 crore equity infusion through MSME Self-Reliant India Fund • New Revised criteria of classification of MSMEs. • New Registration of MSMEs through ‘Udyam Registration’ for Ease of Doing Business. • No global tenders for procurement up to Rs. 200

crores. [Release ID: 1779745]

[View Document](#)

The Drugs (7th Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 13, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on December 09, 2021 has issued the Drugs (7th Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Drugs Rules, 1945. The following amendment has been made: • In rule 43A, for the words “Inland Container Depot Dhannad”, the words “Inland Container Depot at Dhannad and Tihi” shall be substituted. [Notification No. G.S.R. 848(E)]

[View Document](#)

The Medical Devices (.....Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 13, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on December 10, 2021 has issued the Medical Devices (.....Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Medical Devices Rules, 2017. The following amendment has been made: • In rule 36, in sub-rule (3), for the words “or the United States of America” the following words shall be substituted, namely:— “United Kingdom or the United States of America”. [Notification No. G.S.R. 850(E)]

[View Document](#)

RBI issues General permission for infusion of capital in overseas branches and subsidiaries and retention/ repatriation/ transfer of profits in these centres by banks incorporated in India.

Dec 09, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on December 8, 2021 has issued General permission for infusion of capital in overseas branches and subsidiaries and retention/ repatriation/ transfer of profits in these centres by banks incorporated in India. This is in effect from December 8, 2021. It was stated namely: - • Prior approval by RBI for capital infusion/ transfers (including retention/ repatriation of profits), shall not be required by banks. Instead, the banks shall seek approval of their boards for the same. • While considering such proposals, banks shall analyse all relevant aspects. Banks shall also ensure compliance with all applicable home and host country laws and regulations. • Banks which do not meet the minimum regulatory capital requirements shall be required to seek prior approval of RBI. • Banks shall report all such instances of infusion of capital and/ or retention/transfer/ repatriation of profits in overseas branches and subsidiaries within 30 days of such action. [Notification No. DOR.CAP.REC.No.72/21.06.201/2021-22]

[View Document](#)

Air Conditioner and its related Parts, Hermetic Compressors and Temperature Sensing Controls (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2021

Dec 09, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade on December 8, 2021 has issued the Air Conditioner and its related Parts, Hermetic Compressors and Temperature Sensing Controls (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2021 to further amend Air Conditioner and its related Parts, Hermetic Compressors and Temperature Sensing Controls (Quality Control) Order, 2019, This shall come into force from December 8, 2021. [Order No. S.O. 5095(E)]

[View Document](#)

DoT issues the instructions for reverification of existing mobile connections identified by the DoT/Licensee/Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA's)

Dec 08, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Department of Telecommunications(DoT) on December 7, 2021 has issued the instructions for reverification of existing mobile connections identified by the DoT/Licensee/Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA's). Applicable within 60 days from December 7, 2021. The following has been stated namely: - • DoT is undertaking a proof of concept of Digital intelligence Unit (DIU)/Telecom Analytics for fraud management and Consumer Protection (TAF COP) which, inter alia, will enable a subscriber to get the information about the number of mobile connections issued to them. • An individual category customer can subscribe to maximum of nine mobile connections (maximum 6 in J&K, Assam and North-East). • Reverification which is the process of confirming identity of the existing subscriber with the records available. [Notification No. 800-21/2015-AS.II]

[View Document](#)

TRAI directs Telecom Service Providers for ensuring compliance with TRAI's Regulations/Directions in respect of outgoing SMS facility to porting out customers

Dec 08, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on December 07, 2021 has issued directions under section 13, read with section 11, of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 to Telecom Service Providers for ensuring compliance with TRAI's Regulations/Directions in respect of outgoing SMS facility to porting out customers. After getting complaints from subscribers for not being able to send SMS on short code 1900, specified for UPC generation for availing MNP facility despite having sufficient balance in their prepaid accounts. TRAI has directed all access service providers to enable, with immediate effect, for all mobile subscribers, both prepaid and post-paid, requesting for a unique porting code, the facility to send SMS on short code 1900, in order to exercise their right to avail porting facility in accordance with the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Regulations, 2009 (8 of 2009), irrespective of the value of the tariff offers/vouchers.

[View Document](#)

TRAI issues consultation paper on “Ease of Doing Business in Telecom and Broadcasting Sector”

Dec 08, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on December 8, 2021 has issued consultation paper on “Ease of Doing Business in Telecom and Broadcasting Sector.” The following has been stated namely: - • Need stakeholders to comment on the various issues faced by them. • Comments must be sent by January 5, 2022 at dyadvbcs-1@trai.gov.in (Press Release No. 55/2021)

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TRAI implements Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Register of Interconnection Agreements and all such other matters Regulations, 2019

Dec 08, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on December 08, 2021 has issued a notification to implement the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Register of Interconnection Agreements and all such other matters Regulations, 2019 which was pending due to some challenges of a writ petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala. Now, the writ petition has been disposed and all the provisions of the said regulations, except to the extent they require registration of placement/marketing agreements, are in operation; and the service providers who have failed to comply with the same, are liable to be proceeded against, under the provisions of the said regulations and TRAI Act, 1997. TRAI instructs all the broadcasters and distributors of TV channels are requested to immediately implement the provisions of the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Register of Interconnection Agreements and all such other matters Regulations, 2019, and submit the compliance report within fifteen days from the date of issue of this letter; failing which, action would be taken as per the provisions of the said regulations and TRAI Act, 1997. [Notification No. RG-14/1 /(3)/2021-B AND CS(2)]

[View Document](#)

IFSCA Invites public comments on proposed IFSCA (Insurance Web Aggregator) Regulations, 2021

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) on December 01, 2021 has issued a press release to invite public comments on proposed IFSCA (Insurance Web Aggregator) Regulations, 2021. The draft IFSCA (Insurance Web Aggregator) Regulations, 2021 inter-alia provide for eligibility criteria, registration process and permissible activities. The consultation paper along with the draft regulations are available on IFSCA's website <https://ifsc.gov.in/PublicConsultation>, inviting comments / suggestions from the general public and stakeholders on the draft regulations on or before 20th December, 2021.

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NPPA fixes price of certain goods

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) on December 3, 2021 has issued an order to fix the price of certain goods as the retail price, exclusive of Goods and Services Tax, if any. This is in effect from December 3, 2021. • The prices of the following Dapagliflozin + Metformin Hydrochloride (As Extended release form) Tablets has been fixed namely: - 1. Each film-coated bilayered tablet contains: Dapagliflozin Propanediol Monohydrate eq. to Dapagliflozin 5mg, Metformin Hydrochloride IP 500mg (As Extended release form) 2. Each film-coated bilayered tablet contains: Dapagliflozin Propanediol Monohydrate eq. to Dapagliflozin 10mg, Metformin Hydrochloride IP 1000mg (As Extended release form) 3. Each film-coated bilayered tablet contains: Dapagliflozin Propanediol Monohydrate eq. to Dapagliflozin 10mg, Metformin Hydrochloride IP 500mg (As Extended release form) 4. Each film-coated bilayered tablet contains: Dapagliflozin Propanediol Monohydrate eq. to Dapagliflozin 10mg, 5. Each film-coated bilayered tablet contains: Dapagliflozin Propanediol Monohydrate eq. to Dapagliflozin 10mg, Metformin Hydrochloride IP 1000mg (As Extended release form) 6. Each film-coated bilayered tablet contains: Dapagliflozin Propanediol Monohydrate eq. to Dapagliflozin 10mg, Metformin Hydrochloride IP 500mg (As Extended release form) 7. Each film-coated bilayered tablet contains: Dapagliflozin Propanediol Monohydrate eq. to Dapagliflozin 10mg, Metformin Hydrochloride IP 500mg (As Extended release form) • The prices of the following Atorvastatin + Aspirin Capsule has been fixed namely: - 1. Each hard gelatine capsule contains: Atorvastatin Calcium IP eq. to Atorvastatin 20mg Aspirin IP 150mg (As two gastroresistant tablet IP each containing 75mg of Aspirin) 2. Each Fast Dissolving Strip contains: Ondansetron 4mg [Order No. S.O. 4976(E)]

[View Document](#)

FSSAI exempts Fish and Fishery Processing Units being inspected by EIC

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Food safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on November 30, 2021 has issued a notification to Fish and Fishery Processing Units being inspected by Export Council of India (EIC). FSSAI has decided with the approval of the Competent Authority that the Fish and Fishery Processing Units inspected by EIC shall be exempted from Third Party Audit for a further period of one month i.e. until December 31, 2021.

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Fisheries ,Animal husbandry and Dairying amends a notification which specifies “live- stock products” and procedure for the issue of sanitary import permit for import of such products

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Fisheries ,animal husbandry and Dairying on December 01, 2021 has issued a notification to amend the notification no. 2666 dated October 16, 2014 by inserting a proviso in the said notification. The following amendment has been made: • In the schedule, paragraph (3), after sub-para (viii) the following proviso has been inserted: "Provided further that for the livestock products listed at serial numbers (xix), (xx)

and (xxi) of paragraph 1 which are excluded under the first proviso herein, and for the livestock products listed at serial numbers (xxii) and (xxiii) of that paragraph, no objection certificate from the concerned Quarantine Officer shall not be required if the authorized officer of manufacturer in exporting country gives a declaration on invoice along with each consignment stating that 'the product has undergone the irreversible process of tanning' [Notification No. S.O. 4953(E)]

[View Document](#)

FSSAI clarifies regarding use of blend of oils intended for use in premixes/admixtures intended to be sold as intermediary ingredients

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Food safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on November 30, 2021 has issued clarification regarding use of blend of oils intended for use in premixes/admixtures intended to be sold as intermediary ingredients. FSSAI clarified confusion related to certain sections and sub-section of certain Acts such as: • Under FSS (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, Sub-regulation 2.2.1(24) specifies the standards for Multi Source Edible Oil wherein it is stated that 'Multi-Source Edible Oils means an admixture of any two edible vegetable oils where the proportion by weight of any edible vegetable oil used in the admixture shall not be less than 20 per cent. The individual oils in the blend shall conform to the respective standards prescribed by these regulations. • And, Sub-regulation 2.1.1 of the FSS (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011 states that "Notwithstanding the provision of 2.7 of Labelling and Packaging Regulations, no person shall either by himself or by any servant or agent sell (11) Any Multi Source Edible Vegetable oil containing Mustard Oil manufactured on or after 8th June, 2021." The clarifications are as followed: FSSAI clarified that the said restrictions are not applicable to a blend of edible oils intended to be used as an intermediate product (ingredient pre-mix) in the manufacture of other products by other food businesses in compliance with the following conditions: o Such a blend of multiple edible oils shall not be sold in retail market and a clarification by a food business operator to this effect (such as 'Not for retail sale/'/"For use as a pre-mix in formulating a product') should be suitably identifiable with the product. o Both the manufacturer and the u s e r of such ingredient pre-mix shall maintain all records in respect of their inventory and produce the inventory records as and when sought by the Food Authority.

[View Document](#)

FSSAI issues order for Testing of coumarin in imported cinnamon

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on November 30, 2021 has issued order regarding Testing of coumarin in imported cinnamon – Reg. The imported consignment of cinnamon gets tested for coumarin by the following standards namely: - • Couramin content (on dry basis) shall not be more than 0.3 percent by weight. [Order no. 1.1403/FSSAI/Imports/2015 (Part 1)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Heavy Industries issues Component Champion Incentive scheme to identify and incentivize Auto component champions.

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Heavy Industries on December 3, 2021 has issued Component Champion Incentive scheme to identify and incentivize Auto component champions. The 'Component Champion' Incentive scheme is aimed at identifying and incentivizing Auto component champions that can achieve global scale of operations and become 'Automotive Champions'. It is a 'sales value linked' scheme, applicable on preapproved Advanced Automotive Technology components of all vehicles, CKD/SKD kits, Vehicle aggregates of 2-Wheelers, 3-Wheelers, passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles and tractors including automobile meant for military use and any other Advanced Automotive Technology components prescribed by MHI depending upon technical developments. [Release ID: 1777660]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Issues Steps to increase public participation in Rooftop Solar Scheme

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on November 30, 2021 has issued Steps to increase public participation in Rooftop Solar Scheme. The steps taken by the Government to increase public participation in Rooftop Solar Scheme are namely: -

- Launch of phase II of rooftop solar programme with Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for residential sector and incentives in slabs for the Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) for achievement of additional capacity over and above the installed capacity of the previous year.
- Development of online portals and aggregation of demand relating to rooftop solar projects.
- Preparation of model MoU, PPA and Capex Agreement for expeditious implementation of RTS projects in Government Sector.
- Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 has been issued for net-metering up to five hundred Kilowatt or upto the electrical sanctioned load, whichever is lower.
- SPIN-an online platform developed for expediting project approval, report submission and monitoring progress of implementation of RTS projects.
- Facilitation of concessional loans from World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- Renewable energy included under priority sector lending
- Innovative Business models for rooftop solar
- Information and public awareness activities through print and electronic media.

[Release ID :227286]

[View Document](#)

DGFT issues ban on import of beef

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Directorate of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on November 30, 2021 has issued an order regarding Import of products or ingredients containing Beef – Reg. The following has been stated namely: - "Beef, in any form, and products containing beef in any form are 'prohibited' for imports. Department Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries is not considering products containing beef in any form for clearance by AQCS (Animal Quarantine and Certification Service)." [Order No. TIC-B05/2/2021]

[View Document](#)**IFSCA notifies on Investment banking in the IFSC**

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) on December 03, 2021 has issued a circular on Investment banking in the IFSC. The following points have to be observed:

- Banking Units authorised to operate as investment bankers
 - o Regulation 3(4) of the CMI Regulations provides that IFSCA may specify norms for authorisation of capital market intermediaries in the IFSC. Considering that the investment banking activities in the capital markets are being carried out by banks or their associates in various jurisdictions globally, and with the purpose of facilitating ease of doing business, it has been decided that a banking unit licensed by the IFSCA shall be permitted to undertake investment banking activities in the IFSC, in accordance with the below framework:
 - o The banking unit shall intimate to the Authority before commencing operations relating to investment banking, along with fees, in the format provided in Annexure - I.
 - o The banking unit operating as an investment banker shall comply with all the provisions applicable to an investment banker in the IFSC, including obligations and responsibilities prescribed in the CMI Regulations, the requirements prescribed in this circular and such requirement as may be specified by the Authority from time to time.
 - o The banking unit shall maintain arm's length relationship between its investment banking activity and other activities.
- Fee Structure for investment bankers
 - o All the investment bankers in the IFSC shall pay the following fees:
 - a) Application fee: USD 1,000 (USD One thousand only)
 - b) Registration/authorisation fee: USD 10,000 (USD Ten thousand only)
 - c) Fee every three years post registration/authorisation (4th year onwards): USD 10,000 (USD Ten thousand only).
 However, the banking unit operating as an investment banker shall pay authorisation fee indicated at (b) and (c) above only. Manner of payment of fee and account details is in the provided link.
 - Reporting Requirements
 - o All the investment bankers in the IFSC shall submit a report to IFSCA on a half-yearly basis, within 45 days, in the format provided in Annexure II.

*Disclaimer – Annexure I and Annexure II are given in the provided document.
[Circular F. No. IFSCA-PLNP/4/2021-Capital Markets]

[View Document](#)**MoF amends certain clauses of general conditions for cultivating licensed opium poppy**

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on December 02, 2021 has issued a notification to amend certain clauses of general conditions for cultivating licensed opium poppy by amending Notification No. G.S.R. 727(E) dated October 11, 2021.

- In Para 2A, sub-para (i) of the notification has been substituted, namely: (i) Cultivators (including their legal heirs) who have tendered an average yield of Morphine (MQY-M) 3.7 kg per hectare and above but less than 4.2 kg per hectare in crop year 2020-21, 3.7 kg per hectare to 4.0 kg per hectare in the crop year 2018-19 and 3.7 kg per hectare to 4.2 kg per hectare in the crop year 2019-20.
- In Para 2A, sub-para (ii) of the notification has been substituted, namely: (ii) Cultivators (including their legal heirs) who had cultivated opium poppy during the crop year 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 and tendered an average yield of Morphine (MQY-M) below 3.7 kg per hectare provided they have tendered opium having total average equal/equivalent to or more than 100 percent of an average yield of Morphine (MQY-M) 4.2 Kg per hectare for last five tendered years including the year of de licensing. In case of transfer of license to legal heir,

average tendering by deceased cultivators would be taken into account for computation of total of averages of opium tendered. [Notification No. 03/2021-Narcotics Control-1]

[View Document](#)

Farm Laws Repeal Act, 2021

Dec 02, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The Ministry of Law and Justice on December 1, 2021 has issued the Farm Laws Repeal Act, 2021. The following laws have been repealed namely: - • The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 • The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 • The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 [Notification No. CG-DL-E-01122021-231519]

[View Document](#)

CBIC instructs on Import of Sajji khar / Papad khar

Dec 02, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on December 1, 2021 has issued an instruction on import of Sajji khar / Papad khar. CBIC stated that imported consignments of Sajji Khar/Papad Khar does not require product approval under FSS (Approval of non-specified food and food ingredients) Regulations, 2017 and these may be considered as "food not specified" till standards are notified by FSSAI. The imported consignments shall be tested as per the standards for "food not specified" including the standards for heavy metals prescribed under FSS (Contaminants, Toxins and residues) Regulations, 2011. [Instruction No. 26/2021-customs]

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TRAI issues consultation paper on Auction of spectrum in the frequencies identified for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) / 5G

Dec 02, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Industry Specific](#)

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on November 30, 2021 has issued consultation paper on Auction of spectrum in the frequencies identified for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) / 5G. Written comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper are invited by 28th December 2021 and counter-comments by 11th January 2022 at advmn@traigov.in. Recommendations are requested by DoT on the following issues namely: - • Applicable reserve price, band plan, block size, quantum of spectrum to be auctioned and associated conditions for auction of spectrum. • Quantum of spectrum/band, if any, to be earmarked for private captive/isolated 5G networks, competitive/transparent method of allocation, and pricing, for meeting the spectrum requirements if captive 5G applications of industries for machine/plant automation purposes/M2M in premises. • Associated conditions like upfront payments, applicable moratorium period after upfront payments, number of deferred payment instalments and other related modalities for

• auction of spectrum with validity for 30 years. • For creating provisions for surrender of spectrum, conditions, and fee for such surrender of spectrum. • Any other recommendations deemed fit for the purpose of spectrum auction in these frequency bands, including the regulatory/technical requirements as enunciated in the relevant provisions of the latest ITU-R Radio Regulations. [Press Release No. 54/2021]

[View Document](#)

Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (Conditions of service of the Officers and other Employees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021

Dec 02, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority on November 5, 2021 has issued the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (Conditions of service of the Officers and other Employees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021 to further amend the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (Conditions of service of the Officers and other Employees) Regulations, 2016. It shall come into force on November 5, 2021. The following amendments were made namely: - • In Table under Schedule II which specify "Method of Recruitment", against serial number 10A relating to the post of 'Assistant (Strategy Risk and Research/Operations/Stakeholders Affairs/Stakeholders Awareness and Outreach)' the following shall be substituted namely: - 1. Bachelor's degree in Agriculture; or 2. Bachelor's degree in Science or Technology with Zoology, Botany, Bio-technology or Bio-Chemistry as one of the subject; or 3. Master's degree in Agricultural Business Management; or 4. full-time Postgraduate diploma in Agricultural Business Management from a Government recognized University or institution [Notification no. G.S.R. 841(E)]

[View Document](#)

IFSCA clarifies on disclosure of dealing in securities by Directors and Key Management Personnel

Dec 01, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) on November 30, 2021 has issued clarification regarding disclosure of dealing in securities by Directors and Key Management Personnel of the all recognized MIIs in GIFT-IFSC which was issued in circular 286/IFSCA/ CMD-DMIIT/PM/2021 dated September 13, 2021. IFSCA had issued the guidelines on the "Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics for the Directors and Key Management Personnel (KMP) of recognized Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) in GIFT-IFSC." The following clarification has been made: • Clause 5 (c), clause 9 and clause 10 of the circular pertain to disclosure of dealing in securities by the Directors and Key Management Personnel. It is hereby clarified that the aforementioned clauses will only be applicable with respect to dealings in securities in GIFT-IFSC. [Circular No. 286/IFSCA/ CMD-DMIIT/PM/2021/001]

[View Document](#)

MoF issues implementation date of certain sections of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021

Dec 01, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on November 30, 2021 has issued a notification regarding the implementation date of certain sections and sub-sections of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021 (17 of 2021). The following sections and sub-sections are being implemented on November 30, 2021 : • Sub-section (1), (2), (4) & (5), of section 15 which specifies Committees of Board. • Section 24, which specifies Disposal of profits accruing to Institution, to reserve fund. [Notification No. S.O. 4911(E)]

[View Document](#)

NPPA further extends the date of capping the trade margin of Oxygen Concentrator at first point of sale

Dec 01, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) on November 30, 2021 has issued an Order to further extend the date of capping the trade margin of Oxygen Concentrator at first point of sale (price to distributor) to March 31, 2022 which earlier was November 30, 2021 by continuing the notification No. S.O. 2161(E) dated June 03, 2021. The notes (b) to (n) of the Notification S.O. 2161(E) dated June 03, 2021 shall remain in force during the currency of this order. [Order No. S.O. 4909(E)]

[View Document](#)

Consultation paper on Draft International Financial Services Authority (Insurance Web Aggregator) Regulations, 2021

Dec 01, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) on November 30, 2021 has issued Consultation paper on Draft International Financial Services Authority (Insurance Web Aggregator) Regulations, 2021 to seek comments / views/ suggestions from public on the proposed International Financial Services Authority (Insurance Web Aggregator) Regulations, 2021. The Foremost provisions of the Draft International Financial Services Centres Authority (Insurance Web Aggregators) Regulations, 2021 are as followed: • Objective :- These Regulations aim to put in place process of process of registration and operations of Insurance Web Aggregator in an International Financial Services Centre under the regulatory purview of the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019 (50 of 2019) • Amalgamation and Transfer of business :- (1) No IWA shall undertake any scheme of amalgamation or merger & acquisition or transfer of business except in accordance with these Regulations. (2) No scheme of amalgamation or merger or acquisition or transfer of business of the IWA shall be implemented without the prior approval of the Authority. (3) No scheme of transfer of business of the IWA, whether wholly or partly, shall be implemented by an IWA and notwithstanding such transfer, the transferor continues to act as an IWA, unless the prior approval of the Authority is obtained. However, no transferor shall act as an IWA for such transferred business beyond six (6) months. (4) No scheme of transfer of business shall be implemented by an IWA where such transfer results in voluntary surrender of registration by the transferor, without prior approval of the Authority. (5) The process for seeking approval shall be in such form and manner as specified by the Authority. • Professional indemnity insurance – Every IWA shall purchase and maintain at all

times a professional indemnity insurance cover as specified in SCHEDULE - 7 of these Regulations throughout the validity of its Registration. • Conflict of interest – While soliciting and procuring the insurance business, the IWA shall comply with the following: (a) The IWA having tie-ups with more than one insurer in a particular line of business, shall display to the prospective customer the list of insurers with whom they have arrangements to distribute the products and provide them with the details such as scope of coverage, term of policy, premium payable, premium terms and any other information which the customer seeks on all products available with them; (b) The product to be sold shall be based on the need analysis of the prospect. • Action in case of Default – If pursuant to an inspection or investigation or otherwise, the Authority is of the opinion that the operations of an IWA or Insurer are not being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Act, rules or regulations or circulars and guidelines issued thereunder or its activities are not in the interests of the International Financial Services Centres, the Authority may take appropriate disciplinary action against it including but not limited to suspension or cancellation of certificate after giving an opportunity to the IWA or Insurer, of making its submissions. • Powers to issue clarification:- In order to remove any doubts or the difficulties that may arise in the application or interpretation of any of the provisions of these Regulations, the Chairperson of the Authority may issue appropriate clarifications as deemed necessary. • General: - Any disputes arising between an IWA and an insurer may be referred to the Authority by the person so affected; and on receipt of the complaint or representation, the Authority may examine the complaint and if found necessary proceed to conduct an enquiry or an inspection or an investigation in terms of these Regulations. These draft regulations are placed on the website of the IFSCA at <https://ifsc.gov.in/PublicConsultation>. General public and stakeholders are requested to forward their comments / suggestions through e-mail to Mr. Bhaskar Khadakhbavi at bhaskar.khadakhbavi@ifsc.gov.in with a copy to Mr. Rishi Kale at rishi.kale@ifsc.gov.in by December 20, 2021 in the format attached with this paper (refer last page). It is further requested to provide comments in MS Word or MS Excel format.

[View Document](#)

DGFT notifies on E-filing of RCMC / RC through common digital portal

Dec 01, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on November 30, 2021 has issued a notice regarding the Electronic filing of Registration Cum Membership Certificate (RCMC)/ Registration Certificate (RC) through the Common Digital Platform applicable from December 06, 2021 to provide an electronic, contact-less single window for the RCMC/RC related processes including Application for Fresh/ Amendment/ Renewal of RCMC/ RC. Applications for RCMC/ RC may be submitted through the common platform applicable from December 06, 2021. Submitting applications on this online platform shall not be mandatory for the exporters in the immediate and there shall be a transition period for issuing agencies as well as Exporters to on board this common digital platform. The existing procedure of submitting applications directly to the designated issuing agency shall also be in operation in parallel during this transition period. Submission and issuance of RCMC/ RC by the issuing agencies through their system may continue up to 28th February 2022 or until further orders. The authenticity of the online issued shall be verifiable by login to exporter profile on <https://dgft.gov.in>. The details for RCMC/ RC issued using the DGFT portal will be reflected instantly in the profile of the exporter. [Trade Notice No. 27/2021-2022]

[View Document](#)

SEBI notifies on Publishing of Investor Charter and disclosure of complaints by Debenture Trustees (DTs) on their Websites

Dec 01, 2021 | Central | Industry Specific

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on November 30, 2021 has issued a notification on Publishing of Investor Charter and disclosure of complaints by Debenture Trustees (DTs) on their Websites to facilitate investor awareness about various activities where an investor has to deal with DTs for availing various services, SEBI has developed an Investor Charter for DTs, inter-alia detailing the services provided to Investors, timelines for various DT services provided, Rights and Obligations of Investors and Grievance Redressal Mechanism. All the registered Debenture Trustees shall take necessary steps to bring the Investor Charter, as provided at 'Annexure – A' to the notice of investor in non-convertible debt securities by way of: a. disseminating the Investor Charter on their websites/through e-mail; b. displaying the Investor charter at prominent places in offices etc. SEBI has decided that all the registered DTs shall disclose on their respective websites, the data on complaints received against them or in respect of nonconvertible debt securities issuances dealt by them and redressal thereof, latest by 7th of succeeding month, as per the format enclosed at Annexure- 'B'. *Disclaimer – Kindly find Annexure A and Annexure B in the provided link. [Circular No SEBI/HO/MIRSD/MIRSD_CRADT/P/CIR/2021/675]

[View Document](#)

Commercial

Toluene (Quality Control) Order, 2021

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Commercial



The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers on December 24, 2021 has issued the Toluene (Quality Control) Order, 2021 to supersede the Toluene (Quality Control) Order, 2020. The foremost provisions of the order are as followed: • Conformity to standards and compulsory use of Standard Mark.- Goods or article specified in column (1) of the said Table shall conform to the corresponding Indian Standard given in column (2) of the said Table and shall bear the Standard Mark under a licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards as per Scheme-I of Schedule-II of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018. • Penalty for contravention. - Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Order shall be punishable under the provisions of the said Act. This notification shall come into force on June 22, 2022. [Notification No. S.O. 5436(E)]

[View Document](#)

Terephthalic Acid (Quality Control) Order, 2021

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers on December 24, 2021 has issued The Terephthalic Acid (Quality Control) Order, 2021 to supersede The Terephthalic Acid (Quality Control) Order, 2020. This shall come into force on June 22, 2022. The following Clause has been introduced namely: - • Clause 2 which specify “Conformity to standards and compulsory use of Standard Mark“ has been inserted namely: - “Goods or article shall conform to the corresponding Indian Standard and shall bear the Standard Mark under a licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards as per Scheme-I of Schedule-II of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018” • Clause 3 which specify “Certification and enforcement authority“ has been inserted namely: - “In respect of the goods or article specified, the Bureau of Indian Standards shall be the certifying and enforcing authority.” • Clause 4 which specify “Penalty for contravention“ has been inserted namely: - “Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Order shall be punishable under the provisions of the said Act.” [Notification No. S.O. 5437(E)]

[View Document](#)

Ethylene Glycol (Quality Control) Order, 2021

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers on December 24, 2021 has issued The Ethylene Glycol (Quality Control) Order, 2021 to supersede The Ethylene Glycol (Quality Control) Order, 2020. This shall come into force on June 22, 2022. The following Clause has been introduced namely: - • Clause 2 which specify “Conformity to standards and compulsory use of Standard Mark” has been inserted namely: - “Goods or article shall conform to the corresponding Indian Standard and shall bear the Standard Mark under a licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards as per Scheme-I of Schedule-II of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018” • Clause 3 which specify “Certification and enforcement authority” has been inserted namely: - “In respect of the goods or article specified, the Bureau of Indian Standards shall be the certifying and enforcing authority.” • Clause 4 which specify “Penalty for contravention” has been inserted namely: - “Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Order shall be punishable under the provisions of the said Act.” [Notification No. S.O. 5435(E)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Textiles orders mandatory use of jute bags for packaging of certain commodities

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Textiles On December 27, 2021 has issued an order to use Jute bags for packaging and distribution of certain commodities. The commodities are as followed: • Food Grains, 100% of the produced food grains are required to be packed in jute packaging material manufactured in India from raw jute produced in India. • Sugar, 20% of sugar of the produced food grains are required to be packed in jute packaging material manufactured in India from raw jute produced in India. [Order No. S.O. 5421(E)]

[View Document](#)

n-Butyl Acrylate (Quality Control) Order, 2021

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers on December 24, 2021 has issued the n-Butyl Acrylate (Quality Control) Order, 2021 to supersede the n-Butyl Acrylate (Quality Control) Order, 2020. The foremost provisions of the order are as followed: • Conformity to standards and compulsory use of Standard Mark.- Goods or article specified in column (1) of the said Table shall conform to the corresponding Indian Standard given in column (2) of the said Table and shall bear the Standard Mark under a licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards as per Scheme-I of Schedule-II of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018. • Penalty for contravention. - Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Order shall be punishable under the provisions of the said Act. This notification shall come into force on June 22, 2022. [Notification No. S.O. 5438(E)]

[View Document](#)

Phthalic Anhydride (Quality Control) Order, 2021

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers on December 24, 2021 has issued the Phthalic Anhydride (Quality Control) Order, 2021 to supersede the Phthalic Anhydride (Quality Control) Order, 2020. The foremost provisions of the order are as followed: • Conformity to standards and compulsory use of Standard Mark.- Goods or article specified in column (1) of the said Table shall conform to the corresponding Indian Standard given in column (2) of the said Table and shall bear the Standard Mark under a licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards as per Scheme-I of Schedule-II of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018. • Penalty for contravention. - Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Order shall be punishable under the provisions of the said Act. This notification shall come into force on June 22, 2022. [Notification No. S.O. 5434(E)]

[View Document](#)

Boiler Operation (Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 29, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry on December 28, 2021 has issued The Boiler Operation (Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend The Boiler Operation Rules, 2021. This shall come into force on December 28, 2021. The following amendments were made namely: - • In Rule 30(b) which specify “Age, qualifications and experience – Possesses a degree or diploma in Mechanical or Electrical or Chemical or Power Plant or Production or Instrumentation Engineering from a recognised university or Institution” the following shall be inserted namely: “Note : Any integration or combination with the above-mentioned branches of Engineering, for example, Electrical and Electronics, Electrical and Instrumentation, etc. shall also be allowed” [Notification No. G.S.R. 890(E)]

[View Document](#)

Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021

Dec 29, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs , Food and Public Distribution on December 28, 2021 has issued the Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021. These rules shall be applicable to: (a) all goods and services bought or sold through direct selling; (b) all models of direct selling; (c) all direct selling entities offering goods and services to consumers in India; (d) all forms of unfair trade practices across all models of direct selling: The foremost provisions of the rules are as followed: • Mandatory maintenance of records.— Every direct selling entity shall maintain at its registered office, either manually or electronically, all such documents as are required under any law for the time being in force, including the following documents or records, as may be applicable, namely:— (a) Certificate of Incorporation; (b) Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association; (c) Permanent Account Number and Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number; (d) Goods and Services Tax registration; (e) Goods and Services Tax Returns; (f) Income Tax Returns; (g) Balance Sheet, Audit Report and such other relevant reports; (h) Register of direct sellers; (i) Certificate of Importer-Exporter code (in case of imported goods) (j) License issued under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India Act, 2006 (34 of 2006) for the purposes of manufacture or sale of food items; (k) License

and Registration Certificate issued under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (23 of 1940) for the purposes of manufacture or sale of drugs, including Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani drugs and Homoeopathic Medicines; (l) Certificate of Registration of Trademark. • Duties of direct selling entity and direct seller .—Subject to the provisions of Chapter VI of the Act, relating to Product Liability, the following shall be the duties of direct selling entity and direct seller, as may be applicable, namely:— (i) Every direct selling entity and every direct seller shall ensure that— (a) the terms of the offer are clear, so as to enable the consumer to know the exact nature of offer being made and the commitment involved in placing any order; (b) the presentations and other representations used in direct selling shall not contain any product description, claim, illustration or other element which, directly or by implication, is likely to mislead the consumer; (c) the explanation and demonstration of the goods or services offered are accurate and complete, particularly with regard to price and, if applicable, to credit conditions, terms of payment, cooling-off periods or right to return, terms of guarantee, after-sales service and delivery; (d) the descriptions, claims, illustrations or other elements relating to verifiable facts are capable of substantiation; (e) any misleading, deceptive or unfair trade practices are not used; (f) direct selling is not represented to the consumer as being a form of market research; (g) the promotional literature, advertisement or mail contain the name and address or telephone number of the direct selling company, and include the mobile number of the direct seller; (h) direct selling shall not state or imply that a guarantee, warranty or other expression having substantially the same meaning, offers to the consumer any rights in addition to those provided by law, when it does not; (i) the terms of any guarantee or warranty, including the name and address of the guarantor, shall be easily available to the consumer and limitations on consumer rights or remedies, where permitted by law, shall be clear and conspicuous; (j) the remedial action open to the consumer shall be clearly set out in the order form or other accompanying literature provided with the goods or service; (k) the presentation of the offer does not contain or refer to any testimonial, endorsement or supportive documentation unless it is genuine, verifiable and relevant; (l) when after-sales service is offered, details of the service are included in the guarantee or stated elsewhere in the offer and if the consumer accepts the offer, information shall be given on how the consumer can activate the service and communicate with the service agent; (m) products, including, where applicable, samples, are suitably packaged for delivery to the consumer and for possible return, in compliance with the appropriate health and safety standards; (n) unless otherwise stipulated in the offer, orders shall be fulfilled within the delivery date proposed to the consumer at the time of purchase and the consumer shall be informed of any undue delay as soon as it becomes apparent or comes within the knowledge of the direct selling entity or the concerned direct seller; (o) in cases of delay under clause (n), any request for cancellation of the order by the consumer shall be granted, irrespective of whether the consumer has been informed of the delay, and the deposit, if any, shall be refunded as per the cancellation terms proposed to the consumer at the time of purchase, and if it is not possible to prevent delivery, the consumer shall be informed of the right to return the product at the direct selling company's or the direct seller's cost as per the procedure for return of the goods proposed to the consumer at the time of purchase; (p) right of return offered by that entity shall be in writing; (q) whether payment for the offer is on an immediate sale or instalment basis, the price and terms of payment shall be clearly stated in the offer together with the nature of any additional charges such as postage, handling and taxes and, whenever possible, the amounts of such charges; (r) in the case of sales by instalment, the credit terms, including the amount of any deposit or payment on account, the number, amount and periodicity of such instalments and the total price compared with the immediate selling price, if any, shall be clearly shown in the offer; (s) any information needed by the consumer to understand the cost, interest and terms of any other form of credit is provided either in the offer or when the credit is offered; (t) unless the duration of the offer and the price are clearly stated in the offer, prices shall be maintained for a reasonable period of time; (u) the procedure for payment and debt collection shall be determined in writing before any contract is signed and it shall be such as to avoid undue inconvenience to the consumer, making due allowance for delays outside the consumer's

control; (v) the provisions of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 (1 of 2010) and the rules framed thereunder shall be followed. (ii) A direct selling entity or direct seller shall not— (a) indulge in fraudulent activities or sales and shall take reasonable steps to ensure that participants do not indulge in false or misleading representations or any other form of fraud, coercion, harassment, or unconscionable or unlawful means; (b) engage in, or cause or permit, any conduct that is misleading or likely to mislead with regard to any material particulars relating to its direct selling business, or to the goods or services being sold by itself or by the direct seller; (c) indulge in mis-selling of products or services to consumers; (d) use, or cause or permit to be used, any fraudulent, coercive, unconscionable or unlawful means, or cause harassment, for promoting its direct selling business, or for sale of its goods or services; (e) refuse to take back spurious goods or deficient services and refund the consideration paid for goods and services provided; (f) charge any entry fee or subscription fee. (3) A direct selling entity and a direct seller shall comply with the requirements of all relevant laws, including payment of taxes and deductions thereunder. (4) A direct selling entity and a direct seller shall not induce consumers to make a purchase based upon the representation that they can reduce or recover the price by referring prospective customers to the direct sellers for similar purchases. • Application of e-commerce rules.— The direct sellers as well as the direct selling entities using e-commerce platforms for sale shall comply with the requirements of the Consumer Protection (e- Commerce) Rules, 2020. • Prohibition of Pyramid Scheme and money circulation scheme.—No direct selling entity or direct seller shall— (a) promote a Pyramid Scheme or enroll any person to such scheme or participate in such arrangement in any manner whatsoever in the garb of doing direct selling business; (b) participate in money circulation scheme in the garb of doing direct selling business. [Notification No. G.S.R. 889(E)]

[View Document](#)

Vinyl Acetate Monomer (Quality Control) Order, 2021

Dec 28, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers on December 22, 2021 has issued the Vinyl Acetate Monomer (Quality Control) Order, 2021 to supersede the Vinyl Acetate Monomer (Quality Control) Order, 2020. The following order has been made: • Conformity to standards and compulsory use of Standard Mark.- Goods or article specified in column (1) of the said Table shall conform to the corresponding Indian Standard given in column (2) of the said Table and shall bear the Standard Mark under a licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards as per Scheme-I of Schedule-II of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018. • Certification and enforcement authority.- In respect of the goods or article specified in column (1) of the said Table, the Bureau of Indian Standards shall be the certifying and enforcing authority. • Penalty for contravention. - Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Order shall be punishable under the provisions of the BIS Act. This Notification shall come into force on May 30, 2022, and shall be applicable only to the goods or articles listed in the table (Provided in the given document). [Order No. S.O. 5405(E)]

[View Document](#)

Methyl Acrylate, Ethyl Acrylate, (Quality Control) Order, 2021

Dec 28, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers on December 22, 2021 has issued the Methyl Acrylate, Ethyl Acrylate, (Quality Control) Order, 2021 to supersede the Methyl Acrylate, Ethyl Acrylate (Quality Control) Order, 2020. The following order has been made: • Conformity to standards and compulsory use of Standard Mark.- Goods or article specified in column (1) of the said Table shall conform to the corresponding Indian Standard given in column (2) of the said Table and shall bear the Standard Mark under a licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards as per Scheme-I of Schedule-II of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018. • Certification and enforcement authority.- In respect of the goods or article specified in column (1) of the said Table, the Bureau of Indian Standards shall be the certifying and enforcing authority. • Penalty for contravention. - Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Order shall be punishable under the provisions of the BIS Act. This Notification shall come into force on May 30, 2022, and shall be applicable only to the goods or articles listed in the table (Provided in the given document). [Order No. S.O. 5406(E)]

[View Document](#)

Polyphosphoric Acid (Quality Control) Order, 2021

Dec 28, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Chemicals and Petrochemicals on December 24, 2021 has issued the Polyphosphoric Acid (Quality Control) Order, 2021. This shall come into force on June 23, 2021. The Following were introduced namely: - • Section 2 which specify “Conformity to standard and compulsory use of Standard Mark” has been inserted namely: - “The goods or articles specified shall conform to the corresponding Indian Standard and shall bear the Standard Mark under a licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards as per Scheme-II of Schedule-II of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018” • Section 4 which specify “Penalty for contravention” the following has been inserted namely: “Any person who contravenes the provisions of this order shall be punishable under the provisions of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016” [Notification No. S.O.5388(E)]

[View Document](#)

BIS notifies date of Establishment for certain Indian Standards

Dec 27, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on December 24, 2021 has issued a notification to issue the Establishment date of certain Indian Standards. The Indian standards are as follows: • IS 17737 (Part 1) : 2021 Mobile Device Security Part 1 Overview • IS 17737 (Part 2) : 2021, Mobile Device Security Part 2 Security Requirements • IS 17737 (Part 3) : 2021 Mobile Device Security Part 3 Security Levels • IS 17743 (Part 2/Sec 1) : 2021/ISO/IEC 29110- 2-1 : 2015, Software Engineering – Lifecycle Profiles for Very Small Entities (VSES),Part 2/Sec 1 Framework and Taxonomy • IS/ISO/IEC 19795-2 : 2007, Information Technology – Biometric Performance Testing and Reporting, Part 2 Testing Methodologies for Technology and Scenario Evaluation • IS/ISO/IEC 19795-3 : 2007, Information Technology – Biometric Performance Testing and Reporting Part 3 Modality-Specific Testing • IS/ISO/IEC 19795-7 : 2011, Information Technology – Biometric Performance Testing and Reporting Part 7 Testing of On-Card Biometric Comparison Algorithms • IS/ISO/IEC 29197 : 2015 Information Technology – Evaluation Methodology for Environmental Influence in Biometric System Performance • IS/ISO/IEC 30106-1 : 2016 Information Technology – Object Oriented

BioAPL Part 1 Architecture • IS/ISO/IEC 30106-2 : 2020 Information Technology – Object Oriented BioAPI
Part 2 Java Implementation • IS/ISO/IEC 30106-3 : 2020 Information Technology – Object Oriented
BioAPI Part 3 C# Implementation • IS/ISO/IEC 30106-4 : 2019 Information Technology – Object Oriented Bio
API Part 4 C++ Implementation • IS/IEC 62037-4 : 2012, Passive RF and Microwave Devices,
Intermodulation Level Measurement, Part 4 Measurement of Passive Intermodulation in Coaxial Cables •
IS/IEC 62153-4-3 : 2013, Metallic Communication Cable Test Methods Part 4 Electromagnetic Compatibility
(EMC) Section 3 Surface transfer impedance ■ Triaxial Method • IS/IEC 62153-4-4 : 2015, Metallic
Communication Cable Test Methods Part 4 Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Section 4 Test method for
measuring of the screening attenuation as up to and above 3 GHz, triaxial method • IS/IEC 62153-4-6 : 2017,
Metallic Cables and Other Passive Components Test Methods, Part 4 Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC)
Section 6 surface Transfer impedance ■ Line injection method • IS/IEC 62746-10-1 : 2018, Systems
Interface Between Customer Energy Management and the Power Management System, Part 10/Section 1
Open Automated Demand Response The above-mentioned Indian Standards have been Established on
December 02, 2021. [Notification No. Ref: HQ-PUB013/1/2020-PUB-BIS(271)]

[View Document](#)

BIS notifies date of establishment and withdrawal for certain Indian Standards

Dec 27, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on December 24, 2021 has issued a notification to issue the date of establishment and withdrawal for certain Indian standards. The Indian standards which are being Established on December 01, 2021 are as follows: • IS 6100 : 2021, Sodium Tripolyphosphate, Anhydrous, Technical ■ Specification (Second Revision) • IS/ISO 11040-5 : 2012 Prefilled Syringes, Part 5 Plunger Stoppers for Injectables • IS 17710 : 2021/ISO 27185 : 2012, Cardiac Rhythm Management Devices ■ Symbols to be Used with Cardiac Rhythm Management Device Labels and Information to be Supplied ■ General Requirements • IS 17712 (Part 3) : 2021/ISO 5841-3 : 2013, Implants for Surgery ■ Cardiac Pacemakers Part 3 Low-profile Connectors (IS-1) for Implantable Pacemakers • IS 17737 (Part 4) : 2021, Mobile Device Security, Part 4 Assessment and Evaluation • IS 17744 : 2021/ISO 16054 : 2019 Implants for Surgery ■ Minimum Data Sets for Surgical Implants • IS/ISO 21417 : 2019, Recreational Diving Services ■ Requirements for Training on Environmental Awareness for Recreational Divers • IS/ISO 22739 : 2020, Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies ■ Vocabulary • IS/ISO/IEC/IEEE 42020 : 2019 Software, Systems and Enterprise ■ Architecture Processes • IS/IEC 60794-4-20 : 2018, Optical Fibre Cables, Part 4 Aerial Optical Cables along Electrical Power Lines, Section 20 Sectional Specification ■ Family Specification for ADSS (all dielectric self- supported) optical cables • IS/ISO 80601-2-61 : 2017, Medical Electrical Equipment, Part 2 Particular Requirements for Basic Safety and Essential Performance Section 61 Pulse oximeter equipment (First Revision) The Indian standards which are being withdrawn on December 31, 2021 are as follows: • IS/ISO 80601-2-61 : 2011 Medical Electrical Equipment Part 2 Particular Requirements for the Basic Safety and Essential Performance Section 61 Pulse Oximeter equipment • IS 6100 : 1984 Specification for Sodium Tripolyphosphate, Anhydrous, Technical (First Revision) [Notification No. Ref: HQ-PUB013/1/2020-PUB-BIS(272)]

[View Document](#)

Bicycles- Retro Reflective Devices (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2021

Dec 27, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Commercial](#)

The Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MCI) on December 24, 2021 has issued the Bicycles- Retro Reflective Devices (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2021 to further to amend the Bicycles- Retro Reflective Devices (Quality Control) Order, 2021. The following amendment has been made: • Paragraph 2 of the Bicycles- Retro Reflective Devices (Quality Control) Order, 2021 which specifies APPLICATION, has been amended, namely: Application.- With effect from the 1st Jan,2023, this order shall apply to goods or articles specified in column (1) of the Table 1 and Table 2, but nothing herein shall apply to said goods or articles meant for export. [Order No. S.O. 5400(E)]

[View Document](#)

BIS notifies establishment date of an Indian Standard

Dec 27, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Commercial](#)

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on December 24, 2021 has issued a notification to issue the date of an Indian Standard that is [IS 17802 (Part 1) : 2021 Accessibility for the ICT Products and Services Part 1 Requirements] and the Establishment date for the same is December 24, 2021. [Notification No. Ref: HQ-PUB013/1/2020-PUB-BIS (278)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Women and Child Development has issued a press release regarding Child Security in Cyber Space

Dec 24, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Commercial](#)

The Ministry of Women and Child Development on December 22, 2021 has issued a press release regarding Child Security in Cyber Space. The key highlights are as follows: • As per National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) Head-wise cases registered, cases charge-sheeted, cases convicted, persons convicted under Cyber Crime against Children (involving communication devices as medium/target) during 2018-2020 is Annexure-I. • Section 67B of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides stringent punishment for publishing, transmitting or viewing child sexual abuse material online. • The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 empower the users of Intermediaries and makes the social media platforms accountable for their safety. • Government periodically blocks the websites containing extreme child sexual abuse material (CSAM) based on INTERPOL's "worst of list" received through Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the national nodal agency for Interpol in India. • Government has issued an order to concerned Internet Service Providers (ISPs) ordering them to implement Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), UK or Project Arachnid, Canada list of CSAM websites/webpages on a dynamic basis and block access to such child pornography webpages/websites. • Meity through a program, namely, Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA), has been creating awareness among users including women and children highlighting the importance of digital safety while using Internet. A dedicated website for information security awareness (<https://www.infosecawareness.in>) provides relevant awareness material. (d): The Information Technology Act, 2000 provides a legal framework for addressing all types of

prevailing cyber crimes as reported in the country. • Further, Section-14 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offence (POCSO) Act provides Punishment for using child for pornographic purposes. As per section-14: (1) Whoever uses a child or children for pornographic purposes shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years and shall also be liable to fine, and in the event of second or subsequent conviction with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than seven years and also be liable to fine. (2) Whoever using a child or children for pornographic purposes under sub-section (1), commits an offence referred to in section 3 or section 5 or section 7 or section 9 by directly participating in such pornographic acts, shall be punished for the said offences also under section 4, section 6, section 8 and section 10, respectively, in addition to the punishment provided in sub-section (1)." [Release ID: 1784144]

[View Document](#)

Essential Commodities Order, 2021

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on December 23, 2021 has issued Essential Commodities Order, 2021. This shall come into force on December 23, 2021. The following was stated namely: - • The order has come into place to regulate the production, stocking and distribution of Soya Meal • Serial No. (9) which specify "Soya Meal" in Essential Commodities Act, 1955, shall be inserted. • This is valid till June 30, 2022 [Notification No. S.O. 5369(E)]

[View Document](#)

Soya Meal Stock Control Order, 2021

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on December 23, 2021 has issued The Soya Meal Stock Control Order, 2021. This shall come into force from December 23, 2021. This is in force till June 30, 2022. The following stock limit is prescribed for Soya Meal namely: - • Plant/Miller/Processor: Maximum stock of 90 days production of Soya Meal, as per daily input production capacity of Plant/Miller/Processor, defined in its IEM. The storage location should be declared. • Trading company/Trader/Private Chaupals: Only Government registered enterprise, maximum stock of 160 MT with a defined and declared storage location. In case of stocks held by respective legal entities are higher than the prescribed limits then they shall declare the same on http://evegoils.nic.in/soya_meal_Stock/login. Further, they should bring it to the prescribed stock limits before January 22, 2022. [Notification No. S.O.5370(E)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy issues a press release regarding Steps taken by the government to promote Renewable Energy

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on December 21, 2021 has issued a press release regarding the Steps taken by the government to promote Renewable Energy. The installed Renewable energy capacity (including large hydro) has increased from 76.37 GW in March 2014 to 150.54 GW in November 2021, i.e. an increase of around 97%. The Government has taken several measures to promote renewable energy in the country. These include:-

- Permitting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100 percent under the automatic route,
- Waiver of Inter State Transmission System (ISTS) charges for inter-state sale of solar and wind power for projects to be commissioned by 30th June 2025,
- Laying of new transmission lines and creating new sub-station capacity for evacuation of renewable power,
- Declaration of trajectory for Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) up to the year 2022,
- Setting up of RE parks to provide land and transmission to RE developers on a plug and play basis,
- Schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM), Solar Rooftop Phase II, 12000 MW CPSU Scheme Phase II, etc,
- Notification of standards for deployment of solar photovoltaic system/devices,
- Setting up of Project Development Cell for attracting and facilitating investments,
- Standard Bidding Guidelines for tariff based competitive bidding for procurement of Power from Grid Connected Solar PV and Wind Projects.

• Government has issued orders that power shall be dispatched against Letter of Credit (LC) or advance payment to ensure timely payment by distribution licensees to RE generators.

- Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) launched to facilitate procurement of RE power through power exchange in the country.

This information was given by Shri R. K Singh, Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy in a written reply in Lok Sabha today. [Release ID :228905]

[View Document](#)

BIS notifies on amendment of certain Indian Standards and their establishment date

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on December 09, 2021 has issued a notification to amend certain Indian Standards and their establishment dates and Date till which the standard without the amendment shall remain in force. The following Indian Standards have been amended:

- IS 10500 : 2012 Drinking Water ■ Specification (Second Revision)
- IS 13428 : 2005 Packaged Natural Mineral Water ■ Specification (Second Revision)
- IS 14543 : 2016 Packaged Drinking Water (Other than Packaged Natural Mineral Water) ■ Specification (Second Revision)

For these Indian Standards the date of establishment of an Amendment is December 03, 2021 and the Date till which the standard without the amendment shall remain in force is June 02, 2022. [Notification No. Ref: HQ-PUB014/1/2020-PUB-BIS (267)]

[View Document](#)

BIS amends an Indian Standard and its establishment date

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on December 09, 2021 has issued a notification to amend an Indian Standard and its establishment dates and Date till which the standard without the amendment shall remain in force. The following Indian Standards have been amended:

- IS 13095 : 2020, Butterfly Valves for General Purposes (First Revision)

For these Indian Standards the date of establishment of an Amendment is December 01, 2021 and the Date till which the standard without the amendment shall remain in force is May 31, 2022. [Notification No. Ref: HQ-PUB014/2/2020-PUB-BIS (269)]

[View Document](#)

BIS notifies to amend certain Indian Standards and their establishment date

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on December 09, 2021 has issued a notification to amend certain Indian Standards and their establishment dates and Date till which the standard without the amendment shall remain in force. The following Indian Standards have been amended: • IS 209 : 1992, Zinc Ingot ■ Specification (Fourth Revision) • IS 308 : 1988, Specification for Dissolved Acetylene (GAS) (Third Revision) • IS 487 : 2012, Brushes, Paint and Varnish-(I) Oval, Ferrule Bound; and (II) Round, Ferrule Bound (Fifth Revision) • IS 1844 : 1993 Bristles ■ Specification (Second Revision) • IS 4711 : 2008, Methods for Sampling of Steel Pipes, Tubes and Fittings (Second Revision) • IS 15785 : 2007, Installation and Maintenance of lift without Conventional Machine Room ■ Code of Practice For these Indian Standards the date of establishment of an Amendment is December 01, 2021 and the Date till which the standard without the amendment shall remain in force is December 31, 2021. [Notification No.Ref: HQ-PUB015/1/2020-PUB-BIS (268)]

[View Document](#)

Dam Safety Act, 2021

Dec 15, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Law and Justice on December 14, 2021 has issued The Dam Safety Act, 2021. It shall come into force on December 14, 2021. A few Sections introduced are namely: - • Section 6 which specifies “The National Committee shall discharge such functions as specified in the First Schedule as may be necessary to prevent dam failure related disasters and to maintain standards of dam safety.” shall be inserted. • Section 8 which specifies “With effect from such date as the Central Government may by notification, appoint, there shall be established for the purposes of this Act, a National Dam Safety Authority, within a period of sixty days from the date of commencement of this Act” shall be inserted. • Section 12 which specifies “The State Committee shall discharge such functions as specified in the Third Schedule as may be necessary to prevent dam failure related disasters under this Act as per guidelines, standards and other directions on dam safety issued by the Authority.” shall be inserted. • Section 30 which specify “For each specified dam, the owner shall, within the operation and maintenance establishment, provide a dam safety unit consisting of such competent levels of engineers as may be specified by the regulations” shall be inserted. • Section 42 which specifies “Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a Department of the Government, the head of the Department shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly unless he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence” shall be inserted. • Section 56 which specifies “If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order, published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty” shall be inserted. [Order No. 41/2021]

[View Document](#)

Use of Low Power Equipment in the Frequency Band 865-868 MHz for Short Range Devices (Exemption from Licence) Rules, 2021

Dec 15, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Communications on December 10, 2021 has issued the Use of Low Power Equipment in the Frequency Band 865-868 MHz for Short Range Devices (Exemption from Licence) Rules, 2021 to supersede the Use of low power equipment in the frequency band 865-867 MHz for (RFID) Radio Frequency Identification Devices (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2005. These rules shall not be applicable to the wireless equipment which has been type approved under the Use of low power equipment in the frequency band 865-867 MHz for (RFID) Radio Frequency Identification Devices (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2005, and shall be effective till the end of its life. The following provisions have been made:

- **Exemption.** — No licence shall be required by any person to establish, maintain, work, possess or deal in any wireless telegraphy apparatus for the purpose of usage of low power short range radio frequency devices or wireless equipment, on non-interference, non-protection and shared and nonexclusive basis, complying with the technical specifications and working in the frequency band contained in the Tables-I to IV below, namely: —
 - o Table-I - Non-Specific Short Range Devices
 - o Table-II- Tracking, Tracing and Data Acquisition Devices
 - o Table-III - Wideband Data Transmission Systems
 - o Table-IV - Radio Frequency Identification Applications
- **Interference.** — (1) Radio interference is the effect of unwanted energy due to one or a combination of emissions, radiations or induction upon reception in a radio communication system, manifested by any performance degradation, misinterpretation, or loss of information which could be extracted in the absence of such unwanted energy. Where any person, whom a licence has been issued under the provisions of section 4 of the Act, informs the Authority that his licensed system is getting harmful interference from any other radio communication system exempted under these rules, then such authority shall call upon the user of such unlicensed wireless equipment to take necessary steps to avoid interference by relocating the equipment, reducing the power and using special type of antennae, failing which such Authority shall recommend discontinuation of such wireless use. (2) The Authority shall give a reasonable opportunity to the user of wireless equipment before making recommendation of discontinuation of wireless use under sub-rule (1).
- **Equipment type approval.** — (1) The wireless equipment shall be designed and constructed in such a manner that the bandwidth of emission and other parameters shall conform to the limits specified in rule 3 and such equipment shall be type approved. The application for obtaining equipment type approval shall be made to the Central Government in the format given in Annexure. (2) The equipment shall comply with the respective EN number for effective use of spectrum and to avoid harmful interference. (3) The safety related requirements shall be as per the International or National standards such as International Telecommunication Union (ITU)/ European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) / American National Standards Institute (ANSI) / Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) / International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) for the respective devices and frequency bands.
- **ANNEXURE**, which specifies, APPLICATION FOR EQUIPMENT TYPE APPROVAL is also provided in the link. *Disclaimer - Kindly find the Detailed tables in the provided link. [Notification No. G.S.R. 853(E)]

[View Document](#)

BIS amends Date of establishment and withdrawal of certain Indian Standards

Dec 10, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on December 1, 2021 has issued Date of establishment and withdrawal of certain Indian Standards. The date for the establishment is November 26, 2021 and the withdrawal date is December 25, 2021 respectively. The following are the Indian Standards namely: - • IS 1448 (Part 189) : 2021/ISO 10370 : 2014 Methods of Test for Petroleum and its Products Part 189 Petroleum Products ■ Determination of Carbon Residue ■ Micro Method • IS 3245 : 2021 Canned Peas ■ Specification (First Revision) • IS/ISO 8536-1 : 2011 Infusion Equipment for Medical Use Part 1 Infusion Glass Bottles • IS/ISO 10014 : 2021 Quality Management Systems ■ Managing an Organization for Quality Results ■ Guidance for realizing Financial and Economic Benefits (First Revision) • IS 13360 (Part 2/Sec 4) : 2021/ISO 2818 : 2018 Plastics ■ Methods of Testing Part 2 Sampling and Preparation of Test Specimens Section 4 Preparation of Test Specimens by Machining (Second Revision) • IS 13797 : 2021 Molybdenum Disulphide Dispersion in Oil ■ Specification (First Revision) • IS 14897 : 2021/IEC TR 60887 : 2010 Glass Bulb Designation System for Lamps (First Revision) • IS 16418 (Part 1) : 2021/ISO 17442-1 : 2020 Financial Services ■ Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) Part 1 Assignment (First Revision) • IS 17547 : 2021 Specification for Vaccine Freezer or Combined Vaccine Freezer and Water-Pack Freezer Compression Cycle ■ General Requirements and Testing Methods • IS 17644 : 2021 Recommendations to be Given on Indication Plates for Web Offset Printing Machines • IS 17703 : 2021/ISO 9997 : 2020 Dentistry ■ Cartridge Syringes • IS 17742 (Part 1) : 2021/ISO 21043-1 : 2018 Forensic Sciences Part 1 Terms and Definitions • IS 17759 : 2021/ISO 17939 : 2015 Ships and Marine Technology ■ Oil Tank Hatches • IS/IEC 62037-1 : 2012 Passive RF and Microwave Devices, Intermodulation Level Measurement Part 1 General Requirements and Measuring Methods [Notification no. HQ-PUB013/1/2020-PUB-BIS (263)]

[View Document](#)

BIS issues withdrawal date of Electrical Equipment of Machines

Dec 10, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on November 25, 2021 has issued Date of withdrawal of certain Indian Standard. The date of Withdrawal will be October 27, 2021. The Indian Standard is namely: - • IS 1356 (Part 1) : 1972 Specification for Electrical Equipment of Machine Tools Part 1 Electrical Equipment of Machines for General Use (Second Revision) [Notification No. HQ-PUB017/1/2020-PUB-BIS (265)]

[View Document](#)

BIS amends certain withdrawal/establishment dates for some Indian Standards

Dec 10, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on December 01, 2021 has issued a notification to amend the dates of establishment and withdrawal for certain Indian Standards. The date for the establishment is November 26, 2021 and the withdrawal date is December 25, 2021. The following are the Indian Standards: • IS 729 : 2021, Drawer Locks, Cupboard Locks and Box Locks – Specification (Fourth Revision) • IS 5624 : 2021 Foundation Bolts – Specification (Second Revision) • IS 7731 : 2021 Guide for Storage of Peaches (First Revision) • IS 9068 : 2021/ISO 1833-1 : 2020 Textiles – Quantitative Chemical Analysis – General Principles of Testing (First Revision) • IS 9200 : 2021, Methods of Disposal of Unserviceable Compressed Gas Cylinders – Code of Practice (Second Revision) • IS 9303 : 2021, Guide For Cold Storage of Table Grapes (First Revision) • IS 9765 : 2021/ISO 5250 : 2003 Textile Machinery and Accessories – Dyeing and Finishing

Machinery – Terms for Tendering and Heat – Treatment Machinery (First Revision) • IS 10153 : 2021
Utilization of Fly Ash – Guidelines (First Revision) • IS 10718 : 2021/ISO 3040 : 2016 Geometrical Product
Specifications (GPS) – Dimensioning and Tolerancing – Cones (Second Revision) • IS/ISO 11114-1 : 2020,
Gas Cylinders – Compatibility of Cylinder and Valve Materials with Gas Contents Part 1 Metallic Materials
(First Revision) • IS 12647 : 2021, Solid Waste Management Collection Equipment – Requirements and
Guidelines (First Revision) • IS/ISO 13274 : 2013, Packaging – Transport Packaging for Dangerous Goods –
Plastics Compatibility Testing for Packaging and IBCs • IS 13929 : 2021, Stainless Steel Decking Plastes for
Cane Mud Filters – Specification (First Revision) • IS/ISO 15070 : 1996, Series 1 Freight Containers –
Rationale for structural Test Criteria • IS 17708 : 2021/ISO/TS 23810 : 2018 Cardiovascular Implants and
Artificial Organs – checklists for Use of Extracorporeal Circulation Equipment • IS 17647 (Part 2) :
2021/ISO/TS 20399-2 : 2018 Biotechnology – Ancillary Materials Present During the Production of Cellular
Therapeutic Products Part 2 Best Practice Guidance for Ancillary Material Suppliers • IS 17678 : 2021, Short
Encapsulation Pull Test (SEPT) Procedure • IS 17712 (Part 2) : 2021/ISO 5841-2 : 2014 Implants for
Surgery – Cardiac Pacemakers Part 2 Reporting of Clinical Performance of Populations of Pulse Generators
or Leads • IS 17746 : 2021, Active Implantable Medical Devices – Four – Pole Connector System for
Implantable Cardiac Rhythm Management Devices – Dimensional and Test Requirements (ISO 27186 :
2020, MOD) • IS/ISO 20228 : 2019 Interpreting Services – Legal Interpreting – Requirements [Notification
No. Ref: HQ-PUB013/1/2020-PUB-BIS (264)]

[View Document](#)

Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations, 2021

Dec 09, 2021 | [Central](#) | [Commercial](#)

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on December 08, 2021 has issued the Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations, 2021 to further amend the Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018. The following amendment has been made: • In schedule II, scheme IX has been inserted. Highlights of the scheme are as followed: o Scope.- (1) Under this scheme which is based on combination of product certification and management system along with process requirements, if applicable, the Bureau may grant licence to use or apply Standard Mark for goods or article (hereinafter referred to as product) manufactured in a manufacturing premises which conform to all requirements of Indian Standards for that product and demonstrates conformity of management system to the relevant Indian Standards and conformity to process requirements, as specified. o Decision.- The decision on grant of licence shall be taken when the Bureau is satisfied that the manufacturer has necessary infrastructure for manufacturing quality product on a continuous basis, the test results indicate conformity of the product to the specified requirements, management system, as specified, is in conformity with the relevant Indian Standard and the process compliance is as required and as specified. o Complaints.- (1) The Bureau shall acknowledge and investigate any complaint received regarding quality of the product covered under licence. (2) The actions for closure of complaint shall be completed within ninety days, excluding the testing time, where testing of the product is involved. (3) If complaint is established, the Bureau may direct the licensee to take necessary corrective actions. o Conditions of Licence.- The conditions of licence, as given in regulation 6, shall be mentioned in the licence and in addition, the following conditions shall be applicable, namely:- (1) The holder of licence shall, - (a) at all times, remain responsible for conformance of the system in respect of which licence has been granted; (b) not use the licence in any manner which in the opinion of the Bureau may be misleading or use or apply the Standard Mark in any manner not permitted by

the Bureau; (c) inform the Bureau of any changes in management or address of the firm or conditions which were declared earlier; (d) implement the provisions of amendment to Indian Standard or revised Indian Standard, as the case may be, upon issue of amendment or revision within the stipulated time as specified by the Bureau; (e) comply with any directions issued by the Bureau from time to time; (2) Upon expiry of the period of validity or upon suspension or cancellation of the licence, the holder of the licence shall - (a) discontinue its use forthwith and withdraw all promotional and advertising material which contains any reference thereto; (b) return the licence document to the Bureau in the event of licence being surrendered or cancelled; (c) inform the Bureau in writing of discontinuation of operations exceeding three months; (3) The conformity assessment activities relating to grant and operation of licence may be carried out or witnessed by the auditors authorized by the Bureau as per the requirements of conformity assessment scheme. o Validity of Licence.- (1) The licence to use Standard Mark shall normally be granted for a period of three years. (2) The period of licence may be extended or reduced in case of revision or superseding of applicable Indian Standard. (3) The licence to use Standard Mark is normally re-certified for a period of three years and shall be effective from the date specified in the order. (4) The re-certification period may be extended or reduced depending on the re-certification decision or revision of the applicable Indian Standard or on request of the manufacturer. (5) All the fee, including grant of licence and re-certification fee, shall be paid in advance for the validity period of the licence. o Re-certification of Licence.- (1) An application for re-certification of licence to use Standard Mark shall be made before five months of its expiration to the Bureau. (2) The re-certification of licence shall be done in accordance with regulation 8. (3) The re-certification of the licence to use the Standard Mark shall be granted, - (a) if the re-certification application is found to be complete; (b) on payment of fee as specified; and (c) on successful re-evaluation of the production process and the management system as per the relevant Indian Standard, as applicable. [Notification No. F. No. BS/11/11/2021]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Heavy Industries has issued Production Linked Incentive Scheme for manufacturing of Advance Chemistry Cell

Dec 09, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Heavy Industries on December 07, 2021 has Production Linked Incentive Scheme for manufacturing of Advance Chemistry Cell. The Highlights are as follows: • The Government on May 12, 2021 approved a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for manufacturing of Advance Chemistry Cell (ACC) in the country. • The total outlay of the scheme is Rs. 18,100 Crore for a period of 5 years. • The scheme envisages to establish a competitive ACC battery manufacturing set up in the country (50 GWh). Additionally, 5GWh of niche ACC technologies is also covered under the Scheme. • The scheme proposes a production linked subsidy based on applicable subsidy per KWh and percentage of value addition achieved on actual sales made by the manufacturers who set up production units. This scheme will facilitate reduction of import dependence of ACC battery and will reduce prices of batteries used in electric vehicles. • The Ministry of Heavy Industries is supporting IIT Madras for their project namely "Setting up of Center for Battery Engineering". • The objective of the project is mainly R&D studies on performance analysis of batteries and its testing, Understanding of Battery Management Systems (BMS), Design and Optimization of Battery Systems, Secondary use case of Batteries, Recycling of Batteries. [Release ID: 1778967]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Heavy Industries commences the application for the PLI Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component Industry

Dec 02, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Heavy Industries on December 1, 2021 has issued notification to commence the application for the PLI Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component Industry. The applicants need to submit all their applications before 23:59:59 hrs on January 9, 2022.

[View Document](#)

Department of School Education and Literacy notifies of the required documents to avail benefit under Scheme of Samagra Shiksha

Dec 01, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Department of School Education and Literacy on November 29, 2021 has issued a notification to inform of the required documents to avail benefit under Scheme of Samagra shiksha. This shall come into effect from November 29, 2021. The following are the requirements namely: - • A child desirous of availing the benefit under the Scheme shall be required to furnish proof of possession of the Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication. • Any child desirous of availing the benefit under the Scheme, who does not possess the Aadhaar number or has not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, shall be required to make application for Aadhaar enrolment subject to the consent of his parents or guardians, before registering for the Scheme. • In order to provide benefits to the beneficiaries under the Scheme conveniently, the concerned Department in the State Governments or Union Territory Administrations through their implementing agencies shall make all the required arrangements to ensure that wide publicity through media shall be given to the beneficiaries to make them aware of the said requirement [Notification No. S.O. 4897(E)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers amends the Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane) (Quality Control) Order, 2021

Dec 01, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers on November 29, 2021 has issued amendment to the Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane) (Quality Control) Order, 2021. The following amendment was made namely: - • In paragraph 1(2) which specify "It shall come into force on the one hundred and eighty-first day from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette." Shall be substituted namely:- "This order shall come into force on the 20th May, 2022" [Order No. S.O. 4913(E)]

[View Document](#)

BIS issues date of remain in force for an Indian Standard

Dec 01, 2021 | Central | Commercial

The Bureau Of Indian Standards (BIS) on November 29, 2021 has issued a notification regarding the Date till which the standard without the amendment IS 1374 : 2007 Poultry Feeds ■ Specification (Fifth Revision), Amendment No. 1 Nov 2021 shall remain in force which is February 25, 2022. [Notification No. Ref: HQ-PUB014/1/2020-PUB-BIS (262)]

[View Document](#)

Labour

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (Exits and Withdrawals under the National Pension System) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2021

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Labour



The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) on December 28, 2021 has issued the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (Exits and Withdrawals under the National Pension System) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2021 to further amend the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (Exits and Withdrawals under the National Pension System) Regulations, 2015. The following amendments have been made:

- In regulation 3, which specifies Exit from National Pension System for government sector subscribers, in sub-regulation (a)(ii) the following paragraph has been inserted: “The subscriber shall have an option to exit from the National Pension System at any point of time and frequency by submitting a request to National Pension System Trust or any intermediary or entity authorized by the Authority for this purpose. In case of death of subscriber during the period of deferment, such deferred amount of the subscriber shall be paid in the preferential order of nominee(s) followed by legal heir(s).”
- In regulation 3, which specifies Exit from National Pension System for government sector subscribers, in sub-regulation (a)(iii) the following paragraph has been inserted: “The subscriber shall have an option to purchase an annuity at any point of time during the deferment period by submitting a request to National Pension System Trust or any intermediary or entity authorized by the Authority for this purpose.”
- In regulation 3, which specifies Exit from National Pension System for government sector subscribers, in sub-regulation (a)(vi), has been substituted, namely: “where the subscriber desires to continue in the National Pension System and contribute to his retirement account beyond the age of sixty years or the age of superannuation, he or she shall have the option to do so by giving in writing or in such form as may be specified, and up to which he would like to contribute to his individual pension account but not exceeding seventy-five years of age. Such option shall be exercised at least fifteen days prior to the age of attaining sixty years or age of superannuation, as the case may be to the central recordkeeping agency or the National Pension System Trust or any other intermediary or entity authorized by the Authority for the purpose. In such cases, individual pension account/ Permanent Retirement Account shall require to be shifted from Government sector to All citizens including corporate sector and the expenses, maintenance charges and fee payable under the National Pension System in respect of the said individual pension account/ Permanent Retirement Account, shall continue to remain applicable; Provided further that such subscriber who has not exercised the option within the period of fifteen days, so stipulated, but desires to continue with his individual pension account under National Pension System, beyond the age of sixty years or the age of superannuation, as the case may be, and to the extent so permitted, may do so by making an application in writing with reasons for such delay to the National Pension System Trust. The authorized officer of the

National Pension Trust, may condone such delay, if any, in exercise of such option by the subscriber, as he may deem fit, having regard to the cause so shown or on any other relevant matter. Notwithstanding exercise of such option, the subscriber may exit at any point of time from National Pension System, by submitting a request to central recordkeeping agency or the National Pension System Trust or any intermediary or entity authorized by the Authority for this purpose;” • In regulation 3, which specifies Exit from National Pension System for government sector subscribers, sub-regulation (d) has been inserted, namely: “Where the subscriber who, before attaining the age of superannuation is identified as missing person by the nodal office or the employer, based on the (i) First Investigation Report (FIR) lodged with the concerned police station and a report from the police that the subscriber has not been traced despite all efforts made by the police and (ii) Indemnity bond from the nominee(s) or the legal heirs(s) in favour of National Pension System Trust that all payments will be adjusted against the payment due to the subscriber in case he or she appears on the scene and makes any claim, then twenty percent of the accumulated pension wealth shall be paid as an interim relief in lump sum to the nominee(s) or legal heir(s), as the case may be, of such subscriber and the remaining eighty percent out of the accumulated pension wealth of the subscriber shall be mandatorily utilized for purchase of annuity after determination of subscriber as missing and presumed dead, as per the provisions of the Indian Evidence Act 1872 and amendments thereto: Provided that such annuity contract shall be made as per proviso (i) of sub-regulation (c) of Regulation 3.” • In regulation 4, which specifies Exit from National Pension System by citizens, including corporate sector subscribers, sub-regulation (a) (i) has been substituted, namely: “Where the subscriber does not exit from the National Pension System beyond the age of sixty years, or the age of superannuation, as the case may be, shall continue to remain subscribed to the National Pension System till he or she attains the age of seventy-five years. Provided further that a subscriber having any employee-employer relationship, the individual pension account/ Permanent Retirement Account shall be shifted from the employer to all citizens model. Notwithstanding in such automatic continuation, the subscriber may exit at any point of time from the National Pension System, by submitting a request to National Pension System Trust or any intermediary or entity authorized by the Authority for the purpose. In case of death of subscriber during the period of continuation, the entire accumulated pension wealth of the subscriber shall be paid to the nominee(s) or legal heir(s), as the case may be, of such subscriber. The nominee(s) or legal heir (s) of the deceased subscriber shall have the option to purchase any of the annuities being offered upon exit, if they so desire;” • In regulation 4, which specifies Exit from National Pension System by citizens, including corporate sector subscribers, in sub-regulation (a) (ii) at the end the following paragraph has been inserted: “The subscriber shall have an option to exit from the National Pension System at any point of time and frequency by submitting a request to National Pension System Trust or any intermediary or entity authorized by the Authority for this purpose. In case of death of subscriber during the period of deferment, such deferred amount of the subscriber shall be paid in the preferential order of nominee(s) followed by legal heir(s).” • In regulation 4, which specifies Exit from National Pension System by citizens, including corporate sector subscribers, sub-regulation (e) has been inserted, namely: “where the subscriber who, before attaining the age of superannuation is identified as missing person by National Pension System Trust, based on the (i) First Investigation Report (FIR) lodged with the concerned police station and a report from the police that the subscriber has not been traced despite all efforts made by the police and (ii). Indemnity bond from the nominee(s) or the legal heirs(s) in favour of National Pension System Trust that all payments will be adjusted against the payment due to the subscriber in case he or she appears on the scene and makes any claim, then twenty percent of the accumulated pension wealth shall be paid as an interim relief in lump sum to the nominee(s) or legal heir(s), as the case may be, of such subscriber and after determination of subscriber as missing and presumed dead as per the provisions of the Indian Evidence Act 1872 and amendments thereto, the remaining eighty percent out of the accumulated pension wealth of the subscriber shall be paid to the nominee (s) or legal heir(s), as the case may be, of such subscriber: Provided that that proviso (i) and (ii) of sub-regulation (c) of Regulation 4 shall be

applicable. • In regulation 6, which specifies Conditions to apply for exit and withdrawal, sub-regulation (e) has been substituted, namely: "The family members as specified under the service rules or on the basis of the legal heir certificate of the deceased subscriber, as the case may be, or subscriber upon invalidation or disability during service, avails the option of additional pensionary relief provided by the Government or employer, the Government or employer shall have the right to adjust or seek transfer the part or full accumulated pension corpus of the subscriber to itself as per the applicable service rules. The subscriber or family members of the deceased subscriber availing such benefit shall specifically and unconditionally agree and undertake to transfer the part or full accumulated pension corpus as per the applicable service rules to the Government or employer, in lieu of enjoying or obtaining such additional reliefs like family pension on death or pension or any other pensionary benefit on invalidation or disability provided by the Government or employer. The remaining accumulated pension corpus, if any, in case of death shall be paid in lump sum to the nominees (s) or the legal heir(s), as applicable. In case of invalidation or disability, the same shall be paid to the subscriber: Provided in case of Central Government employees, the provisions of CCS NPS Rules 2021 and amendments thereto shall be applicable." • Regulation 7, which specifies Conditions of withdrawals under National Pension System has been substituted, namely: "Conditions of exit or withdrawals or the claim settlement under National Pension System.-(1) A subscriber or the nominee(s), family member(s) as specified under the service rules or legal heir(s), as the case may be shall submit the exit, withdrawal or the claim settlement application along with the required documents, for the purpose of withdrawing the benefits upon exit as provided in these regulations, on or before the expected date of exit from the National Pension System to the National Pension System Trust or the central recordkeeping agency, acting on behalf of it or any other entity authorized by the Authority. Central recordkeeping agency or National Pension System Trust may on receipt of such an application for exit, withdrawal or claim settlement from a subscriber or the nominee(s), family member(s) as specified under the service rules or legal heir(s), as the case may be in the specified form and subject to fulfilment of conditions so specified, may allow exit or, withdrawals or the claim settlement from the National Pension System in the mode and manner permitted under these regulations and guidelines, circulars, orders or notifications issued by the Authority for the purpose. [Notification No. PFRDA/12/RGL/139/8]

[View Document](#)

NATIONAL CRÈCHE SCHEME

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Labour

The Ministry of Women and Child Development on December 22, 2021 has issued a National Creche Scheme. The key highlights are as follows: • The National Creche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme through States/UTs with effect from January 01, 2017 to provide day care facilities to children (age group of 6 months to 6 years) of working mothers. • Study of the National Creche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers has been conducted by NITI Ayog in 2020 as part of third party evaluation of this scheme, which recommended to increase the coverage of creches. plug infrastructural gaps and enhance community participation alongwith addressing local needs, The Ayog also recommended measures such as training of creche workers and helper; and revision of cost norms, • Besides, as per the guidelines of the National Creche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers. States and LiTs are required to analyse the requirement of creche services at the district level through survey and mapping of the existing creches. Further, baseline surveys are also conducted by State Governments to ascertain the requirement, willingness of working mothers and children for this purpose. The norms for registration. establishment and maintenance of the creches. including in matters of hygiene. first-aid. breastfeeding and nutrition, have been

stipulated under the scheme guidelines. • The number of functional creches in the country under the National Creche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers' during the last three years, that is, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 was 18040, 8018 and 6458 respectively. Creches are not functional in the country since the outbreak of Covid-19 to prevent spread of the pandemic. [Release ID: 1784149]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Labour and Employment rescinds certain notification

Dec 16, 2021 | Central | Labour

The Ministry of Labour and Employment on December 15, 2021 has rescinded certain notifications. This shall come into effect from January 1, 2022. The Notifications which are rescinded are namely: • S.O. 434, dated the 1st February, 1962 • S.O. 272, dated the 25th January, 1963 These notifications specify “transfer of the existing provident fund of the employees of the Air India International Corporation and the Indian Airlines to the Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation.” [Notification No. S.O. 5225(E)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Labour and Employment issues notification regarding services engaged in the industry of defence establishments

Dec 09, 2021 | Central | Labour

The Ministry of Labour and Employment on December 8, 2021 has issued notification regarding services engaged in the industry of defence establishments. This shall be in effect from December 24, 2021. The notification states namely: - “The services engaged in the industry of defence establishments to be a public utility service for the purposes for a period of six months.” [Notification no. S.O. 5066(E)]

[View Document](#)

MoLE further extends the Uranium Industry being a public industry

Dec 09, 2021 | Central | Labour

The Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) on December 08, 2021 has issued a notification to further extend the services engaged in the Uranium industry to be a public utility service for the purposes of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for a period of six months with effect from the December 19, 2021. [Notification No. S.O. 5065(E)]

[View Document](#)

DoPPW extends the timeline for submission of Life Certificate by Central Government pensioners

Dec 02, 2021 | Central | Labour

The Department of Pension and pensioners' welfare (DoPPW) on December 01, 2021 has extended the time period for submission of Life Certificate by Central Government pensioners. DoPPW has decided to extend the existing timeline for submission of Life Certificate for all age group of pensioners from November 30, 2021 onwards. Now, all Central Government pensioners may submit Life Certificate till December 31, 2021. During this extended period, the pension will be continued to be paid by the Pension Disbursing Authorities (PDAs) uninterrupted.

[View Document](#)

Secretarial

SEBI issues circular regarding Non-compliance with provisions related to continuous disclosures

Dec 30, 2021 | Central | Secretarial



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 29, 2021 has issued circular on Non-compliance with provisions related to continuous disclosures. This shall come into force on February 1, 2022. The following was stated namely: - • Fine and action shall be taken in case of non-compliances with continuous disclosure requirements by the issuers of listed Non-Convertible Securities and/ or Commercial Paper. • In case a non-compliant entity is listed on more than one recognized stock exchange, the concerned recognized stock exchange(s) shall take uniform action in consultation with each other. • The amount of fine realized, shall be credited to the "Investor Protection Fund" of the concerned recognized stock exchange. • The fines shall continue to accrue till the time of rectification of the non-compliance and to the satisfaction of the concerned recognized stock exchange. [Notification No. SEBI/HO/DDHS_Div2/P/CIR/2021/699]

[View Document](#)

MCA relaxes levy of additional fees in filing of certain e-forms

Dec 29, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) on December 29, 2021 has issued relaxation on levy of additional fees in filing of e-forms AOC-4, AOC-4(CFS), AOC-4 XBRL, AOC-4 Non-XBRL and MGT-7/MGT-7A in respect of the financial year ended on March 31,2021. The following was said namely: - • No additional fees shall be levied for the filing of e-forms AOC-4, AOC-4 (CFS), AOC-4 XBRL, AOC-4 Non-XBRL up to February 15, 2022 • No additional fees shall be levied for filing of e-forms MGT-7/ MGT-7A up to February 28, 2022 • Normal fees shall be payable for the filing of the aforementioned e-forms during the said period. [Circular No. 22.2021]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Finance declares “Electronic Gold Receipt” as securities

Dec 27, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Ministry of Finance on December 24, 2021 has issued notification to declare “Electronic Gold Receipt” as securities. The following was stated namely: - • “Electronic Gold Receipt” means an electronic receipt issued on the basis of deposit of underlying physical gold in accordance with the regulations made by the Securities and Exchange Board of India [Notification No. S.O.5401(E)]

[View Document](#)

SEBI issues Revision to operational circular for issue and listing of Non-Convertible Securities, Securitised Debt Instruments, Security Receipts

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 23, 2021 has issued Revision to operational circular for issue and listing of Non-Convertible Securities, Securitised Debt Instruments, Security Receipts. This shall come into force on December 23, 2021. Certain amendments have been made pertaining to listing of Commercial Paper in the following circulars namely: - • Circular No. SEBI/HO/DDHS/P/CIR/2021/0692 dated December 17, 2021, which specify “Revision to operational circular for issue and listing of Non-Convertible Securities, Securitised Debt Instruments, Security Receipts, Municipal Debt Securities and Commercial Paper.” • Circular no. SEBI/HO/DDHS/P/CIR/2021/613 dated August 10, 2021 which specify “SEBI consolidated existing procedures pertaining to issue and listing of Non-Convertible Securities, Securitised Debt Instruments, Security Receipts, Municipal Debt Securities and Commercial Paper.” [Notification No. 20211223-13]

[View Document](#)

IBBI invites comments from public on proposed changes to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution and Liquidation Framework under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 **The Insolvency and bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on December 23, 2021 has issued a notice to seek comments from public on proposed changes to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution and Liquidation Framework under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016**

Dec 24, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Insolvency and bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on December 23, 2021 has issued a notice to seek comments from public on proposed changes to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution and Liquidation Framework under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. The following changes have been made: • Enabling a swift admission process o Although the Code provides that the Adjudicating Authority (“AA”) should dispose of an application for initiation of a corporate insolvency resolution process (“CIRP”) within 14 days from the receipt of the application, the admission or rejection of such applications sometimes takes longer in practice. Delays in admission are value destructive and hinder the chances of successful resolution. Consequently, various efforts have been made recently to enable quicker disposal of applications for initiation of CIRPs under the Code. For instance, the bench strength of National Company Law Tribunal (“NCLT”) has been increased and the Code has been amended to require the AA to record reasons for delay in disposal of Section 7 applications. In furtherance of such efforts, it was also considered if steps may be taken to build greater reliance on Information Utilities (“IUs”) by certain categories of financial creditors, in order to enable quicker disposal of CIRP applications. o The Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee (“BLRC”) Report, 2015

conceptualised the IU framework to help reduce information asymmetries and provide quick access to verified financial information. Reliance on IU records was envisaged to reduce the time and costs taken to resolve insolvency. Consequently, Section 215(2) of the Code requires financial creditors to submit financial information and information relating to creation of security interest to IUs. However, Section 7(3) allows financial creditors to also rely on such other record or evidence of default as specified in the regulations for establishing default (apart from record of default recorded with IUs).

o With the passage of time, the IU framework has become more robust. The IU registered with the IBBI, i.e., the National e-Governance Services Limited or 'NeSL', has access to the MCA-21 database and the Central Registry of Securitisation Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest of India or 'CERSAI' portals, which not only increases the availability of and access to reliable data for stakeholders, but also enables them to speedily authenticate financial information. Since December 2017, the Reserve Bank of India has directed all financial creditors regulated by it (scheduled commercial banks, financial institutions, etc.) to put in place appropriate systems for submission of financial information to IUs.¹ Such sustained use of IUs has led to the creation of a wider and more robust database of IU authenticated records. There is, thus, an increasing trend in the amount of information stored and recorded with IUs.

o Given that banks and financial institutions have developed the practice of submitting information to IUs, it is felt that mandating such creditors to rely only on IU records to establish default may expedite disposal of their applications. Thus, it is proposed that financial creditors as prescribed by the Central Government may be required to submit only IU authenticated records to establish default for the purposes of admission of a Section 7 CIRP application. Where such IU authenticated records are not available, and for all other financial creditors, current options of relying on different documents for establishing default for admission of a Section 7 CIRP application may remain available. This will make the admission process significantly quicker and less cumbersome. Consequently, the AA would only be required to consider IU authenticated records as evidence of default for Section 7 applications filed by such financial creditors as prescribed. This will also dissuade AAs from taking time to determine ancillary matters such as the amount of default and allow them to speedily admit Section 7 CIRP applications on the basis of IU authenticated records evidencing the existence of default.

- Streamlining avoidable transactions and wrongful trading

o Sections 43-51, 66, and 67 of the Code lay down various transactions that may be avoided by the resolution professional or liquidator (collectively referred to as "avoidable transactions"), and the actions that can be taken against erstwhile management for fraudulently or wrongfully trading during the CIRP or liquidation process (referred to as "wrongful trading"). These provisions are primarily aimed at enhancing the asset pool available for distribution to creditors and preventing unjust enrichment of one party at the expense of other creditors. Stakeholders have suggested that there is lack of clarity regarding certain aspects of proceedings for avoidance of transactions and wrongful trading. The following changes are proposed to the law to crystallise the procedure of filing and disposing avoidable transactions and wrongful trading –

(a) Amendments pursuant to last ILC report: The ILC had, in its report released in February 2020 ("2020 Report"), suggested certain amendments to provisions related to avoidable transactions and wrongful trading. For instance, it had recommended amendments to promote cooperation by parties with the resolution professional or liquidator for investigation of avoidable transactions and wrongful trading; allowing creditors to initiate such proceedings; clarifying power of liquidator to file for wrongful trading; etc. (see Chapter 3 of the 2020 Report - http://www.mca.gov.in/Ministry/pdf/ICLReport_05032020.pdf). It is proposed that amendments pursuant to these recommendations of the ILC may be carried out in the Code. This includes the following proposed amendments -

(i) Section 19(1) may be amended to ensure that the interim resolution professional or the resolution professional can avail requisite cooperation for collection of information for the conduct of the CIRP and filing of applications against avoidable transactions and wrongful trading. The categories of persons who are required to cooperate under Section 19 may also include any other person deemed necessary by the interim resolution professional.

(ii) Section 25(2) may be amended to explicitly provide that the resolution professional will be responsible for investigating the affairs of the corporate debtor for

identification of avoidable transactions or wrongful trading. Similar powers of the liquidator may also be provided for in Section 35(1)(l). (iii) The provisions related to avoidable transactions and wrongful trading may be amended to permit creditors (individually or in groups) or the committee of creditors ("CoC") to apply to the AA for avoiding such transactions or trading, if the resolution professional or liquidator fails to make such application. (iv) Section 47 may be amended to disallow members or partners of the corporate debtor from filing applications to avoid an undervalued transaction. (v) Section 66 does not mention the 'liquidator' due to a clerical error and thus, may be amended to expressly state that the liquidator is also permitted to file applications under this section. (b) Continuation of proceedings after approval of resolution plan: It is felt that clarity is required regarding whether proceedings for avoidance of transactions and wrongful trading can continue after approval of a resolution plan in CIRP. It is important to note that the Code does not provide any specific timeline for the completion of such proceedings. Section 26 of the Code provides that filing of an avoidance application under Section 25(2)(j) by the resolution professional "shall not affect the proceedings of the corporate insolvency resolution process". In its 2020 Report, the ILC had discussed the interpretation of Section 26 and noted that "as stated in Section 26 of the Code, the filing of an application for avoidance of transactions (excluding improper trading) by the resolution professional shall not affect the CIRP of the corporate debtor." In line with this, it is proposed that a clarification by way of an explanation may be added to Section 26 to clarify that proceedings for avoidance of transactions and wrongful trading can continue after the approval of a resolution plan by the AA in CIRP. (c) Manner of continuation: Amendments to the Code may also be required to clarify the manner of conducting proceedings for avoidance of transactions and wrongful trading after the approval of a resolution plan. Thus, it is proposed that the Code may be amended to provide that the resolution plan should mandatorily specify the manner of undertaking proceedings for avoidance of transactions and wrongful trading if such proceedings are to be continued after approval of the plan. The plan may also be required to specify if the resolution professional would pursue such transactions/trading or if any other person would do so after the approval of the plan. Details such as the eligibility requirements for a person to be appointed in this regard, the mechanism for sharing relevant details of any pending proceedings with the prospective resolution applicants, etc. may be laid down in the subordinate legislation. Further, the resolution plan may also be required to provide the manner of distribution of expected recoveries from proceedings related to avoidance of transactions and wrongful trading. The AA may take this into account when giving final orders in proceedings for avoidance of transactions and wrongful trading. (d) Change in look-back period: The provisions on avoidable transactions in the Code provide certain look-back periods. The threshold for such look-back periods is the date of commencement of the CIRP, i.e., the date of admission of a CIRP application. In practice, the admission or rejection of an application takes longer than the 14-day time limit provided in the Code. Given this, the look-back period for avoidable transactions may not be able to capture a significant portion of transactions that occurred before the filing of a CIRP application. Such pre-filing transactions may not be sufficiently captured in the look-back period in cases where the admission of an application is delayed. This may also give corporate debtors a perverse incentive to delay admission of CIRP so as to reduce the scope of avoidable transactions. Thus, it is felt that the threshold for the look-back period for avoidable transactions may be altered so that a longer net can be cast to effectively capture pre-filing transactions. It is proposed that the look-back period in Sections 43(4), 46(1) and 50(1) may be amended as follows - (i) the threshold for the look-back period may be changed from the date of commencement of CIRP to the date of filing of the application for initiation of CIRP in respect of the corporate debtor that has been admitted; and (ii) the period between the date of filing and the date of commencement of CIRP may additionally be included in the suspect period for such transactions. • Time period for approval of resolution plans o Delays are observed at the stage of approval of resolution plans by the AA. Often, applications are filed either by prospective resolution applicants and other stakeholders questioning the distributions contemplated under a resolution plan approved by the CoC or the commercial wisdom exercised by the CoC. This delays the closure of the CIRP, erodes the value of the corporate debtor

and dis-incentivises potential resolution applicants from participating in the process. Such delays go against the objective of the Code to provide value-maximising outcomes for stakeholders. As recently as in September 2021 the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of *Ebix Singapore Pvt. Ltd. v. Committee of Creditors of Educomp Solutions Ltd. & Anr.* (Civil Appeal No. 3224 of 2020), emphasized the need for speedy resolution and the negative effect of delays on the efficacy of the judicial process. The Hon'ble Supreme Court noted that "the NCLT and the NCLAT should endeavour, on a best effort basis, to strictly adhere to the timelines stipulated under the IBC and clear pending resolution plans forthwith."

In line with the views of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it is envisaged that the approval of a resolution plan that has already been approved by the CoC should not be inordinately delayed. Thus, it is proposed that the Code should provide a fixed time period for approval or rejection of a resolution plan by the AA. Consequently, the Code is proposed to be amended to provide the AA with 30 days for approving or rejecting a resolution plan under Section 31. Where the resolution plan is not approved or rejected within this time period, the AA shall record reasons in writing for the same. This timeline shall be subject to the overall time period specified for the CIRP in Section 12 of the Code.

• **Closure of the Voluntary Liquidation Process**

Section 59 provides for a voluntary liquidation process for solvent corporate persons who have not committed a default. While the provisions of Section 59 of the Code provide for the initiation and conduct of a voluntary liquidation process and the dissolution of the corporate person, they are silent on the midway closure of the process. However, there may be scenarios that warrant such closure. For instance, business opportunities that can make the corporate person profitable or viable may arise after the initiation of a voluntary liquidation process. Given this, closure of the process has been ordered by the Adjudicating Authority in a few instances cases in practice.

Notably, although the Companies Act, 1956 and 2013 did not contain express provisions for ordering the closure of a voluntary winding up, inherent powers of the courts/tribunal were utilised for passing such orders. It is felt that since corporate persons operate in a dynamic market economy, the viability of its business may evolve after the initiation of a voluntary liquidation process. Thus, the law should provide certainty on the manner of closing a voluntary liquidation process prior to dissolution. Given that the process is voluntary, and the corporate person is solvent, the intervention of the AA may not be warranted. The closure of the process may thus be carried out by the corporate person subject to the same requirements as for initiation of the process, i.e., by way of a special resolution or members' resolution and approval of creditors representing two-thirds in value of the debt where the corporate person owes debt to any person. If such approvals are made, the liquidator may be required to make a public announcement of the closure of the process and intimate concerned authorities such as the IBBI and the registrar.

• **IBC Fund**

Section 224 of the Code provides for the formation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Fund ("IBC Fund") "for the purposes of insolvency resolution, liquidation and bankruptcy of persons under the Code". It is felt that the current design of the IBC Fund does not incentivise contributions to it and provides very limited ways of utilising the amounts contributed. Firstly, contribution to the Fund is voluntary and may be made by the Central Government in the form of grants and by any person who voluntarily wants to make such contribution. Receiving contributions voluntarily may be difficult in practice and certain incentives or mandates may be required to enable regular contributions. Secondly, the purposes for which the IBC Fund will be utilised are limited. Section 224(3) only allows persons who have contributed to the fund to withdraw it, to the extent of their contribution. This limits the possible utilisation of the IBC Fund.

Consequently, it is proposed that suitable amendments may be made to Section 224 to allow the Central Government to prescribe a detailed framework for contribution to and utilisation of the IBC Fund.

Based on a study of similar comparable funds created by Central Government and regulators, this framework may capture and detail various sources for contribution to the IBC Fund. It may also capture amounts lying in the Companies Liquidation Account of the Companies Act, 1956 or the Companies Liquidation Dividend and Undistributed Assets Account under the Companies Act, 2013. Similarly, specific and wider uses of the IBC Fund may also be identified. For instance, the IBC Fund can support some expenses of resource-strapped insolvency proceedings, such as payment towards workmen's

dues, or for carrying forward avoidance proceedings, etc. Suggestion/comments, if any, along with brief justification may be submitted online therein at the below mentioned weblink latest by 5:30 PM on 13th January 2022: https://ibbi.gov.in/webfront/public_on_proposed_changes_2016.php Stakeholders may please note that comments should not be sent separately through e- mail or hard copy and should be sent only through the weblink created for the purpose.

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Amendment to the IBBI(online delivery of educational course and continuing professional education by insolvency professional agencies and registered valuers organisations) guidelines, 2020

Dec 23, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on December 21, 2021 has issued Amendment to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (online delivery of educational course and continuing professional education by insolvency professional agencies and registered valuers organisations) guidelines, 2020. It stated the following namely: - • The validity of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Online Delivery of Educational Course and Continuing Professional Education by Insolvency Professional Agencies and Registered Valuers Organisations) Guidelines, 2020 has been extended till March 31, 2022.

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SEBI issues extension of facility for conducting annual meeting and other meetings of unitholders of REITs and InvITs through VC or OAVM

Dec 23, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI) on December 22, 2021 has issued circular regarding Extension of facility for conducting annual meeting and other meetings of unitholders of REITs and InvITs through Video Conferencing (VC) or through Other Audio-Visual means (OAVM). The following was stated namely: - • The facility to conduct annual meetings of unitholders and meetings other than annual meeting, through VC or OAVM has been extended till June 30, 2022. [Notification No. SEBI/HO/DDHS/DDHS_Div2/P/CIR/2021/697]

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SEBI issues circular regarding validity of observation letter pertaining to Mutual Funds

Dec 23, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI) on December 22, 2021 has issued circular for Restoration of relaxed timelines with respect to validity of observation letter pertaining to Mutual Funds. This shall come into effect from December 22, 2021. The following was stated namely: - • The validity period of observation letter issued by SEBI to launch NFOs has been restored to 6 months. [Notification No. SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-II DOF3/P/CIR/2021/698]

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SEBI issues Portfolio Management Services for Accredited Investors

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 21, 2021 has issued Portfolio Management Services for Accredited Investors. The following was stated namely: - • “Accredited Investor” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it under SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012. • In case of large value accredited investors, the quantum and manner of exit load applicable to the client of the Portfolio Manager shall be governed through bilaterally negotiated contractual terms. [Notification No. SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-I DOF1/P/CIR/2021/693]

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SEBI issues Investment Advisory Services for Accredited Investors

Dec 22, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 21, 2021 has issued Investment Advisory Services for Accredited Investors. The following was stated namely: - • In case of accredited investors, the limits and modes of fees payable to the IA shall be governed through bilaterally negotiated contractual terms. [Notification No. SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-I DOF1/P/CIR/2021/694]

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SEBI revises Operational Circular for issue and listing of Non-convertible Securities, Securitised Debt Instruments, Security Receipts, Municipal Debt Securities and Commercial Paper

Dec 20, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 17, 2021 has issued a circular to revise certain paragraphs of Circular no. SEBI/HO/DDHS/P/CIR/2021/613 dated August 10, 2021, which is the Operational Circular for issue and listing of Non-Convertible Securities (NCS), Securitised Debt Instruments (SDI), Security Receipts (SR), Municipal Debt Securities and Commercial Paper (CP) to bring about uniformity in requirements, certain amendments are being made to the said Circular, pertaining to listing of Commercial Paper. The following revisions have been made: • In Chapter XVII – Listing of Commercial Paper, in paragraph 4, which specifies Issue Information, paragraph 4.1, has been modified, namely: “Details of current tranche including ISIN, amount, date of issue, maturity, all credit ratings including unaccepted ratings, date of rating, name of credit rating agency, its validity period, declaration that the rating is valid as at the date of issuance and listing, details of issuing and paying agent and other conditions, if any.” • In Chapter XVII – Listing of Commercial Paper, in paragraph 4, which specifies Issue Information, A new paragraph 4.5 be inserted as follows: “Where an issue is made by an issuer who has been in existence for less than three years, a disclosure that the issue is open for subscription only to Qualified Institutional Buyers.” • In Chapter XVII – Listing of Commercial Paper, paragraph 5, which specifies Financial Information, paragraph 5.1 has

been modified, namely: “a. Audited/ limited review half yearly consolidated (wherever available) and standalone financial information (Profit & Loss statement, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow statement) along with auditor qualifications, if any, for last three years along with latest available financial results, if the issuer has been in existence for a period of three years and above; or, b, Audited/ limited review half yearly consolidated (wherever available) and standalone financial information (Profit & Loss statement, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow statement) along with auditor qualifications, if any, pertaining to the years of existence, if the issuer has been in existence for less than three years.” The provisions of this circular shall come into effect immediately. [Circular No. SEBI/HO/DDHS/P/CIR/2021/0692]

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SEBI issues circular regarding Publishing of Investor Charter and Disclosure of Complaints

Dec 20, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 17, 2021 has issued circular regarding Publishing of Investor Charter and Disclosure of Complaints by Custodians and DDPs on their websites. Shall come into effect from January 1, 2022. The following was stated namely: - • Developed Investor Charters for Custodians and DDPs which inter-alia deals with services provided to investors with timelines and general guidance for Investors. • The Investor Charter need to be displayed on the website. • The monthly data on complaints received and redressal thereof need to be disclosed on the website latest by 7th of succeeding month. [Notification No. SEBI/HO/FPIC/P/CIR/2021/691]

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SEBI amends circulars regarding RFP and verification of upfront collection of margins

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 16, 2021 has issued Cut-off time for generation of last Risk Parameter File (RPF) for client's margin collection purpose and modification in framework to enable verification of upfront collection of margins from clients in commodity derivatives segment. This is in effect from January 15, 2022. The following was stated namely: - • Circular no. SEBI/HO/CDMRD/DRMP/CIR/P/2019/149 dated November 29, 2019 which specifies “The cut off time for the purpose of determining minimum threshold of margins to be collected from the clients” has been withdrawn. • Circular no. SEBI/HO/MRD2/DCAP/CIR/P/2020/127 dated July 20, 2020 which specify “Framework prescribed for enabling verification of upfront collection of margins from clients” the following has been substituted namely: - “Further, for commodity derivatives segment, clearing corporations shall send an additional minimum two snapshots for commodity derivative contracts which are traded till 9:00 PM and additional minimum three snapshots for the commodity derivatives contracts which are traded till 11:30/11:55 PM. Margins/EOD margins shall be determined as per the relevant Risk Parameter Files” [SEBI/HO/CDMRD/CDMRD_DRM/PCIR/2021/689]

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SEBI notifies on Publishing Investor Charter and Disclosure of Investor Complaints by Merchant Bankers on their Websites for private placement of units by InvITs proposed to be listed

Dec 17, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 16, 2021 has issued a notification on Publishing Investor Charter and Disclosure of Investor Complaints by Merchant Bankers on their Websites for private placement of units by InvITs proposed to be listed to provide investors relevant information about the primary market issuances by InvITs, an Investor Charter has been prepared by SEBI in consultation with Merchant Bankers for private placement of units by InvITs propose to be listed and to bring about transparency in the Investor Grievance Redressal Mechanism, it has also been decided that all the registered Merchant Bankers shall disclose on their respective websites, the data on complaints received against them or against issues dealt by them and redressal thereof, latest by 7th of succeeding month, as per the format enclosed at Annexure – B to this circular. SEBI advised all the Merchant bankers to disclose on their websites, the Investor Charter for private placement of units by InvITs proposed to be listed, as provided at Annexure – A to this circular. The provisions of this circular shall come into effect from January 01, 2022.

*Disclaimer – Kindly find Annexure A and Annexure B in the provided link. [Circular No.

SEBI/HO/DDHS/DDHS_Div3/P/CIR/2021/690]

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MCA issues clarification for AGMs held through VC and OAVM

Dec 15, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) on December 14, 2021 has issued Clarification of holding of Annual General Meeting (AGM) through Video Conference (VC) or other Audio Visual Means (OAVM)-reg. The companies who propose to hold AGMs through VC or OAVM by June 30, 2022 as prescribed by circular 20/2020 which specifies “Requirements of companies holding AGMs through VC or OAVM” It has been clarified namely: - • The circular does not confer any extension of time for holding the AGMs. The companies which have not adhered to the relevant timelines shall be penalised. [Circular No. 21/2021]

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SEBI clarifies on Common and simplified norms for processing investor’s service request by RTAs and norms for furnishing PAN, KYC details and Nomination

Dec 15, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 14, 2021 has issued a circular to clarify on Common and simplified norms for processing investor’s service request by RTAs and norms for furnishing PAN, KYC details and Nomination which was laid by Circular no.

SEBI/HO/MIRSD/MIRSD_RTAMB/P/CIR/2021/655 dated November 03, 2021. The clarifications are as followed: • In regard with paragraph 1.3 of the said circular which specifies Mandatory furnishing of PAN, KYC details and Nomination by holders of physical securities, it is clarified that: “Form SH13 (nomination form) / ISR 3 (opting out) shall be sent out to the target security holder accounts in the following phases:

Phase 1: January 1, 2022 onwards – Single account holders Phase II: April 1, 2022 onwards – Joint account holders The RTA shall make available the soft copy of Form SH13/ISR3 on its website. The form should be in a downloadable and fillable format.” • In regard with paragraph 2 of the said circular which specifies, Standardized, simplified and common norms for processing investor service request, the following clarifications have been made: (i) Minor mismatch in signature (Para 2.1) a. The timeline to process the service request shall commence after the notice period of 15 days. b. If the letter sent by the RTA returns undelivered, RTA shall advise the investor to obtain the signature verification by the Banker so as to process the request. c. In case of an objection, the RTA, after removing the objection, shall advise the Investor to furnish signature verification by the Banker along with any of the documents as detailed in Para 2.3 a) of the Circular. (ii) Major mismatch in signature or Signature Card is not available (Para 2.2) The holder / claimant shall furnish original cancelled cheque with name of the security holder printed on it / Bank Passbook / Bank Statement attested by the Bank, and Banker's attestation of the signature as per Form ISR-2. (iii) Mismatch in name (Para 2.3) Driving license in Smart Card form, Book form or copy of digital form shall be accepted (iv) Documents for Proof of Address (Para 2.5) (i) With regard to the documents mentioned in Para 2.5.1 of the Circular, in case the following documents are submitted for any service request i.e. a) Flat maintenance bill, b) Proof of address in the name of spouse, additional self-attested copy of Identity Proof of the holder/claimant may be obtained to process the request. (ii) With regard to Para 2.5.2 of the circular, it is clarified that the RTAs shall forthwith send intimation about the request for change in address to the holder at both the old and new addresses by Speed post, providing, timeline of 15 days for raising objection, if any. Further, (a) In case the signature matches with the record available with the RTA, the request for change in address can be processed without keeping it on hold for 15 days as mentioned in the Circular. (b) In case where the letter is undelivered at the old address, RTA shall not insist for any proof of the old address provided the current address proof is in the form of an address proof issued by a Government Authority. (v) Self-attestation to replace Affidavits, Attestation / Notarization (Para 2.6) has been substituted, namely: “For all service requests, except transmission, copies of documents that are submitted in hard copy shall be processed by the RTA if the same is self-attested by the holder(s). RTA shall not insist on affidavits or attestation / notarization of documents.” (vi) KYC details across all folios of the holder, maintained by the RTA (Para 2.9) In this regard, it is clarified as under: (a) RTA shall update the folio(s) of the holder with the information on 1) present address, 2) bank details, 3) E-mail id and 4) mobile number from the details available in the Client Master List (CML), if the holder / claimant provides the CML. (b) Details which are already available with the RTA are to be overwritten on specific request received from the investor as per the authorization clause given in Form ISR-1 (pdf) (Word File). (c) In the normal course, only details which are not available for the physical folio in RTA database, shall be updated from the demat account details. (vii) Mode for providing documents / details by investors (Para 2.10 c) After Para 2.10 c), the following explanation shall be inserted: Explanation: E-Sign is an integrated service which facilitates issuing a Digital Signature Certificate and performing signing of requested data by e-Sign user. The holder/claimant may approach any of the empanelled e-Sign Service Provider, details of which are available on the website of Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (<https://cca.gov.in/>) for the purpose of obtaining an e-sign. • In regard with paragraph 4 of the said circular which specifies, Mandatory furnishing of PAN, KYC details and Nomination by holders of physical securities, the following clarifications have been made: (i) It is clarified that in case of Mandatory furnishing of PAN, KYC details and Nomination by holders of physical securities: (a) The word ‘Postal address’ shall be read as ‘address available with the RTA’ in Para 4.1.c of the Circular. (b) For data validation, it shall be mandatory to provide corresponding folio numbers along with mobile number and e-mail ID by the holder. (ii) Paragraph 4.2 of the Circular is amended as under: “From January 1, 2022, the RTAs shall not process any service requests or complaints received from the holder(s) / claimant(s), till PAN, KYC and Nomination documents/details are received. • In regard with paragraph 5 of the said circular which specifies, Freezing of

Folios without PAN, KYC details and Nomination, sub-para 5.2(b) has been substituted, namely: “eligible for any payment including dividend, interest or redemption payment only through electronic mode. Listed Company shall ensure that intimation is sent to the holder that aforesaid such payment is due and shall be made electronically upon complying with the requirements in paragraph 4 of the Circular.” • Paragraph 5, which specifies to provide Certificate of compliance has been substituted, namely: “RTAs shall provide a certificate of compliance from a practicing Company Secretary, within 90 days from the date of Circular coming into effect, certifying the changes carried out, systems put in place / new operating procedures implemented etc. to comply with the provisions of the Circular.” [Circular No. SEBI/HO/MIRSD/MIRSD_RTAMB/P/CIR/2021/687]

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NSE notifies regarding Changes in the reporting format of data towards ‘Client Level Cash & Cash Equivalent Balances’

Dec 14, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Nation Stock Exchange (NSE) on December, 2021 has issued a circular regarding the Changes in the reporting format of data towards ‘Client Level Cash & Cash Equivalent Balances’ by referring to NSE circular NSE/INSP/43488 dated February 10, 2020 wherein Members were directed to set aside the funds and securities in separate Client Bank/Client collateral Demat account for those clients for whom member is unable to settle their accounts due to non-availability of client's bank account & demat account details and non-traceability of client and NSE circulars NSE/INSP/46704 dated December 17, 2020, and NSE/INSP/46960 dated January 08, 2021, which specifies the manner and how to enable members to upload details of such accounts has introduced two columns in the reporting formats of existing submission ‘Cash & Cash Equivalent balances’ and to capture the details of cash collateral collected from client for MTF positions, one column has also been added. The Revised format shall be applicable for the week ending on January 15, 2022, and onwards. All the Members will have to submit the data for all calendar days of the week except Sunday on or before the next four trading days of subsequent week. The first submission with revised format shall have to be made for the week ending on January 15, 2022, the due date of which will be January 20, 2022, and for each week thereafter. Till such time, Members are advised to upload the ‘Cash & Cash Equivalent Balances’ as per the current process. The revised format after incorporating the above requirements is attached as Annexure A. [Circular No. 61/2021]

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SEBI notifies of Publishing Investor Charter and disclosure of Investor Complaints by Investment Advisers on their websites/mobile applications

Dec 14, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 13, 2021 has issued circular regarding Publishing Investor Charter and disclosure of Investor Complaints by Investment Advisers on their websites/mobile applications. This shall come into effect from January 1, 2022. The following was stated namely: - • Annexure – A which specify “Investor Charter in respect of Investment Adviser (IA)” need to be prominently displayed on the website/mobile application. • Annexure – B which specify “Complaint Data to be

displayed by IAs” need to be disclosed by 7th of the succeeding month. [SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-II CIS/P/CIR/2]

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SEBI clarifies on amendment to SEBI (Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 2020

Dec 13, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 10, 2021 has issued a notification to provide clarification on amendment to SEBI (Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 2020. The following provisions have been provided:

- o Procedure for undertaking of Co-investment portfolio management services

The Co-investment portfolio management services shall be provided in the following manner:

- i. A Manager of an AIF who is also a SEBI registered Portfolio Manager, and intends to offer Co-investment services through portfolio management route, shall do so only under prior intimation to SEBI.
- ii. Any other Manager who is not a SEBI registered Portfolio Manager, and intends to offer Co-investment services through portfolio management route, shall seek registration from SEBI as a Portfolio Manager in terms of the PMS Regulations. Pursuant to grant of registration, if such Portfolio Manager is desirous of offering portfolio management services other than Co-investment, the same shall be subject to compliance with all provisions of the PMS Regulations including eligibility criteria, and with the prior approval of SEBI.

- o Periodic reporting by Portfolio Managers

- i. In partial modification to provisions of Circular No. SEBI/HO/IMD/DF1/CIR/P/2021/02 dated January 08, 2021, Portfolio Managers shall submit a monthly report regarding their portfolio management activity, on SEBI Intermediaries Portal within 7 working days of the end of each month, as per the revised format enclosed at Annexure A, which includes details of Co-investment offered by Portfolio Manager.
- ii. Further, in modification to paragraph D.12 of Circular No. SEBI/HO/IMD/DF1/CIR/P/2020/26 dated February 13, 2020, Portfolio Managers shall furnish a report to their clients on a quarterly basis, as per the revised format enclosed at Annexure B, which includes details of Co-investment offered by Portfolio Manager.

- o Fees and charges

- i. In partial modification to paragraph A.3 of Circular No. SEBI/HO/IMD/DF1/CIR/P/2020/26 dated February 13, 2020, the provisions with respect to fees and charges as specified therein, shall not be applicable to Co-investment services. The provisions of the aforesaid paragraph A.3 shall remain unchanged for portfolio management services other than Co-investment.
- o Direct on-boarding of clients by Portfolio Managers

- i. In partial modification to paragraph B of Circular No. SEBI/HO/IMD/DF1/CIR/P/2020/26 dated February 13, 2020, the provisions with respect to direct on-boarding of clients by Portfolio Managers as specified therein, shall not be applicable to Co-investment services. The provisions of the aforesaid paragraph B shall remain unchanged for portfolio management services other than Co-investment. This circular shall be applicable for monthly reports to SEBI and quarterly reports to clients, from the month of April 2022 onwards. The remaining provisions of this Circular shall come into effect from the date of applicability of the aforesaid notification. [Notification - SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-I/DOF1/P/CIR/2021/0000000679]

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SEBI issues a new Circular on Mutual Funds

Dec 13, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 10, 2021 has issued a circular on Mutual Funds. The following points have been observed:

- o Usage of pool accounts by Mutual Funds
- o In terms of Clause (5) of the Fifth Schedule of SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996 (hereinafter referred as “MF Regulations”), it is stipulated that: “Trustees and asset management companies shall ensure that the assets and liabilities of each scheme are segregated and ring-fenced from other schemes of the mutual fund; and bank accounts and securities accounts of each scheme are segregated and ring-fenced.”
- o In this regard, representations were received from the industry highlighting the instances where pool accounts are used, as certain transactions are carried out only at Mutual Fund level for operational ease and due to certain regulatory requirements. However, the securities or funds held in the pool accounts at Mutual Fund level are duly segregated scheme-wise and appropriately reflected in the books of the respective schemes, at the end of day.
- o The issue was discussed in Mutual Funds Advisory Committee (MFAC). Based on the recommendations of MFAC, the following has been decided:
 - o Mutual Funds may use pool accounts, only for such transactions which are executed at mutual fund level owing to certain operational and regulatory requirements, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. AMCs shall have internal policies approved by the Board of AMC and Trustees to ensure that adequate operational processes and internal controls are in place to segregate and ring-fence the assets and liabilities of each scheme along with segregation and ring-fencing of securities & bank accounts.
 - b. In such cases, at the end of day, the assets and liabilities of each scheme shall be segregated and ring-fenced from other schemes of the mutual fund; and bank accounts and securities accounts of each scheme shall be segregated and ring-fenced. The pool accounts for both securities and funds should have nil balance at end of the day. Provided that if the funds lying in the pool bank account of the mutual fund are not identified, due to the reasons beyond the control of the AMC, the same shall be transferred to the respective scheme account not later than one business day from the day such transactions are identified.
 - c. At no point of time, the securities or funds of one scheme shall be used for other scheme(s) and there shall be any conflict of interest amongst investors of various schemes.
 - d. The responsibility to ensure segregation and ring-fencing of the assets and liabilities of each scheme along with segregation and ring-fencing of bank accounts & securities accounts shall lie with the Board of AMC and Trustees. Trustees in their Half Yearly Trustee Report (HYTR) to SEBI shall confirm that the assets and liabilities of each scheme along with their bank accounts & securities accounts are segregated and ring-fenced on daily basis, except the unidentified transactions of funds as mentioned in sub-para (b) above, during the half-year period.
 - e. The whole mechanism shall be audited on half yearly basis by the auditor appointed by the trustees.
 - o Norms for investment in Bills Re Discounting Scheme (BRDS)
 - o In terms of Paragraph-B(5) of SEBI circular no. SEBI/HO/IMD/DF2/CIR/P/ 2019/104 dated October 01, 2019, investments in unrated debt and money market instruments, other than government securities, treasury bills, derivative products such as Interest Rate Swaps (IRS), Interest Rate Futures (IRF), etc. can only be made in instruments like bills re-discounting, usance bills, etc., that are generally not rated and for which separate investment norms are not provided in MF Regulations and various circulars issued thereunder and exposure of mutual fund schemes in such instruments, shall not exceed 5% of the net assets of the schemes.
 - o In this regard, a representation was received from AMFI to have uniformity across the industry with regard to investment in BRDS. The issue was discussed in MFAC and based on the recommendations; the following has been decided:
 - a. The single issuer limit and the group exposure limit shall be calculated at the issuing bank level as BRDS are issued with recourse to the issuing bank.
 - b. Investment in BRDS by debt schemes of mutual funds shall be considered as exposure to financial services sector for the purpose of sector exposure limits.
- Risk Management Framework (RMF) for Mutual Funds SEBI has decided to extend the date of implementation of the circular to April 01, 2022. Till such time, the existing circular no. MFD/CIR/15/19133/2002, dated September 30, 2002 on “Risk Management System” shall remain operational. However, AMCs may choose to adopt the provisions of circular dated September 27, 2021 before April 01, 2022.
- Guiding Principles for bringing uniformity in Benchmarks of Mutual Fund Schemes
- o

SEBI, vide circular no. SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-II DOF3/P/CIR/2021/652 dated October 27, 2021, had specified a two-tiered structure for benchmarking of certain categories of schemes. The circular, inter-alia, specified that AMFI shall publish the first-tier benchmarks for open ended debt schemes as per the Potential Risk Class and the same shall be implemented by the AMCs with effect from January 1, 2022. o SEBI has decided to extend the date of implementation of the above to April 1, 2022. [Circular No.: SEBI/HO/IMD/DF2/CIR/P/2021/683]

[View Document](#)

SEBI notifies on Publishing of Investor Charter and disclosure of Investor Complaints by Portfolio Managers on their websites

Dec 13, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 10, 2021 has issued a notification for Publishing of Investor Charter and disclosure of Investor Complaints by Portfolio Managers on their websites to enhance the awareness of investors about the various activities which an investor deals with while availing the services provided by portfolio managers, an investor charter has been prepared by SEBI, which is placed at Annexure-A and to in order to enhance transparency in the Investor Grievance Redressal Mechanism, all Portfolio Managers on a monthly basis shall disclose on their websites, the data pertaining to all complaints including SCORES complaints received by them in the format mentioned in Annexure-B. The information shall be made available by 07th of the succeeding month. SEBI advises Portfolio Managers to display link/option on their websites and mobile apps so as to enable their clients to lodge complaint with them directly. Additionally, link to SCORES website/ link to download mobile app (SEBI SCORES) may also be provided by the Portfolio Managers on their website. This circular shall come into effect from January 01, 2022. *Disclaimer – Kindly find the Annexure A and Annexure B in the provided link. [Notification No. SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-II_DOE7/P/CIR/2021/681]

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SEBI issues circular for Publishing Investor Charter and Disclosure of complaints by AIFs

Dec 13, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 10, 2021 has issued a circular for Publishing Investor Charter and Disclosure of complaints by AIFs. This shall come into effect from January 1, 2022. It stated the following namely: - • Annexure – X which specifies “Investor Charter for Alternative Investment Funds” need to be brought to the attention of the investors through the following method namely: - In case of new schemes, disclose Investor Charter in the Private Placement Memorandum (PPM) In case of existing schemes, as a one-time measure, disclose Investor Charter to the investors on their registered e-mail • Annexure – Y which specifies “Complaints Data to be displayed by AIFs for each scheme” need to be brought to the attention of the investors through the following method namely: - For new schemes, as a separate chapter in the PPM For existing schemes, by way of updating the PPM within one month of end of each financial year. [Circular No. SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-I/DOF9/P/CIR/2021/682]

[View Document](#)

SEBI issues circular for Publishing Investor Charter and disclosure of Investor Complaints by Mutual funds on their websites and AMFI website

Dec 13, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 10, 2021 has issued a circular for Publishing Investor Charter and Disclosure of complaints by AIFs. This shall come into effect from January 1, 2022. It stated the following namely: - • Details must be disclosed within 2 months of the close of financial year. • Annexure – A which specify “Format for Mutual Funds to disclose investor complaints” shall be made available within 7th of succeeding month. • Annexure – B which specify “Investor Charter for Mutual Funds” has been inserted. • Mutual Funds are required to display link/option to lodge complaint with them directly on their websites and mobile app. [Circular No. SEBI/HO/IMD-II/IMD-II_DOI10/P/CIR/2021/00677]

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SEBI notifies on Transaction in Corporate Bonds through Request for Quote platform by Portfolio Management Services (PMS)

Dec 10, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 09, 2021 has issued a circular on Transaction in Corporate Bonds through Request for Quote platform by Portfolio Management Services (PMS) to enhance transparency pertaining to debt investments by Portfolio Management Services (PMS) in Corporate Bonds (CBs) and to increase liquidity on exchange platform. SEBI has decided the following points: • On a monthly basis, PMS shall undertake at least 10% of their total secondary market trades by value in CBs in that month by placing/seeking quotes through one-to-one (OTO) or one-to-many (OTM) mode on the Request for Quote platform of stock exchanges (RFQ). • In order to ensure compliance with the abovementioned 10 percent requirement, PMS shall consider the trades executed by value through OTO or OTM mode of RFQ with respect to the total secondary market trades in CBs, during the current month and immediately preceding two months on a rolling basis. • All transactions in CBs wherein PMS is on both sides of the trade shall be executed through RFQ in OTO mode. However, any transaction entered by PMS in CBs in OTM mode which gets executed with another PMS, shall be counted in OTM mode. • PMS are permitted to accept the Contract Note from the stock brokers for transactions carried out in OTO and OTM modes of RFQ. This circular shall come into force with effect from April 1, 2022. Accordingly, from the month of April 2022, PMS shall ensure that at least 10% (by value) of their secondary market trades in CBs in current month and immediately preceding two months (that is, February 2022, March 2022 and April 2022) are executed by placing / seeking quotes through OTO or OTM mode of RFQ. Further, for the month of May 2022, the secondary market trades executed in CBs in the months of March 2022, April 2022 and May 2022 shall be considered for the purpose of aforesaid calculation. [Circular No. SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-I/DOI1/P/CIR/2021/678]

[View Document](#)

MCA to allow companies to conduct EGM through video conferencing

Dec 09, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) on December 08, 2021 has issued a circular to clarify that the companies can issue ordinary or special resolution which is specified in the companies act, 2013 in accordance with the rules made due to COVID-19. MCA has decided to allow companies to conduct their EGMs through Video Conference (VC) or Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) or transact items through postal ballot up to June 30, 2022. [General Circular No. 20/2021]

[View Document](#)

MCA clarifies on holding AGM through video conferencing or other methods

Dec 09, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) on December 08, 2021 has issued a circular to clarify that there is no extension provided to the companies to hold their Annual General Meetings (AGM) through video conferencing or Other Audio visual methods. The date which was decided by the ministry through General Circular No. 02/2021 dated January 13, 2021, that is June 30, 2022 is still the last date for holding AGMs online and the companies which have not adhered to the relevant timelines shall be liable for legal actions under appropriate provision of the companies act, 2013. [General Circular No. 19/2021]

[View Document](#)

Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2021

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 06, 2021 has issued the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2021 to further amend the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011. The following amendments have been made: • Regulation 5A, which specifies Delisting Officer, has been substituted, namely: ■Delisting Offer. 5A. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in these regulations and the Delisting Regulations, in the event the acquirer makes a public announcement of an open offer for acquiring shares or voting rights or control of a target company in terms of sub-regulation (1) of regulation 3, regulation 4 or regulation 5, the acquirer may seek the delisting of the target company by making a delisting offer in accordance with this regulation: Provided that the acquirer shall have declared his intention to so delist the target company at the time of making such public announcement of an open offer as well as at the time of making the detailed public statement. A subsequent declaration of delisting for the purpose of the delisting offer proposed to be made under sub-regulation (1) shall not suffice: Provided further that if the open offer is for an indirect acquisition that is not a deemed direct acquisition under sub-regulation (2) of regulation 5, the declaration of the intent to so delist shall be made initially only in the detailed public statement. Explanation 1: The acquirer shall not, in such target company during the preceding two years from the date of the public announcement made under this regulation, be: (i) a promoter / promoter group / person(s) in control, or (ii) directly / indirectly associated with the promoter or any person(s) in control, or (iii) a person(s) holding more than twenty-five percent shares or voting rights. Explanation 2: The acquirer shall not acquire joint control along with an existing promoter / person in control of the company. (2) The delisting offer obligations shall be fulfilled by the acquirer in the following manner: (a) the public announcement, the detailed public statement and the letter of offer shall mention the open offer price determined in accordance

with regulation 8 of these regulations and the indicative price for delisting: Provided that if the open offer is for an indirect acquisition that is not a deemed direct acquisition under sub-regulation (2) of regulation 5, the open offer price and indicative price shall be notified by the acquirer at the time of making the detailed public statement and in the letter of offer: Provided further that the indicative price shall include a suitable premium reflecting the price that the acquirer is willing to pay for the delisting offer with full disclosures of the rationale and justification for the indicative price so determined that can also be revised upwards by the acquirer before the start of the tendering period which shall be duly disclosed to the shareholders. Explanation: Indicative price shall be in accordance with clause (o) of sub-regulation (1) of regulation 2 of the Delisting Regulations and shall not be less than the book value of the company as computed in accordance with the Explanation to sub-regulation (5) of regulation 22 of the Delisting Regulations. (b) in case the response to the offer leads to the delisting threshold as provided under regulation 21 of the Delisting Regulations : (i) being met, all shareholders who tender their shares shall be paid the indicative price; (ii) not being met, all shareholders who tender their shares shall be paid the open offer price. (3) Where a delisting offer made under sub-regulation (1) is not successful: (a) on account of the non-receipt of the prior approval of shareholders in terms of regulation 11 of the Delisting Regulations; or (b) on account of non-receipt of the prior in-principle approval of the relevant stock exchange in terms of regulation 12 of the Delisting Regulations; or (c) the threshold as specified under Regulation 21 of the Delisting Regulations is not achieved; the acquirer shall, within two working days in respect of such failure, make an announcement in all the newspapers in which the detailed public statement was made and comply with all the applicable provisions of these regulations in relation to completing of the open offer. (4) Where a competing offer is made in terms of sub-regulation (1) of regulation 20 of these regulations: (a) the acquirer shall not be entitled to delist the target company; (b) the acquirer shall not be liable to pay interest to the shareholders on account of delay due to the competing offer; and (c) the acquirer shall comply with all the applicable provisions of these regulations and make an announcement in this regard, within two working days from the date of public announcement made in terms of sub-regulation (1) of regulation 20, in all the newspapers where the detailed public statement was made. (5) The shareholders who have tendered shares in acceptance of the offer made under sub- regulation (1), shall be entitled to withdraw such shares tendered, within five working days from the date of the announcement under sub-regulation (3). (6) Where the target company fails to get delisted pursuant to a delisting offer under sub-regulation (1), but which results in the shareholding of the acquirer exceeding the maximum permissible non- public shareholding threshold: (a) the acquirer may undertake a further attempt to delist the target company in accordance with the Delisting Regulations during the period of twelve months from the date of completion of the open offer, subject to the acquirer continuing to exceed the maximum permissible non- public shareholding in the target company. (b) such further delisting attempt shall be successful subject to the following conditions: (i) the delisting threshold as provided under regulation 21 of the Delisting Regulations is met; and (ii) fifty percent of the residual public shareholding is acquired. (c) upon failure of the further delisting attempt, the acquirer shall ensure compliance of the minimum public shareholding requirement of the target company under the Securities Contract (Regulation) Rules, 1957 within a period of twelve months from the end of the period referred to at clause (a). (d) the floor price for a further delisting attempt as referred to at clause (a) shall be higher of the following: (i) the indicative price offered under the first delisting attempt; (ii) the floor price determined under the Delisting Regulations as on the relevant date of the subsequent attempt; and (iii) the book value of the company as computed based on the method stated in explanation to clause (a) under sub-regulation 2. (7) While undertaking delisting for the first or subsequent attempt, all the provisions of the Delisting Regulations shall mutatis-mutandis be applicable, save as otherwise provided in this regulation.” • In regulation 7, which specifies Offer Size, Sub-regulation (4), the following proviso has been inserted, namely: “Provided that if the open offer has been made by an acquirer under sub-regulation (1) of regulation 3, regulation 4 or regulation 5 and the acquirer has stated upfront his intention to retain the listing of the target company in the public announcement and the

detailed public statement issued pursuant to an open offer in accordance with these regulations, the acquirer may alternatively undertake a proportionate reduction of the shares or voting rights to be acquired pursuant to the underlying agreement for acquisition/ subscription of shares or voting rights and the purchase of shares so tendered, upon the completion of the open offer process such that the resulting shareholding of the acquirer in the target company does not exceed the maximum permissible non-public shareholding prescribed under the Securities Contract (Regulation) Rules, 1957: Provided further that in case of a preferential allotment pursuant to a Share Subscription Agreement which may trigger an open offer as envisaged in the above proviso, the Board Resolution and shareholder resolution shall be appropriately worded, so as to include the effective date of allocation/allotment and the quantum thereof. Notwithstanding anything contained in regulation 170 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, in case of undertaking a scale down of subscription of shares or voting rights from the agreement, the period of fifteen days for allotment of shares shall be counted from the date of the closure of the tendering period for the open offer.” • In regulation 7, which specifies Offer Size, Sub-regulation (5), has been substituted, namely: “(5) Subject to regulation 5A, the acquirer whose shareholding exceeds the maximum permissible non-public shareholding, pursuant to an open offer under these regulations, shall not be eligible to make a voluntary delisting offer under the Delisting Regulations, unless a period of twelve months has elapsed from the date of the completion of the offer period.” • In regulation 10, which specifies General Exemptions, in sub-regulation (1), clause (f) has been substituted, namely: “(f) acquisition pursuant to the provisions of the Delisting Regulations;” • In regulation 15, which specifies Contents, in sub-regulation (1), clause (g) has been “inserted, namely: (g) intention of the acquirer to either delist the target company or retain the listing of the target company. In case of proposed delisting under regulation 5A, the proposed open offer price and indicative price as required under regulation 5A shall be disclosed along with an explanation setting out the rationale and basis for justifying the indicative price.” • In regulation 22, which specifies completion of acquisition, in sub-regulation (1), the following proviso has been substituted, namely: “Provided that in case of an offer made under sub-regulation (1) of regulation 20 of these regulations, pursuant to a preferential allotment, the offer shall be completed within the period as provided under sub-regulation (1) of regulation 170 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure requirements) Regulations, 2018, subject to the non- obstante clause in sub-regulation (4) of regulation 7 of these regulations.” • In regulation 22, which specifies completion of acquisition, in sub-regulation (2), the following proviso has been inserted, namely: “Provided that in case of proportionate reduction of the shares or voting rights to be acquired in accordance with the relevant provision under sub-regulation (4) of regulation 7, the acquirer shall undertake the completion of the scaled down acquisition of shares or voting rights in the target company.” [Notification No. SEBI/LAD-NRO/GN/2021/60]

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SEBI issues publishing Investor Charter and disclosure of Investor Complaints by Stock Brokers on their websites

Dec 07, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 02, 2021 has issued the publishing Investor Charter and disclosure of Investor Complaints by Stock Brokers on their websites to facilitate investor awareness about various activities which an investor deals with such as opening of account, KYC and in person verification, complaint resolution, issuance of contract notes and various statements, process for dematerialization/ re-materialization etc., SEBI, in consultation with the market participants, has prepared an Investor Charter for Stock Brokers inter-alia detailing the services provided to Investors, Rights of

Investors, various activities of Stock Brokers with timelines, DOs and DON'Ts for Investors and Grievance Redressal Mechanism which is placed at Annexure 'A'. SEBI has advised Stock Brokers to bring the Investor Charter for Stock Brokers to the notice of their clients (existing as well as new clients) through disclosing the Investor Charter on their respective websites, making them available at prominent places in the office, provide a copy of Investor Charter as a part of account opening kit to the clients, through e-mails/ letters etc. To bring about transpa*Disclaimer – Kindly find Annexure A and Annexure B in the provided link. The provisions of this circular shall come into effect from January 01, 2022. [Circular No.: SEBI/HO/MIRSD/DOP/CIR/P/2021/676]

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SEBI issues Master Circular for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

Dec 02, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on November 29, 2021 has issued Master Circular for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). To ensure that the users have access to all the applicable circulars in one place. The circulars included in the master circular are namely: • Online Filing System for REITs • Guidelines for public issue of units of REITs • Disclosure of financial information in offer document for REITs • Continuous Disclosures and Compliances by REITs • Participation by Strategic Investor(s) in REITs • Guidelines for issuance of debt securities by REITs • Guidelines for preferential issue and institutional placement of units by listed REITs • Guidelines for rights issue of units by a listed REIT • Encumbrance on units of REIT • Manner and mechanism of providing exit option to dissenting unit holders [Circular No. SEBI/HO/DDHS/DDHS_Div3/P/CIR/2021/674]

[View Document](#)

Master Circular for Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)

Dec 02, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on November 29, 2021 has issued Master Circular for Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) mainly prepared by SEBI for effective regulation of Infrastructure Investment Trusts and to enable the industry and other users to have an access to all the applicable circulars at one place. This Master Circular is a compilation of relevant circulars issued by SEBI up to October 31, 2021 which are operational as on date of this circular. Circulars providing temporary relaxations with regards to certain compliance requirements for InvITs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic have not been included in the master circular. The following chapters have been included in this Master circular: • Chapter 1, Online Filing System for InvITs • Chapter 2. Guidelines for public issue of units of InvITs • Chapter 3. Financial information to be disclosed in offer document/placement memorandum • Chapter 4. Continuous Disclosures and Compliances by InvITs • Chapter 5. Participation by Strategic Investor(s) in InvITs • Chapter 6. Guidelines for issuance of debt securities by InvITs • Chapter 7. Guidelines for preferential issue and institutional placement of units by listed InvITs • Chapter 8. Guidelines for filing of placement memorandum by InvITs proposed to be listed • Chapter 9. Guidelines for rights issue of units by a listed InvIT • Chapter 10. Guidelines for rights issue of units by an unlisted InvIT • Chapter 11. Requirement of minimum number and holding of unit holders for unlisted InvITs • Chapter 12. Encumbrance on units of InvITs • Chapter 13. Manner and mechanism of providing exit option to dissenting unit holders [Master Circular No -

SEBI/HO/DDHS/DDHS_Div3/P/CIR/2021/673]

[View Document](#)

Insolvency Professionals to act as Interim Resolution Professionals, Liquidators, Resolution Professionals and Bankruptcy Trustees (Recommendation) (Second) Guidelines, 2021

Dec 02, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on December 01, 2021 has issued the Insolvency Professionals to act as Interim Resolution Professionals, Liquidators, Resolution Professionals and Bankruptcy Trustees (Recommendation) (Second) Guidelines, 2021 to recommend name of an Insolvency Professional (IP) for appointment as Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) or Liquidator as under: (a) Section 16(3)(a) of the Code requires the Adjudicating Authority (AA) to make a reference to the Board for recommendation of an IP, who may act as an IRP where an operational creditor has made an application for corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) and has not proposed an IRP. The Board is required under section 16(4) of the Code to recommend the name of an IP against whom no disciplinary proceedings are pending, within ten days of the receipt of the reference from the AA. (b) Section 34(4) of the Code requires the AA to replace the resolution professional, if (a) the resolution plan submitted by the resolution professional under section 30 was rejected for failure to meet the requirements mentioned in section 30(2); or (b) the Board recommends the replacement of a resolution professional to the AA for reasons to be recorded in writing; or (c) the resolution professional fails to submit written consent under section 34(1). For the purposes of clause (a) and clause (c) of section 34(4), the AA may direct the Board under section 34(5) of the Code to propose the name of another IP to be appointed as a liquidator. The Board is required under section 34(6) to propose the name of another IP along with written consent from him, within ten days of the direction issued by the AA under section 34(5). • The relevant Rules provide as under: (a) Rule 8 (2) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Application to Adjudicating Authority for Insolvency Resolution Process for Personal Guarantors to Corporate Debtors) Rules, 2019 enables the Board to share a Panel of IPs, who may be appointed as resolution professionals, with the Adjudicating Authority for the purposes of section 97(4) and section 98(3). (b) Rule 8 (2) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Application to Adjudicating Authority for Bankruptcy Process for Personal Guarantors to Corporate Debtors) Rules, 2019 enables the Board to share a Panel of IPs, who may be appointed as bankruptcy trustee, with the Adjudicating Authority for the purposes of section 125(4) and section 146(3) and section 147(3) of the Code. • Guidelines

- o At the time of reference/ directions received from the AA, the Board does not have information about the volume, nature and complexity of an insolvency or bankruptcy process and the resources available at the disposal of an IP. In such a situation, the Board is unlikely to add much value by recommending an IP for the process. Further, it takes some time for a reference or a direction from the AA to reach the Board. The Board may take up to ten days to identify an IP for the purpose. It also takes some time for the recommendation of the Board to reach the AA, after which the AA could appoint the recommended IP. The process of appointment may entail 2-3 weeks, which could be saved if the AA has a ready Panel of IPs recommended by the Board and it can pick up any name from the Panel for appointment while issuing the Order itself.
- o Given that every IP is equally qualified to be appointed as the IRP, Liquidator, RP or BT of any corporate or individual insolvency resolution, liquidation or bankruptcy process, as the case may be, if otherwise not disqualified, and in the interest of avoiding administrative delays, the Board considers necessary to have these guidelines to prepare a Panel of IPs for the purpose of section 16(4), 34(6), 97(4), 98(3), 125(4), 146(3) and 147(3).
- Application
- o These Guidelines shall come into effect for appointments as IRP, Liquidator, RP and BT with effect from

January 1, 2022. o These Guidelines have been issued in supersession of the earlier Guidelines [Insolvency Professionals to act as Interim Resolution Professionals, Liquidators, Resolution Professionals and Bankruptcy Trustee (Recommendation) Guidelines, 2021] issued on June 1, 2021. *Disclaimer – Kindly find the detailed guidelines on the provided link.

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Credit Information Companies (Amendment) Regulations, 2021

Dec 01, 2021 | Central | Secretarial

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on November 10, 2021 has issued the Credit Information Companies (Amendment) Regulations, 2021 to further amend the Credit Information Companies Regulations, 2006. The following amendment has been made: • In regulation 3, which specifies “Specifies Users”, clause (j) has been inserted, namely: "(j) an entity engaged in the processing of information, for the support or benefit of credit institutions, and satisfying the criteria laid down by the Reserve Bank from time to time". [Notification No. DOR. SIG. FIN. No. 52140/20.16.050/2021-22]

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EHS

Mohfw issues guidelines for the COVID vaccination of children aged between 15 to 18

Dec 28, 2021 | Central | EHS



The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Mohfw) on December 27, 2021 has issued guidelines for COVID-19 Vaccination for the children who are aged between 15 to 18 years and Booster Vaccine shot to the Health Care workers, Frontline workers and People aged 60+ years. The guidelines are as followed: 1. COVID-19 Vaccination of children in the age-group of 15-18 years to be started from January 03, 2022. For such beneficiaries, vaccination option would be "Covaxin" only. 2. As a matter of abundant precaution, for those Health Care Workers (HCWs) & Front Line Workers (FLWs) who have received two doses, another dose of COVID-19 vaccine would be provided from January 10, 2022. The prioritization and sequencing of this precaution dose would be based on the completion of 9 months i.e. 39 weeks from the date of administration of 2nd dose. All persons aged 60 years and above with comorbidities who have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, will on Doctor's advice be provided with a precaution dose from January 10, 2022. The prioritization and sequencing of this precaution dose would be based on the completion of 9 months i.e. 39 weeks from the date of administration of second dose. All citizens irrespective of their income status are entitled to free COVID-19 vaccination at Govt. Vaccination Centres. Those who have the ability to pay are encouraged to use Private Hospitals' Vaccination Centres. Co-WIN features and provisions are as followed:

- HCWs, FLWs and Citizens 60+ with co-morbidities:
 - o All HCWs, FLWs and citizens aged 60 years or above with comorbidities will be able to access the vaccination for precaution dose through their existing Co-WIN account.
 - o Eligibility of such beneficiaries for the precaution dose will be based on the date of administration of 2nd dose as recorded in the Co-WIN system.
 - o Co-WIN system will send SMS to such beneficiaries for availing the precaution dose when the dose becomes due.
 - o Registration and appointment services can be accessed through both, the online and the onsite modes.
 - o The details of administration of the precaution dose will be suitably reflected in the vaccination certificates.
- New beneficiaries aged 15-18years:
 - o All those aged 15 years or more will be able to register on Co-WIN. In other words, all those whose birth year is 2007 or before, shall be eligible.
 - o Beneficiaries can self-register, online through an existing account on Co-WIN or can also register by creating a new account through a unique mobile number, this facility is available for all eligible citizens presently.
 - o Such beneficiaries can also be registered onsite by the verifier/vaccinator in facilitated registration mode.
 - o Appointments can be booked online or onsite(walk-in).
 - o For such beneficiaries, option for vaccination would only be available for Covaxin as this is the only vaccine with EUL for the age-group 15-18. These Guidelines will come into effect from January 03, 2022 & will be reviewed from time to time.

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CPCB seeks Start-ups/Firms in area of air quality monitoring and data management.

Dec 16, 2021 | Central | EHS

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on December 15, 2021 has issued Expression of interest to seek start-ups/firms to participate in the field of development of reliable technology for air quality monitoring and data management. The following was stated namely: - • The performa for providing information of start-up/work details can be found at www.cpcb.nic.in. • Last date of sending in applications is January 1, 2022 at aqmn.cpcb@gov.in.

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Andhra Pradesh

APERC seeks comments and suggestions on the 5th amendment of Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Interim Balancing and Settlement Code) Regulation, 2006

Dec 31, 2021 | State | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) on December 30, 2021 has issued a public notice to seek comments and suggestions on the amendment of Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Interim Balancing and Settlement Code) Regulation, 2006 which incorporates certain changes with regard to accounting of open access transactions by EBC and DISCOMs. The following amendments have been made: • In regulation 7, which specifies Meter Reading, Energy Accounting and Settlement, clause 7.1 and 7.4 have been substituted Respectively, namely: “In respect of Open Access Generators, Scheduled Consumers and Open Access Consumers who are connected to the substations of Transmission licensees or if the entry point(s) and exit point(s) of Open Access/Scheduled consumer(s) and Open Access Generator(s) are geographically located in different DISCOMs irrespective of voltage levels, the SLDC shall undertake the accounting and settlement of energy for each time block on a monthly basis with the assistance of the Energy Billing Centre (EBC). In respect of Open Access Generators, Scheduled Consumers and Open Access Consumers whose entry point(s) and exit point(s) are connected to the DISCOM's substations and are geographically located in the same DISCOM, the DISCOM concerned shall undertake the accounting and settlement of energy for each time block on a monthly basis and submit those details to SLDC within two days after the settlement.” “In respect of the Open Access Generators, Scheduled Consumers and Open Access Consumers who are connected to the substations of Transmission licensees or if the entry point(s) and exit point(s) of Open Access/Scheduled consumer(s) and Open Access Generator(s) are geographically located in different DISCOMs irrespective of voltage levels, the SLDC shall finalize the energy account of the Open Access transactions of a billing month with the assistance of EBC and arrive at the deviations for each time block and the consequent adjustments integrated over the month in accordance with the procedure specified herein. In respect of the Open Access Generators, Scheduled Consumers and Open Access Consumers whose entry point(s) and exit point(s) are connected at DISCOM's sub-stations and are geographically located in the same DISCOM, the DISCOM concerned shall finalize the energy account of the Open Access transactions of a billing month and arrive at the deviations for each time block and the consequent adjustments integrated over the month in accordance with the procedure specified herein and submit those details to SLDC within two days after the settlement.” It has been informed to public that the amendments will be finalized on expiry of 14 days from today subject to the Commission considering comments/suggestions/objections, if any, received from the general public before the expiry of 2 weeks. The comments/suggestions/objections on the amendments may be sent to the undersigned on or before 12-01-2022 at the email address, commn-secy@aperc.in. The comments/suggestions/objections received after the stipulated date may not be considered while finalizing the amendments.

[View Document](#)

Andhra Pradesh Govt. amends Schedule VI of AP VAT act 2005

Dec 21, 2021 | State | Andhra Pradesh

The Revenue Department of Andhra Pradesh on December 18, 2021 has issued a notification to amend the Schedule VI, which specifies Goods subjected to tax at special rates, of the Andhra Pradesh Value Added Tax 2005. The following amendments have been made: • Item No. 1-A has been substituted, namely: Indian Made Foreign Liquor (other than Beer, Wine and Ready to drink varieties) bottled and/or packed in India as per the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Excise Act, 1968, but excluding Toddy and Arrack Basic price (per case): (a) Up to Rs.400/- - Rate of Tax – 50% (b) Above Rs.400/- up to Rs. 1029/ (c) Above Rs.1029/- up to Rs.1562/ - Rate of Tax – 10% (d) Above Rs.1562/- up to Rs.1657/ (e) Above Rs.1657/- up to Rs. 1830/- Rate of Tax – 10% (f) Above Rs.1830/- up to Rs.2500/- Rate of Tax – 10% (g) Above Rs.2500/- up to Rs.3500/- Rate of Tax – 10% (h) Above Rs.3500/- up to Rs.5000/- Rate of Tax – 10% (i) Above Rs.5000/- Rate of Tax – 10% • Item No. 1-B had been substituted, namely: Beer bottled and/or packed in India as per the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Excise Act, 1968. Basic price per case: (a) Rs.200 and below - Rate of Tax – 40% (b) Above Rs.200 - Rate of Tax – 40% • Item No. 1-C had been substituted, namely: (a) Wines - Rate of Tax – 35% (b) Ready to drink varieties (RTD) - Rate of Tax – 10% • Item No. 1-D had been substituted, namely: (a) Foreign liquor bottled and/or packed outside India - Rate of Tax – 60% This notification shall come into force from December 19, 2021. [Notification No. GO MS NO 364]

[View Document](#)

AP electricity regulatory commission (conduct of business) sixth amendment regulation, 2021

Dec 20, 2021 | State | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) on December 08, 2021 has issued the Sixth Amendment to the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 1999. The following amendment has been made: • In clause 13, which specifies Service of notices and processes issued by the Commission, sub-clause (1) has been substituted, namely: (i) by hand delivery on the person through a messenger and obtaining signed acknowledgment; (ii) by registered/speed post with acknowledgment due; (iii) by fax; (iv) by email; (v) by publication in its website; (vi) by publication in newspapers, in such matters as the Commission deems fit.

[View Document](#)

AP govt. Bans Gutka/Tobacco

Dec 08, 2021 | State | Andhra Pradesh

The Commissioner of Food Safety Directorate of Institute of Preventive Medicine, Public health laboratories and Food (Health) Administration on December 7, 2021 has issued imposition of prohibition on manufacture, storage, distribution, transportation and sale of Gutka/Pan Masala. This is in effect from December 7, 2021. The following was stated namely: - "Anshra Pradesh state hereby prohibits the manufacture, storage, distribution, transportation and sale of Gutka/Pan Masala which contains tobacco and nicotine as ingredients and Chewing Tobacco products like Chap Tobacco, Pure Tobacco, Khaini, Kharra, Scented Tobacco/Flavoured Tobacco packed in pouches/sachets/containers etc., or by whatever name it is called in the entire state of Andhra Pradesh for a period of one year." [Notification No. 318/FSSA/AP/2014-21]

[View Document](#)

AP Govt. issues order imposing stock limits on Edible Oils and Edible oilseeds

Dec 07, 2021 | State | Andhra Pradesh

The Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies Department, Andhra Pradesh on December 3, 2021 has issued order imposing stock limits on Edible Oils and Edible oilseeds. The following exemptions were laid down namely: - • A whole seller having Importer-Exporter Code Number is able to demonstrate that the whole or part of the stock in respect of edible oils and edible oil seeds are meant for exports, to the extent the stock is meant for export. • An Importer is able to demonstrate that part of his stock in respect of edible oils and edible oil seeds are sourced from imports. • All millers, refiners, wholesalers, solvent extractors and stockists dealing with edible oil/edible oil seeds maintain the stock limits and to declare their stocks in the GOI web portal <http://evegoils.nic.in/EOSP/Login>. • Certain stocks have limits imposed on them. [Order No. G.O.Ms No. 14]

[View Document](#)

Hyderabad govt. issues extended date for revocation of cancellation of registration

Dec 01, 2021 | State | Andhra Pradesh

The Revenue Department, Hyderabad on November 25, 2021 has issued a notification G.O.Ms.No.333 to further amend Go.Ms.No.174 and Go.Ms.No. 264. The following amendment has been made namely: - • In Section 29(2)(b) or Section 29(2)(c) in the Andhra Pradesh Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 which specify "Person not furnishing returns" the following has been amended namely: "where a registration has been cancelled under clause (b) or (c) of sub-section (2) of section 29 and the time limit for making an application of revocation of cancellation of registration under sub-section (1) of section 30 of the said Act falls during the period from the 1st day of March, 2020 to 31st day of August, 2021, the time limit for making such application shall be extended up to the 30th day of September, 2021." [Notification No. G.O.Ms.No.333]

[View Document](#)

Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh Govt. issues Grant of Dearness Relief to State Government Pensioners/Family Pensioners – Revised Rates

[Dec 09, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Arunachal Pradesh](#)

The Finance Department, Arunachal Pradesh on December 3, 2021 has issued Grant of Dearness Relief to State Government Pensioners/Family Pensioners – Revised Rates. This is in effect from July 1, 2021. In reference to order No.FIN/E-II/07/97(Pt)/249 which specifies "Dearness relief payable" the following has been stated namely: - • Dearness Relief (DR) payable to State Government pensioners/Family Pensioners shall be enhanced by 3%. • This needs to be forwarded to the Pension Disbursing Authorities i.e. Treasury Officers/Public Sector Banks authorized for payment of pensions under the respective jurisdiction with an advice for early payment of entitlement. [Order No. DAP/PEN/II/99-2000/VOL-I/95-97]

[View Document](#)

Assam

Ministry of Labour and Employment issues the date of implementation of certain provisions of ESI act in the districts of ASSAM

Dec 24, 2021 | State | Assam

The Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) on December 23, 2021 has issued a notification to provide the implementation date of certain provisions of Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 (34 of 1948). The following provision are to be implemented: (i) sections 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and sections 45A to 45H of Chapter IV, which specifies contribution; (ii) sections 46 to 73 of Chapter V, which specifies Benefits; and (iii) sections 74, 75, sub-sections (2) to (4) of sections 76, 80, 82 and 83 of Chapter VI which specifies Adjudication of Disputes and claims, shall come into force in the entire areas of the following districts in the State of Assam:- Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Bishwanath, Cachar, Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Golaghat, Goalpara, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Nalbari, Marigaon, Nagaon, Sibsagar, Udalguri, West Karbi Anglong (in addition to the already implemented area in the district). Karbi Anglong, Karimganj, South Salmara Mankachar. The Date of Implementation of the abovesaid provisions of the ESI act is January 01, 2022. [Notification No. S.O. 5371(E)]

[View Document](#)

Draft Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations 2017 (Fourth Amendment), 2021

Dec 21, 2021 | State | Assam

The Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (AERC) on December 15, 2021 has issued the Draft Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations 2017 (Fourth Amendment), 2021 to further amend the AERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2017. The Following amendments have been made: • In regulation 2.1.1, which specifies Frequency has been substituted, namely: "The declared frequency of the alternating current (AC) shall be 50 Hz. The licensee shall as far as possible supply and maintain uninterrupted power supply in a frequency band between 49.90 Hz to 50.05 Hz. These limits are subject to change based on notifications/directions of the Commission." • In Regulation 2.2.1, which specifies Supply voltage for different connected loads category title has been substituted, namely: The Category title "All installations with a connected load of 5 kW or more upto 25 kW or 30 kVA" shall be replaced as "All installations with a connected load of 5 kW or more upto 30 kW". • In Regulation 2.2.3(a)ii(a), which specifies Contracted load/Contract Demand and Billing Demand, the proviso has been substituted, namely: "However maximum limit in case of enhancement of contract demand will be restricted upto the minimum load(kva) as specified in the tariff order for various categories of consumer" • In Regulation 3.2, which specifies Licensee's obligation to extend the distribution system and consumer's share in the cost clause (C) has been substituted, namely: "The consumer shall bear the Service Connection Charges, i.e. the cost of extension of service connection from the nearest Distribution Mains to the point of supply. In addition, the new HT consumer shall also bear other charges including the cost of extension of mains, if any." • In Regulation 3.4, which specifies Conditions for Grant of Connection, proviso has been substituted, namely: "The licensee shall display in its offices and website the updated status of applications for new connections in that area/circle within jurisdiction of office" • In Regulation 3.5, which specifies Time frame for completion of different

activities related to power supply has been substituted, namely: "The Time frame for completion of different activities related to power supply will be as per provision of AERC (Distribution Licensees' Standards of Performance) Regulations, 2021." • In Regulation 3.10.2, which specifies Connection with separate meters with separate point of supply, proviso (d) has been inserted, namely: "If the owner of the premises revokes the undertaking on the NOC as in subclause b) and proviso to subclause c) above, the supply shall be discontinued within 3 months of such revocation." • In Regulation 3.10.2, which specifies Connection with separate meters with separate point of supply, the following proviso has been inserted, namely: "Provided that the owner of the premises have issued a NOC for issue of a separate point of supply." • In Regulation 4.1.1, which specifies Application forms, the following proviso has been inserted, namely: "h) Provided that The licensee shall create a web portal and a mobile app for submission of online application forms. Acknowledgement with registration number shall be generated on submission of online application. In case hard copy of application form is submitted, the same shall be scanned and uploaded in the portal and app and acknowledgement with the registration number for that applicant shall be generated and intimated to the applicant." • In Regulation 4.3.4.3, which specifies Mode of Payment, the following Proviso has been inserted, namely: "Provided that the consumer may opt to deposit the load security amount in the form of non-cash instrument ex. Bank Guarantee, Bank mandate etc. subject to the following terms- i) The non-cash instrument should be 105% of its cash equivalent. ii) No interest shall be paid on such non cash instrument. iii) The non-cash instrument so deposited shall be renewed before expiry of validity period. The initial validity period shall not be less than 5 years." • In Regulation 6.2.6.1, which specifies Schedule Reading of meters, the following Proviso has been inserted, namely: a) "In case of smart meters, the meters shall be read remotely at least once in 30 days and in case of other pre-payment meters, the meters shall be read by an authorised representative of the distribution licensee at least once in every 90 days. Provided also that the licensee shall not generate more than two provisional bills for a consumer during one financial year if the licensee is not able to read the meter. If the provisional billing continues for more than two billing cycles except under extraordinary situation due to force majeure, the consumer may refuse to pay the dues until bill is raised by the licensee as per actual meter reading." • In Regulation 6.2.7.2, which specifies Unscheduled testing of meter clause (h) of has been substituted, namely: "h) The meter may be tested for accuracy at a third party testing facility accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL, if so desired by the consumer The list of third party agencies approved for testing of meters shall be available on the website of the licensee. The cost of such testing as may be charged by third party shall be borne by the consumer in case it is established that the results of this test are same as the results of the test performed by Licensee. If the results of this test are contrary to the test performed by Licensee, cost of undertaking such test shall be borne by the Licensee." • In Regulation 6.2.7.2, which specifies Unscheduled Testing of meters, in clause (B), the following proviso has been substituted, namely: "Provided that no test fee shall be charged from the consumer at the time of reporting. If the meter is found to be defective or burnt due to reasons attributable to the consumer, the consumer shall bear the cost of new meter and test fee shall be charged from the consumer through subsequent bills" • In Regulation 6.3.7.1, which specifies Billing in case of Multi-consumer complex has been substituted, namely: "In case of Multi consumer complex (clause 3.10.3), if the difference between consumption recorded by the additional meter and aggregate of consumption recorded by the individual meters is beyond permissible limits of 3%, the same shall be added to the recorded consumption of common meter and billed accordingly. Provided that the Licensee shall analyse the reasons for such difference and corrective measures shall be taken." • In Regulation 6.3.8, which specifies Payment based on self-assessment by the consumer clause (a) has been substituted, namely: "a) In case of non-receipt of bill or non-receipt of a duplicate bill as requested for by a consumer, the consumer may deposit self-assessed bill in the format prescribed in Format 12 to this Code for the period for which bill has not been received, provided that it is not less than the average consumption during the billing cycle over the last six months. The excess/deficient payment so made by the consumer

shall be adjusted in the next bill. Online payment facility may be provided for such payment in the portal.” • In Regulation 6.3.9, which specifies Advance Payment of Bills , clause (b) has been substituted, namely: “(b) In such cases the consumer shall deposit an amount that covers the fixed charges for the duration of the proposed absence. Such provisional payment shall be adjusted when subsequent bill is issued on the basis of actual meter reading. Online payment facility may be provided for such payment in the portal.” • In Regulation 6.3.14, which specifies Utilization of the Amount Received has been substituted, namely: “All payments made by the consumer will be adjusted in the following order of priority: a) Electricity Duty /tax b) Late payment surcharge, if any c) Arrears of electricity charges, if any d) Current electricity charges, e) Miscellaneous charges, if any” • In Regulation 6.3.17, which specifies Recovery of Arrears, the following proviso has been inserted: c)Any arrear of a consumer may be recovered as an arrear of land revenue as per notification of Govt. of Assam. • In Regulation 7.5.2, which specifies Inspection, search and seizure, clause (f) has been substituted, namely: “Any damage/obstruction to the electric meters, metering equipment, apparatus, line cable on electric plant of the licensee caused or allowed to be caused by the consumer/person, insertion of foreign circuit in the meter or CT-PT set or any other accessories of the metering system so as to interfere with the proper or accurate metering or electricity or theft of electricity shall also be duly recorded in the report. However , in case of detection of foreign circuit or any other artificial means in the meter or CT-PT set or any other accessories of the metering system, the meter will be declared as prima facie tampered and all such cases shall be declared as prima facie theft of electricity unless the contrary is proved. In all such cases, meter accuracy test will not be binding on the licensee and the consumption pattern of the consumer prior to detection of such theft or malpractice shall be construed as an evidence.” • In Regulation 7.5.4, which specifies Assessment of electricity charges (h), clause (h) has been substituted, namely: “Any person aggrieved by the final order served by the Assessing Officer may, within 30 days of the said order, prefer an appeal to the Appellate Authority in such form, verified in such manner as prescribed and be accompanied by such fee as prescribed.” • In Regulation 8.1, which specifies Disconnection the following proviso has been inserted, namely: “Provided that in case of temporary disconnection, the consumer shall be liable to pay the fixed charges for the period of temporary disconnection.” [Notification No.AERC.280/2007/Part-I/171]

[View Document](#)

Assam Govt. gives partial tax exemption for sale of Aviation Turbine Fuel

Dec 20, 2021 | State | Assam

The Finance Department, Assam on December 4, 2021 has issued partial exemption for the sale of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) made to aircrafts operating under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) to pay tax. This shall come into force from December 4, 2021. The exemption has been given on certain conditions namely: -

- VAT payable shall be at the rate of 1% only.
- The eligible dealers/Oil marketing Companies need to furnish a certificate signed by an authorized officer.
- Complete accounts of quantity of fuel sold, copies of invoices/bills, details of payments received against supply of Aviation Turbine Fuel(ATF) needs to be maintained.

[Notification No. FT.82/2016/77]

[View Document](#)

Assam Govt. issues clarification on refund related issues –reg

Dec 07, 2021 | State | Assam

The Office of the Principal Commissioner of State Tax Cum Commissioner of Taxes, Assam on November 17, 2021 has issued Clarification on refund related issues –reg. This will come into effect from November 17, 2021. The following issues were clarified namely: - • The time period within which an application for refund can be filed, would not be applicable in cases of refund of excess balance in electronic cash ledger. • Section 54(2)(b) which specify “in the case of supply of goods regarded as deemed exports where a refund of tax paid is available in respect of the goods, the date on which the return relating to such deemed exports is furnished.” The following was clarified: The section is applicable for determining relevant date in respect of refund of amount of tax paid on the supply of goods regarded as deemed exports, irrespective of the fact whether the refund claim is filed by the supplier or by the recipient. [Circular No. 119/2021 – GST]

[View Document](#)

Assam Govt. issues Clarification in respect of applicability of Dynamic Quick Response (QR) Code on B2C invoices and compliance.

Dec 07, 2021 | State | Assam

The Office of the Principal Commissioner of State Tax Cum Commissioner of Taxes, Assam on November 17, 2021 has issued Clarification in respect of applicability of Dynamic Quick Response (QR) Code on B2C invoices and compliance. It is in effect from November 17, 2021. The following have been stated namely: - • The relaxation from the requirement of dynamic QR code not given for foreign exchange. [Circular No. 118/2021-GST]

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Draft Assam Industrial Code Rules, 2021

Dec 07, 2021 | State | Assam

The Labour Welfare Department of Assam on November 17, 2021 has issued the Draft Assam Industrial Relations Rules, 2021. The following are the objectives of the rules: • The Rules are designated to safeguard the rights of employers and employees by providing easy labour reforms and to facilitate ease of Doing Business. • The object of the Rule is to realize industrial peace and harmony as the ultimate pursuit in resolving industrial disputes and to advance the progress of industry by bringing about the existence of harmony and cordial relationship between the employers and workers. • To develop and progress of Industry through democratic fashion. • To safeguard the interests of both workers and management. • To help in establishing and maintaining industrial democracy. • Industrial relation aims at maintaining healthy, harmonious, and cordial relationship between the employees and management and amongst the employees. • To safeguard the interest of employees and management by securing the highest level of mutual understanding and cooperation. • To avoid industrial conflict and develop harmonious and cordial relations between the employees and management and amongst the employees within the industry, which are an essential to improve productivity of workers and the industrial progress All persons likely to be affected thereby and notice is hereby given that the said draft notification will be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of 45 (forty five) days from the date of application of the draft rule in the Official Gazette published are made available to the public; Any objections and suggestions, which may be received from any person or organization with respect to the said draft rule before expiry of the period specified above, shall be considered by the Governor. Objections and suggestions, if any, may be sent to the Secretary to the

Government of Assam, Labour Welfare Department, 3rd Floor, F-Block, Janata Bhawan, Dispur,
Guwahati-781006 or by email-labour.assam@gmail.com. [NOTIFICATION No. GLR(RC)71/2020/208]

[View Document](#)

Bihar

Bihar Goods and Services Tax (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 24, 2021 | State | Bihar

The Governor of Bihar on December 22, 2021 has issued The Bihar Goods and Services Tax (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend The Bihar Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017. The rules shall come into force on December 1, 2021. The following sections were amended namely: - • In Rule 137 which specify "Tenure of Authority" shall be substituted namely: - "The Authority shall cease to exist after the expiry of 'Five Years' from the date on which the Chairman enters upon his office unless the Council recommends otherwise." • In Form GST DRC-03 the following has been amended namely: In item 3(3) which specify "Audit, investigation, voluntary, SCN, annual return, reconciliation statement, others (specify)" the following has been substituted namely: "Audit, inspection or investigation, voluntary, SCN, annual return, reconciliation statement, scrutiny, intimation of tax ascertained through FORM GST DRC-01A, Mismatch (Form GSTR-1 and Form GSTR-3B), Mismatch (Form GSTR-2B and Form GSTR-3B), others (specify)" [Notification No. S.O. 166]

[View Document](#)

Bihar Govt. amends the notification regarding tax on intra-State supplies paid by the electronic commerce operator

Dec 08, 2021 | State | Bihar

The Trade Tax Department, Government of Bihar on December 06, 2021 has issued the amendment in the Government of Bihar, Notification (17/2017), dated June 29, 2017 which specifies the tax on intra-State supplies shall be paid by the electronic commerce operator. The amendment in the notification are as follows: - • In Clause (i) which specifies "services by way of transportation of passengers by a radio-taxi, motorcab, maxicab and motor cycle, omnibus or any other motor vehicle", has been substituted. • In Clause (iv) which specifies "supply of restaurant service other than the services supplied by restaurant, eating joints etc. located at specified premises", has been inserted. • In Explanation, item (c) which specifies "specified premises means premises providing hotel accommodation service having declared tariff of any unit of accommodation above seven thousand five hundred rupees per unit per day or equivalent", has been inserted. This notification shall come into force with effect from January 1, 2022. [Notification No.17/2021– State Tax (Rate)]

[View Document](#)

Bihar Govt. amends the notification to rate on the intra-State supply of services

Dec 08, 2021 | State | Bihar

The Trade Tax Department, Government of Bihar on December 06, 2021 has issued the amendment in the notification No. 11/2017-State Tax (Rate), dated June 29, 2017, which specifies the rate on the intra-State supply of services. The following amendments have been made: • In Table, Serial number 3, Column 3 which

specifies “Description of Service”, under the item (iii), (vi), (ix), (x) and (vii) has been substituted, namely: - “Union territory or a local authority” • In Table, Serial number 3, Column 5, under the item (iii), (vi), (ix), (x) and (vii) which specifies “Condition” has been omitted. • In Table, Serial number 26, Column 3 which specifies “Description of Service”, under the item (iii) (b) has been substituted, namely: - “Except services by way of dyeing or printing of the said textile and textile products” [Notification No.15/2021– State Tax (Rate)]

[View Document](#)

Bihar Govt. amends the notification for exemption of certain goods from excess levy of state tax

Dec 08, 2021 | State | Bihar

The Commercial Taxes Department, Bihar on December 6, 2021 has issued Notification S.O 16/2021 to further amend Notification no. 12/2017 which specifies the exemption of certain goods from levy of excess of state tax on intra-supply goods”. This shall come into force on January 1, 2022. The amendments made were namely: - • In Serial number 15 which specify “Transport of passengers, with or without accompanied belongings” the following shall be inserted namely: - “Provided that nothing contained in items (b) and (c) above shall apply to services supplied through an electronic commerce operator, and notified under sub-section (5) of Section 9 of the Bihar Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (12 of 2017).” • In serial number 17 which specify “Service of transportation of passengers, with or without accompanied belongings” the following shall be inserted namely: - “Provided that nothing contained in item (e) above shall apply to services supplied through an electronic commerce operator, and notified under sub-section (5) of Section 9 of the Bihar Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (12 of 2017).” [Notification No. S.O. 164]

[View Document](#)

Bihar govt. amends the notification for rate of state tax leviable on certain goods

Dec 08, 2021 | State | Bihar

The Commercial Taxes Department, Bihar on December 6, 2021 has issued a notification to further amend the notification no. 01/2017- state tax (rate) dated June 29, 2017 which specifies the rate of state tax leviable on certain goods. The following amendments have been made: - • In S. No. 132 which specifies “Other printed matter” the following will be inserted namely: - Woven fabrics of silk or of silk waste. Woven fabrics of carded wool or of carded fine animal hair. Woven fabrics of combed wool or of combed fine animal hair. • In S. No. 139 which specifies “Twine, cordage, ropes and cables” the following shall be inserted namely: - “Knotted netting of twine, cordage or rope; made up of fishing nets and other made up nets, of textile materials.” [Notification No. S.O. 162]

[View Document](#)

Chandigarh

Draft Chandigarh Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Rules, 2021

Dec 31, 2021 | State | Chandigarh

The Labour Department of Chandigarh On December 28, 2021 has issued the Draft Chandigarh Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Rules, 2021. The following rules have been superseded: (i) Chandigarh Factory Rules, 1952; (ii) Chandigarh Control of Industrial Major Accident Hazards Rules, 1993; (iii) Chandigarh Welfare Officers (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1952; (iv) Chandigarh Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2008; (v) Chandigarh Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Rules, 1973; (vi) The Chandigarh Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1983; (vii) Chandigarh Motor Transport Workers Rules, 1963 The following objectives have been given: The draft rules provide for operationalization of provisions in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 relating to safety, health and working conditions of the Dock Workers, Building or other construction workers, Mines workers, Inter-State Migrant worker, Contract labour, Working journalist, Audio-visual workers and Sales promotion employees. The draft Rules are aimed at enhancing safety, health and working conditions in establishments, simplifying the procedures and protocols, allowing electronic mode of maintaining registers, records and furnishing returns, thus ensuring safe, healthy and decent working conditions. The salient features of the draft rules include: • No employee shall be employed without issuing an appointment letter in a format that includes designation, category of skill, wages, etc. • Annual health examination shall be conducted free of cost for every worker of factory, dock, mine and building or other construction work, who has completed 45 years of age. • Journey allowance once in a year for to & for journey • Single electronic registration, license and annual integrated return for an establishment. • An All-India single license for contractor supplying or engaging contract labour in more than one State for five years. • Prohibition of employment of contract labour for core activity of an establishment. • Payment of wages to contract labour (a) the contractor shall fix the wage periods and no wage period shall exceed one month. (b) The wages of every person employed as contract labour in an establishment or by the contractor shall be paid before the expiry of seventh day after the last day of the wage period. (c) The wages shall be disbursed through bank transfer or electronic mode only. • Safety committees have been made mandatory for every establishment employing 500 matters and rules have been provided for composition and functions of safety committees. • The rules relating to safety of women employment in all establishments for all type of work before 6 a.m. and beyond 7 p.m. with their consent. • Mines rules have been integrated with the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions rules. The draft of rules will be taken into consideration by Chandigarh Administration on or after the expiry of a period of forty-five days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, together with any objection or suggestion, which may be received by the Labour Commissioner, Labour Welfare Centre Building, Sector 30-B, UT, Chandigarh in writing or on email alc-ld-chd@chd.nic.in and alc.lc30@gmail.com from any person before the expiry of the period so specified with respect to the said draft.

[View Document](#)

Draft Code on Social Security (Chandigarh) Rules, 2021

Dec 31, 2021 | State | Chandigarh

The Labour Department of Chandigarh On December 28, 2021 has issued the Draft Code on Social Security (Chandigarh) Rules, 2021. The foremost provisions of the rules are as followed: •Chapter IV, which is related to “GRATUITY” oBank or other financial institutions in which the gratuity shall be invested for benefit of minor under the third proviso to Section 53(1). oNotice for payment of gratuity oMode of payment of gratuity oProcedure for dealing with applications •In Chapter-V which specifies “Maternity Benefit”, the following provisions are as under: - oAppeal under Section 72 oSupply of forms oNon-submission of notices, appeals or complaints in the Form-VIII oRecords shall be preserved for the period of 2 years from the date of its preparation. •In Chapter-VI which specifies “Employees Compensation”, the following provisions are as under: - oWhen application may be made without medical certificate oProcedure on application for review oEmployee not be required to submit to medical examination save in accordance with rule. oExamination when employee and medical practice •Chapter IX, which specifies Offences and Penalties. •Chapter XIII, which specifies Miscellaneous. The draft of rules will be taken into consideration by Chandigarh Administration on or after the expiry of a period of forty-five days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, together with any objection or suggestion, which may be received by the Labour Commissioner, Labour Welfare Centre Building, Sector 30-B, UT, Chandigarh in writing or on email alc-ld-chd@chd.nic.in and alc.lc30@gmail.com from any person before the expiry of the period so specified with respect to the said draft.

[View Document](#)

Dadra and Nagar Haveli

Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Disaster Management Authority issues COVID-19 Ex-gratia assistance scheme

[Dec 02, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Dadra and Nagar Haveli](#)

The Revenue and Disaster management, DNH and DD on November 26, 2021 has issued COVID-19 Ex-gratia assistance scheme to help assist the next kin of the deceased person dead due to COVID-19. The following are eligible for the scheme namely: - . The family member/s of to the next kin of the deceased person dead due to COVID-19 or post COVID-19 symptoms in UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, as below: - Proof of death of the deceased Documents to related to COVID-19 / post COVID-19 symptoms or Letter / Certificate from the Grievance Redressal Committee. [Notification No. 2/63/COL/DMN/DM/SC-WP (C) -529/2021-22/2336]

[View Document](#)

Delhi

Delhi Govt. issues circular regarding stock transfer to manage excessive closing balances at FPSs

[Dec 21, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Delhi](#)

The Food Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Delhi on December 17, 2021 has issued a circular regarding stock transfer to manage requests of excessive closing balances at FPSs. It was stated namely: -

- The stock may be transferred strictly through online mode from the FPS where excessive stock is available to any other FPS/FPSs where stock is required or can be accommodated.
- Transfers may be done within the same circle or within the same circle of the same district.
- Cost of transportation not borne by the F&S Department.

[Notification No. F.15(1)CFS/Dist./2021-22/Pt.file/1771]

[View Document](#)

Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2021

[Dec 20, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Delhi](#)

The Finance Department of Delhi on December 14, 2021 has issued the Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Delhi Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017. The following amendments have been made:

- In rule 36, which specifies Documentary requirements and conditions for claiming input tax credit, in sub-rule (4), second proviso has been substituted, namely: "Provided further that such condition shall apply cumulatively for the period April, May and June, 2021 and the return in FORM GSTR-3B for the tax period June, 2021 or quarter ending June, 2021, as the case may be, shall be furnished with the cumulative adjustment of input tax credit for the said months in accordance with the condition above."
- In rule 59, which specifies Form and manner of furnishing details of outward supplies, in Sub-rule (2) the following proviso has been inserted, namely: "Provided further that a registered person may furnish such details, for the month of May, 2021, using IFF from the 1st day of June, 2021 till the 28th day of June, 2021. This notification shall come into force with effect from June 01, 2021 [Notification No. 27/2021— State Tax]

[View Document](#)

Delhi Govt. amends an older notification to change certain dates related to compliance

[Dec 13, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Delhi](#)

The Finance Department of Delhi on December 10, 2021 has issued a notification to further amend an older notification by inserting a proviso in clause (i) of the first paragraph of notification No. F.3 (84)/Fin.(Exp-IV)/2020-21/DS-IV/288, dated the March 24, 2021. The following proviso has been inserted, namely: "Provided that where, any time limit for completion or compliance of any action, by any authority, has been specified in, or prescribed or notified under section 171 of the said Act, which falls during the period from the 20th day of March, 2020 to the 30th day of March, 2021, and where completion or compliance of such action has not been made within such time, then, the time limit for completion or compliance of such

action, shall be extended up to the 31th day of March, 2021.”. This notification shall come into force with effect from the December 01, 2020. [Notification No.91/2020– State Tax]

[View Document](#)

Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 13, 2021 | State | Delhi

The Finance Department of Delhi on December 10, 2021 has issue the Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Delhi Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017. The following amendments have been made: • In rule 90, which specifies Liability of partners of firm to pay tax, in sub-rule (3), the following provision has been inserted, namely: “Provided that the time period, from the date of filing of the refund claim in FORM GST RFD-01 till the date of communication of the deficiencies in FORM GST RFD-03 by the proper officer, shall be excluded from the period of two years as specified under sub-section (1) of Section 54, in respect of any such fresh refund claim filed by the applicant after rectification of the deficiencies. • In rule 90, which specifies Liability of partners of firm to pay tax, sub-rule (5) and (6) has been inserted, namely: “(5) The applicant may, at any time before issuance of provisional refund sanction order in FORM GST RFD-04 or final refund sanction order in FORM GST RFD-06 or payment order in FORM GST RFD-05 or refund withhold order in FORM GST RFD-07 or notice in FORM GST RFD-08, in respect of any refund application filed in FORM GST RFD-01, withdraw the said application for refund by filing an application in FORM GST RFD-01W. (6) On submission of application for withdrawal of refund in FORM GST RFD-01W, any amount debited by the applicant from electronic credit ledger or electronic cash ledger, as the case may be, while filing application for refund in FORM GST RFD-01, shall be credited back to the ledger from which such debit was made.” • Rule 96, has also been amended. • FORM GST REG-21 has been amended. • FORM GST RFD-07, has been substituted. This notification shall come into force with effect from May 18, 2021. *Disclaimer – Kindly find the substituted form in the provided link. [Notification No. 15/2021– State Tax]

[View Document](#)

Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 07, 2021 | State | Delhi

The Finance Department on December 2, 2021 has issued the Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Delhi Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017. This shall come into effect from May 1, 2021. The following amendments have been made namely: - • In rule 36(4) which specify “Input tax credit availed by a registered person” the following proviso will be inserted namely: - "Provided further that such condition shall apply cumulatively for the period April and May, 2021 and the return in FORM GSTR-3B for the tax period May, 2021 shall be furnished with the cumulative adjustment of input tax credit for the said months in accordance with the condition above” • In rule 59(2) which specify “Form and manner of furnishing details of outward supplies” the following proviso has been inserted namely: - “Provided that a registered person may furnish such details, for the month of April, 2021, using IFF from the 1st day of May, 2021 till the 28th day of May, 2021.” [Notification no. F. 3(133)/Fin.(Exp-I)/2021-22/DS-I/372]

[View Document](#)

Finance Department amends notification No. 35/2020

Dec 07, 2021 | State | Delhi

The Finance Department, Delhi on December 2, 2021 has issued notification No. 66/2020 to further amend Notification No. 35/2020 which specify "Extension of time limit of compliance". This shall come into effect from September 21, 2020. The following amendment has been made namely: - • In clause (i) which specify that "the time limit will be extended to June 30, 2020" the following proviso shall be inserted namely: - "Provided further that where, any time limit for completion or compliance of any action, by any person, has been specified in, or prescribed or notified under sub-section (7) of section 31 of the said Act in respect of goods being sent or taken out of India on approval for sale or return, which falls during the period from the 20th day of March, 2020 to the 30th day of October, 2020, and where completion or compliance of such action has not been made within such time, then, the time limit for completion or compliance of such action, shall stand extended up to the 31st day of October, 2020." [Notification No. F. 3(138)/Fin.(Exp-I)/2021-22/DS-I/373]

[View Document](#)

Delhi Government amends fourth schedule of the Delhi Value Added Tax Act, 2004

Dec 02, 2021 | State | Delhi

The Finance Department of Delhi On December 01, 2021 has issued a notification to amend certain serial no and VAT charges to be reduced thereto in the Fourth schedule of the Delhi Value Added Tax Act, 2004. The following amendment has been made: • Serial No. 12 which specifies VAT for Petrol (Motor Spirit) has been substituted, namely: Petrol (Motor Spirit) - 19.40 paise in the rupee [Notification No. F.10/45/2021-22/SRD/Fin/3221-3231.]

[View Document](#)

Delhi Government makes amendment in the notification which specifies compliance under DGST

Dec 01, 2021 | State | Delhi

The Finance Department of Delhi on November 29, 2021 has issued a notification to further amend an older notification by inserting a proviso in clause (i) of the first paragraph of notification No. F.3 (84)/Fin.(Exp-IV)/2020-21/DS-IV/288, dated the March 24, 2021. The following proviso has been inserted, namely: "Provided that where, any time limit for completion or compliance of any action, by any authority, has been specified in, or prescribed or notified under section 171 of the said Act, which falls during the period from the 20th day of March, 2020 to the 29th day of November, 2020, and where completion or compliance of such action has not been made within such time, then, the time limit for completion or compliance of such action, shall be extended up to the 30th day of November, 2020.". This notification shall come into force with effect from the September 01, 2020. [Notification No. 65/2020- State Tax]

[View Document](#)

Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 01, 2021 | State | Delhi

The Finance Department, Delhi on November 29, 2021 has issued the Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Delhi Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017. This shall come into force from April 27, 2021. The following amendments have been made: - • In Rule 26(1) which specify “methods of authentication” the following proviso shall be inserted namely: - ““Provided also that a registered person registered under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) shall, during the period from the 27th day of April, 2021 to the 31st day of May, 2021, also be allowed to furnish the return under section 39 in FORM GSTR-3B and the details of outward supplies under section 37 in FORM GSTR-1 or using invoice furnishing facility, verified through electronic verification code (EVC).” [Notification No. F. 3(132)/Fin.(Exp-I)/2021-22/ DS-I/350]

[View Document](#)

Goa

Goa Govt. issues Notification regarding the “Promotion of Organic Farming” scheme

Dec 07, 2021 | State | Goa

The Department of Agriculture, Goa on December 2, 2021 has issued Notification regarding the eligibility of the “Promotion of Organic Farming” scheme. This shall come into effect from December 2, 2021. The documentation required to apply are namely: - • An individual eligible for receiving the benefits under the Scheme shall hereby be required to furnish proof of possession of the Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication. • The Department will offer Aadhaar enrolment facilities for the beneficiaries who are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar and in case there is no Aadhaar enrolment centre located in the respective Block or Taluka or Tehsil, the Department shall provide Aadhaar enrolment facilities at convenient locations in coordination with the existing Registrars of UIDAI or by becoming a UIDAI Registrar themselves. • In order to provide benefits to the beneficiaries under the Scheme conveniently, the Department shall make all the required arrangements to ensure that wide publicity through the media shall be given to the beneficiaries to make them aware of the said requirement. [Notification No. 3/INM/Org-Govt/4-1/2021-22/D.Aagri/]

[View Document](#)

Goa Govt. issues Development of Manures and fertilizers scheme

Dec 07, 2021 | State | Goa

The Department of Agriculture, Goa has issued Development of Manures and fertilizers scheme to Simplify the Government delivery processes, brings in transparency and efficiency, and enables beneficiaries to get their entitlements directly in a convenient and seamless manner by obviating the need to produce multiple documents to prove one's identity. The scheme emphasis on the following points: (i) soil sample analysis from farmers' fields for major/ minor nutrients is provided free of cost (ii) assistance on purchase of soil conditioners/ agriculture lime for improvement of soil health assistance is provided 75% subsidy limited to Rs. 6,000/- per ha. to all categories of farmer. Maximum upto 4 ha. per farmer (iii) assistance on purchase of micronutrients 75% subsidy limited to Rs. 7,500/- per ha. to all categories of farmer. Maximum upto 4 ha. per farmer (iv) promotion of non-conventional sources of energy assistance is provided 90% subsidy against standard cost as per the size of biogas plant (iv-a) promotional incentives for promotion of biogas is payable to field/staff farmers involved in motivation of target group assistance is provided Rs. 1,000/- per plant completed and commissioned (v) assistance for compost production through portable/ pucca units assistance is provided 75% subsidy limited to Rs. 1,950/- per cubic mts. to all categories of farmer & 90% subsidy on standard cost for portable unit max. 3 units & max. amount Rs. 7500/- per farmer (vi) assistance for vermin-compost assistance is provided 75% subsidy limited to Rs. 1,950/- per cubic mts. to all categories of farmer (vii) production of vermicompost through portable/pucca units assistance is provided 90% subsidy on standard cost for portable unit max. 3 units & max. amount Rs. 7,500/- per farmer (hereinafter referred to as the benefit) is given to the farmer with krishi card carrying out agricultural activities on minimum 0.1 ha. in the State of Goa either as sole owner, co-owner, Tenant, Co-tenant, lessee or on contract basis (hereinafter referred to as the beneficiaries), by the Directorate of Agriculture as per the extant Scheme guidelines; Now is has been notified that: (1) An individual eligible for receiving the benefits under the Scheme shall hereby be required to furnish proof of possession of the Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication. (2) Any individual desirous of availing benefits under the Scheme, who does not possess the Aadhaar number or,

has not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, shall be required to make application for Aadhaar enrolment before registering for the Scheme provided that he is entitled to obtain Aadhaar as per section 3 of the said Act, and such individuals shall visit any Aadhaar enrolment centre (list available at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) website www.uidai.gov.in) to get enrolled for Aadhaar. (3) As per regulation 12 of the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016, the Department is required to offer Aadhaar enrolment facilities for the beneficiaries who are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar and in case there is no Aadhaar enrolment centre located in the respective Block or Taluka or Tehsil, the Department shall provide Aadhaar enrolment facilities at convenient locations in coordination with the existing Registrars of UIDAI or by becoming a UIDAI Registrar themselves: Provided that till the time Aadhaar is assigned to the individual, benefits under the Scheme shall be given to such individual, subject to the production of the following documents, namely:— (a) if he has enrolled, his Aadhaar Enrolment Identification slip; and (b) any one of the following documents, namely:— (i) Bank or Post office Passbook with Photo; or (ii) Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card; or (iii) Passport; or (iv) Ration Card; or (v) Voter Identity Card; or (vi) MGNREGA card; or (vii) Kisan Photo passbook; or (viii) Driving license issued by the Licensing Authority under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (59 of 1988); or (ix) Certificate of identity having photo of such person issued by a Gazetted Officer or a Tehsildar on an official letter head; or (x) any other document as specified by the Department: Provided further that the above documents may be checked by an officer specifically designated by the Department for that purpose. [Notification No. 3/INM/M&F-Govt/3-1/2021-22/D.Agr.]

[View Document](#)

Goa Govt. issues Notification regarding the “Assistance for fencing” scheme

Dec 07, 2021 | State | Goa

The Department of Agriculture, Goa on December 2, 2021 has issued Notification regarding the eligibility of the “Assistance for fencing” scheme. This shall come into effect from December 2, 2021. The documentation required to apply are namely: - • An individual eligible for receiving the benefits under the Scheme shall hereby be required to furnish proof of possession of the Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication. • The Department will offer Aadhaar enrolment facilities for the beneficiaries who are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar and in case there is no Aadhaar enrolment centre located in the respective Block or Taluka or Tehsil, the Department shall provide Aadhaar enrolment facilities at convenient locations in coordination with the existing Registrars of UIDAI or by becoming a UIDAI Registrar themselves. • In order to provide benefits to the beneficiaries under the Scheme conveniently, the Department shall make all the required arrangements to ensure that wide publicity through the media shall be given to the beneficiaries to make them aware of the said requirement. • In addition to the above, in order to ensure that no bonafide beneficiary under the Scheme is deprived of his due benefits, the Department shall follow the exception handling mechanism as outlined in the Office Memorandum of DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India dated 19th December, 2017. [Notification No. 3/Crops & PP/AADHAR ACT/79/2021-22/ D.Agr./469]

[View Document](#)

Goa Govt. issues Assistance for Purchase of Agriculture Inputs scheme

Dec 07, 2021 | State | Goa

The Department of Agriculture, Goa has issued Assistance for Purchase of Agriculture Inputs scheme to provide financial boost to SC farmers for taking up agriculture for their economic upliftment, encourage youths from SC for self-employment in agriculture and build up the confidence among the farmers against the price inflation of the inputs by assisting them, thereby motivating farmers to use recommended Package of Practices. Under the Scheme, assistance to the extent of 75% limited to Rs. 12000/- per Ha. is provided to farmer towards purchase of inputs such as seed, planting material, pesticides, soil conditioners bio-fertilizer etc. for maximum 2.0 ha. for one season. (hereinafter referred to as the benefit) to farmer belonging to Scheduled Caste cultivating his own land or on lease, or other written agreement (hereinafter referred to as the beneficiaries), as per the extant Scheme guidelines. Government of Goa notifies the following : (1) An individual eligible for receiving the benefits under the Scheme shall hereby be required to furnish proof of possession of the Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication. (2) Any individual desirous of availing benefits under the Scheme, who does not possess the Aadhaar number or, has not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, shall be required to make application for Aadhaar enrolment before registering for the Scheme provided that he is entitled to obtain Aadhaar as per section 3 of the said Act, and such individuals shall visit any Aadhaar enrolment centre (list available at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) website www.uidai.gov.in) to get enrolled for Aadhaar. (3) As per regulation 12 of the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016, the Department is required to offer Aadhaar enrolment facilities for the beneficiaries who are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar and in case there is no Aadhaar enrolment centre located in the respective Block or Taluka or Tehsil, the Department shall provide Aadhaar enrolment facilities at convenient locations in coordination with the existing Registrars of UIDAI or by becoming a UIDAI Registrar themselves: Provided that till the time Aadhaar is assigned to the individual, benefits under the Scheme shall be given to such individual, subject to the production of the following documents, namely:— (a) if he has enrolled, his Aadhaar Enrolment Identification slip; and (b) any one of the following documents, namely:— (i) Bank or Post office Passbook with Photo; or (ii) Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card; or (iii) Passport; or (iv) Ration Card; or (v) Voter Identity Card; or (vi) MGNREGA card; or (vii) Kisan Photo passbook; or (viii) Driving license issued by the Licensing Authority under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (59 of 1988); or (ix) Certificate of identity having photo of such person issued by a Gazetted Officer or a Tehsildar on an official letter head; or (x) any other document as specified by the Department: [Notification No. 3/Crops & PP/AADHAR ACT/79/2021-22/ /D.Agr./464]

[View Document](#)

Goa Govt. prohibits strike in any form in all sections/units of the Goa Medical College & Hospital, Bambolim-Goa

Dec 02, 2021 | State | Goa

The Department of Home, Goa on November 30, 2021 has issued prohibition of strike in any form in all sections/units of the Goa Medical College & Hospital, Bambolim-Goa. This is in Effect from November 30, 2021. The Order states the following namely: - • Order is valid for a period of six months [Order No. 2/59/92-HD(G)/Part File III/4027]

[View Document](#)

Gujarat

Govt. of Gujarat notifies on Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

Dec 16, 2021 | State | Gujarat

The Agriculture, Farmer Welfare and co-operation Department (Gujarat) on December 08, 2021 has issued a notification with regarding the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi to provide income support to all landholder farmer families to supplement their financial needs for procuring various inputs related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs. Under the Scheme, the entire financial liability towards transfer of benefit to targeted beneficiaries will be borne by Government of India that shall a benefit of Rs.6000/- per annum per family payable in three equal instalments ; every four months(hereinafter referred to as "the benefit"), as per the extant Scheme guidelines and to provide benefits to the beneficiaries under the said Scheme conveniently, the Department shall make all the required arrangements to ensure that wide publicity through the media shall be given to the beneficiaries to make them aware of the said requirement. The following points have been issued: 1) An individual eligible for receiving the benefits under the said Scheme shall hereby be required to furnish proof of possession of the Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication. (2) Any individual desirous of availing benefits under the said Scheme, who does not possess the Aadhaar number or, has not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, shall be required to make an application for Aadhaar enrolment before registering for the said Schemes provided that he is entitled to obtain Aadhaar as per section 3 of the said Act, and such individuals shall visit any Aadhaar enrolment centre (list available at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) website www.uidai.gov.in) to get enrolled for Aadhaar. (3) As per regulation 12 of the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016, the Department is required to offer Aadhaar enrolment facilities for the beneficiaries who are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar and in case there is no Aadhaar enrolment centre located in the respective Block or Taluka or Tehsil, the Department shall provide Aadhaar enrolment facilities at convenient locations in coordination with the existing Registrars of UIDAI or by becoming a UIDAI Registrar themselves. The following documents are required: (a) if he has enrolled, his Aadhaar Enrolment Identification slip: and (b) any one of the following documents, namely: (i) Bank or Post office Passbook with Photo; or (ii) Permanent Account Number (PAN) Card; or (iii) Passport; or (iv) Ration Card; or (v) Voter Identity Card; or (vi) MGNREGA card; or (vii) Kisan Photo passbook; or (viii) Driving license issued by the Licensing Authority under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (59 of 1988); or (ix) Certificate of identity having photo of such person issued by a Gazetted Officer or a Tehsildar on an official letter head; or (x) any other document as specified by the Department: [Notification - No.GP-155/PMK/102021/2032/K.7]

[View Document](#)

Gujarat Goods and Services Tax (Ninth amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 16, 2021 | State | Gujarat

The Finance Department of Gujarat on December 13, 2021 has issued the Gujarat Goods and Services Tax (Ninth amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Gujarat Goods and Services Tax rules 2017. The following amendment has been made: • FORM GST DRC-03, which specifies Intimation of Payment made voluntarily or made against the show cause notice (SCN) or statement has been amended. This notification shall come into force on December 01, 2021. *Disclaimer – Kindly find the detailed amendment of the form in the provided link. [Notification No. 37/2021 – State Tax]

[View Document](#)

Gujarat Govt. has amended notification relating to exemption of tax

Dec 16, 2021 | State | Gujarat

The Finance Department, Gujarat on December 13, 2021 has issued amendment to Notification No. (GHN-35)VAT-2006-S.5(2)(1)-TH Dated 31st March 2006 which specify “exemption whether whole or part of tax.” This notification shall be in effect from the midnight of December 13th/14th, 2021. The following has been amended namely: - Serial No. 119 which specifies “Sales of Aviation Turbine Fuel (Duty Paid) covered under Sr. No. 4 of Schedule III” has been inserted. [Notification No. (GHN-97) VAT-2021/S.5(2)(60)TH]

[View Document](#)

Date of enforcement of ‘Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments(Amendment) Act, 2021’

Dec 16, 2021 | State | Gujarat

The Finance Department, Gujarat on December 3, 2021 has issued date of coming into force of Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments(Amendment) Act, 2021. The Act shall come into force on December 03, 2021. [Notification No. No.GHN-93-PFT-2021-S.1(2)(3)TH]

[View Document](#)

Haryana

Haryana Govt. releases dates for framers to register themselves under Mukhyamantri Pragatishil Kisan Samman Yojana

[Dec 27, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Haryana](#)

The Directorate of Information, Public Relations & Languages, Haryana on December 26, 2021 has issued Notification informing farmers that they can get themselves registered under Mukhyamantri Pragatishil Kisan Samman Yojana from December 27, 2021. It stated the following namely: - • The farmers can get registered from December 27, 2021 to January 15, 2022 • The farmers can get registered at www.agriharyana.gov.in • selected farmers under this scheme would get cash prizes • Prizes are as follows: - First prize – Rs. 5 lakh (state level) Two second prizes – Rs. 3 lakh each (state level) Five third prizes - Rs.1 lakh each (state level) Four prizes – Rs. 50,000 each (district level) [Notification No. No. IPRDH/2021]

[View Document](#)

Govt. of Haryana enhances DA for state Govt. Employees

[Dec 24, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Haryana](#)

The Finance Department (Haryana) on December 23, 2021 has issued an order regarding the enhancement of Dearness Allowance (DA) of Haryana State employees who are drawing their pay as per 7th Pay structure, from existing rate of 28% to 31% of the basic pension with effect from July 01, 2021 .

[View Document](#)

Govt. of Haryana enhances DA for state Govt. pensioners and their families

[Dec 24, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Haryana](#)

The Finance Department (Haryana) on December 23, 2021 has issued an order regarding the enhancement of Dearness Allowance (DA) of Haryana State pensioners and their families who were drawing their pensions under their pension/family pension as per 7th pay/pension structure, from existing rate of 28% to 31% of the basic pension with effect from July 01, 2021 .

[View Document](#)

Govt. of Haryana issues list of holidays under negotiable instruments act, 1881

[Dec 24, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Haryana](#)

The General Administration Department of Haryana on December 16, 2021 has issued a notification to provide the list of holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. The list of Holidays are as followed: • All Sundays • Republic Day • Guru Ravidas Jayanti • Maha Shivratri • Holi • Annual closing of Bank Account (1st working day of April) • Mahavir Jayanti • Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti • Id-ul-Fitr • Budh Purnima •

Id-ul-Zuha (Bakr-Id) • Independence Day • Janamashtmi • Mahatama Gandhi Jayanti • Dussehra • Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti • Diwali • Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti • Christmas [Notification No. 28/67/2008-3GSII]

[View Document](#)

Haryana Govt. seeks stakeholders comment on new PwD policy

Dec 23, 2021 | State | Haryana

The General Administration Department of Haryana on December 21, 2021 has issued a notification to seek comments and suggestions of public and stakeholders on new persons with Disability (PwD) policy which is regarding the grant of reservation in promotion to the Persons with Benchmark Disabilities under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, protection of right and full participation) Act, 1995. APPLICABILITY OF THE POLICY: This instruction relates to Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full participation) Act, 1995. This Act came into effect on February 07, 1996 and repealed on December 27, 2016, therefore, these instructions apply to the PwD employees who covered under the PwD Act, 1995 for the period from January 01, 1996 to December 26, 2016. The foremost provisions of the policy are as followed: • **QUANTUM OF RESERVATION** Three percent horizontal reservation in case of promotion to Group A, B, C and D posts shall be made for persons with benchmark disabilities. Out of this one per cent each for persons suffering from: - (i) blindness or low vision. (ii) hearing impairment; and (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy. in the posts identified for each disability. Horizontal reservation @ 3% shall be computed on the basis of total number of vacancies occurring in all Groups, i.e. Group A,B, C & D, to be filled by promotion in the establishment. • **EXEMPTION FROM RESERVATION:** If any Department considers it necessary to exempt any post/cadre partly or fully from the provision of reservation for persons with disabilities, it may make a reference to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Haryana giving full justification for the proposal. The grant of exemption shall be considered by a Committee set up by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Haryana, constituted vide their notification No. 611/SW(4)2011, dated August 03, 2011. • **APPOINTMENT AGAINST UNRESERVED VACANCIES:** A person with disability cannot be denied the right to appointment by promotion on seniority-cum-merit basis against an unreserved vacancy. Hence a person with disability can be appointed on his turn against an unreserved vacancy also, provided the type of post is identified suitable for persons with disability of the relevant disability category. • **COMPETENT MEDICAL AUTHORITY TO ISSUE DISABILITY CERTIFICATE:** The competent medical authority to issue Disability Certificate shall be a Medical Board duly constituted by the State Government. The State Government may constitute Medical Board(s) consisting of at least three members out of which at least one shall be a specialist in the particular field for assessing locomotor / cerebral/visual / hearing disability, as the case may be. The Medical Board shall, after due examination, give a permanent disability certificate in cases of such permanent disabilities where there are no chances of variation in the degree of disability. The Medical Board shall indicate the period of validity of the certificate, in cases where there are chances of variation in the degree of disability. No refusal of disability certificate shall be made unless an opportunity is given to the applicant of being heard. On representation by the applicant, the Medical Board may review its decision having regard to all the facts and circumstances of the case and pass such orders in the matter as it thinks fit. At the time of promotion against a vacancy reserved for persons with disability, the appointing authority shall ensure that the person is eligible to get the benefit of reservation. • **BENEFIT OF RESERVATION TO THE EMPLOYEES WHO GET DISABLED IN SERVICE:** The PwD Act does not make any distinction between persons acquiring disability before or after entering into service. A Government employee who acquires disability after entering into service will be equally entitled to get the benefit of reservation as provided to the disabled employees at the time of entry into service, with

effect from the date he produces a certificate of disability to the Appointing Authority issued by the competent medical authority. (a) To grant the benefit of reservation in promotion to persons of benchmark disabilities who acquire any disability in service, the junior most employee, if necessary, may be reverted after following due procedure subject to the condition that disabled person of specific category has not already been promoted in the block. (b) If a person of benchmark disability is promoted on higher post (which is a roster point based vacancy), the original seniority for promotion on his normal line of hierarchy shall remain intact. Meaning thereby the original seniority of a disabled employee shall not be disturbed even if he has been promoted from feeder to higher post by virtue of availability of vacant roster point reserved for Persons with Disabilities. He shall also be entitled to pay and allowances of promotional post like other employees of the cadre. (c) Further promotion of disabled employee to the higher post shall again be subject to availability of roster based vacancy and that he otherwise, fulfills the minimum experience, eligibility qualification/criteria on his feeder post. (c) The disabled persons given accelerated promotion under reservation quota shall neither be entitled to consequential seniority nor they would have any right for treating their claim for deemed/notional promotion with effect from the date of availability of vacant roster point under PwD quota. All the stakeholders are requested to send your comments on the draft policy at E-mail ID generalservices003@gmail.com latest by 10th January, 2022 please.

[View Document](#)

Haryana Govt. Enhances the DA for their Haryana Govt. Employees

Dec 21, 2021 | State | Haryana

The Finance Department of Haryana on December 17, 2021 has issued a notification to announce the hike in the Dearness Allowance (DA) for the Haryana State Government Employees who were drawing DA according to the 5th pay structure now will be drawing their Dearness Allowances at the rate of 356% which earlier was 312%. For the period from January 2020 to June 2021 the of 312% shall be applicable. The new rate of DA shall be applicable from July 01, 2021.

[View Document](#)

Haryana Govt. re-calculates the amount of Gratuity and cash payment to the pensioners

Dec 21, 2021 | State | Haryana

The Finance Department of Haryana on December 17, 2021 has issued a notification to re-calculate the amount of dearness allowances such as gratuity and cash payment to the pensioners who retired or died between the period of January 2020 – June 2021. The Haryana Government has decided the following percentage according to the employees retiring period: • From January 01, 2020 – June 30, 2020, DA for calculation purpose shall be 21% of basic pay • From July 01, 2020 to December 31, 2020, DA for calculation purpose shall be 24% of basic pay • From January 01, 2021 - June 30, 2021, , DA for calculation purpose shall be 28% of basic pay Other conditions as stipulated in HCS (Pension) Rules,2016 and HCS (Leave) Rules,2016 and other relevant instructions from time to time, in respect of employees borne on New Pension Scheme (NPS; shall continue to be applicable while calculating gratuity and cash payment in lieu of leave'.

[View Document](#)

Jammu Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir Food Security Rules, 2021

Dec 20, 2021 | State | Jammu Kashmir

The Department of Food, civil supplies and Consumers, Jammu and Kashmir on November 16, 2021 has issued the Jammu and Kashmir Food Security Rules, 2021. The foremost provisions of the rules are as followed:

- Identification of priority households:- (1) The priority households to be covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System to receive the entitlement under sub section (1) of Section 3 of the Act shall be as under:
 - Criteria for Inclusion
 - For Urban Areas:
 - All Antyodaya Anna Yojana families;
 - Households without shelter;
 - Households with destitute person who is living on alms;
 - Household headed by a widow or a single woman (unmarried/separated/deserted);
 - Households headed by differently abled persons or Individual having disability of above forty percent or terminally ill;
 - Transgender person;
 - Households dependent on daily wage labour;
 - A household headed by Minor or orphan;
 - Household with old persons. aged sixty years or above with no regular income, support or no assured means of subsistence;
 - If all earning adult members in a household are irregular wagers, then that household shall be included; and
 - Other vulnerable households such as slum dwellers, rag pickers, unskilled workers. Shikara walas, Ponny walas, domestic workers, Sweepers, etc.
 - For Rural Areas:
 - All Antyodaya Anna Yojana families;
 - Households without shelter;
 - Households with destitute person who is living on alms;
 - Household headed by widow single Woman(unmarried/separated/deserted);
 - Households headed by differently abled persons or Individual having disability of above forty percent or terminal ill;
 - Transgender person;
 - A household headed by Minor or orphan;
 - Household with old persons, aged sixty years or above with no regular income, support or no assured means of subsistence;
 - Households dependent on agricultural labourers;
 - Tribal Households with no regular source of income; and
 - Other vulnerable households such as Shikara walas, Ponny walas, potters, cobblers, domestic workers, Sweepers, etc.
 - Criteria for Exclusion
 - Households with atleast one member as income or professional tax payer;
 - Businessmen having business turnover of Rs.25 lacs per year;
 - Persons having land holding above 10 canals in case of individuals and 20 canals in case of joint family in urban areas. In rural areas the same shall be 30 canals & 50 canals respectively (All based on self-declarations);
 - All gazetted officers or equivalent rank in corporations, boards, PSUS etc;
 - All persons holding constitutional authority/positions and
 - Any household having annual family income of more than Five lacs.
- (2) All the households, who are not included in either of the above criteria groups, shall be included in Non Priority Category.
- (3) The Government reserves a right to fully or partially amend these eligibility criteria any time. as and when deemed necessary or on the instructions/guidelines/orders of the Government of India. Further, above classification of households shall also be subject to any uniform guidelines issued by the Government of India in respect of any category.
- Keeping records on public domain;
 - (1) All records related to targeted public Distribution system, guidelines notified by the Government for identification of eligible priority households, list of beneficiaries under Antyodaya Anna Yojana Households or eligible households for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System under section 3 of the Act, shall be open for Public domain on the web portal maintained for this purpose and kept open for inspection to the public free of charge.
 - Surrender of entitlements under the Act:-
 - (1) A beneficiary may, if he so desired by applying to the concerned local authority in writing surrender his right-entitlements either temporarily or permanently.
 - (2)The entitlement shall be automatically revived, at the end of the period of such temporary surrender, unless such period of surrender is extended further in writing by the concerned beneficiary.
 - Power to Remove difficulties.-If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of these rules, the Government may, by order, publish in the Official Gazette by making such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Act and these rules, as

appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty. • Repeal and savings (1) All rules, orders or circular instructions issued by Government, from time to time, which are covered under these rules shall stand repealed. (2) Notwithstanding such repeal, (a) anything done, any action taken or any identification of eligible households made; or (b) any right, entitlement or liability acquired, accrued or incurred; or (c) any guidelines framed or directions issued; or (d) any inquiry or any other legal proceeding initiated, conducted or continued in respect of such right, entitlement or liability; or (e) any penalty imposed under the said orders/circular instructions shall be deemed to have been done, taken, made, acquired, accrued, incurred, framed, issued, initiated, conducted, continued or imposed under the corresponding provisions of these rules. [Notification No. S.O. 389]

[View Document](#)

Karnataka

Govt. of Karnataka reduces sales tax on Aviation fuel

[Dec 24, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Karnataka](#)

The Government of Karnataka on December 22, 2021 has issued a notification to reduce sales tax on Aviation fuel which is to be paid by the dealer to 18% with effect from the January 01, 2022. [Notification No. FD 97 CSL 2021]

[View Document](#)

Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021

[Dec 23, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Karnataka](#)

The Legislative Assembly, Karnataka on December 22, 2021 has issued The Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021. This shall come into force on December 22, 2021. The Bill introduced the following sections namely: - • Section 3 which specifies “Prohibition of conversion from one religion to another religion by misrepresentation, force, fraud, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by promise of marriage” has been inserted. • Section 4 which specify “Person competent to lodge complaint” has been inserted namely: - “Any converted person, his parents, brother, sister or any other person who is related to him by blood, marriage or adoption or in any form associated or colleague may lodge a complaint of such conversion which contravenes the provisions of section 3” • Section 8 which specify “Declaration before conversion of religion and pre-report about conversion” has been inserted. • Section 12 which specify “burden of Proof” has been inserted namely: - “The burden of proof as to whether a religious Conversion was not effected through misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage, lies on the person who has caused the conversion and on the abettor who aids or abets such conversion” [Notification No. 50/2021]

[View Document](#)

Karnataka Municipal Corporations and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Bill, 2021

[Dec 21, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Karnataka](#)

The Government of Karnataka on December 17, 2021 has issued the Karnataka Municipal Corporations and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Bill, 2021 to further amend the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976 and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Act, 2020. The following amendments have been made: • In the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976 (Karnataka Act 14 of 1977), the following has been inserted, with effect from September 04, 2015: o Section 299A, which specifies, Levy of imposts, restrictions and conditions in respect of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, has been inserted, namely: (1) The Commissioner may grant such permission to execute the work together with a site plan of the land, ground plan, elevations and section of the building subject to such restrictions and conditions, as may be specified in the zoning regulations or building bye-laws or he may refuse to grant such license subject to the conditions specified in section 303. (2) The Commissioner may for approving or sanctioning the plan or grant of

commencement certificate or completion certificate, charge and levy the following fee at such rates based on the guidance value fixed by the Department of Stamps and Registration under the provisions of the Karnataka Stamp Act, 1957, namely:- (a) fee for issuance of license; (b) fee for security of the building for which license granted; (c) fee for maintenance of public roads or storing of construction materials in public places during construction viz, ground rent; (d) security fee, ensuring that the construction is in accordance with plan sanctioned; (e) fee for commencement certificate; (f) fee for occupancy certificate; (g) penalty imposed at the time of issuance of occupancy certificate for not obtaining commencement certificate at the commencement of the construction; (h) penalty for regularization up to 5% of violation or deviation in the construction with respect to sanctioned plan or zonal regulation limit; and (i) such other fee as specified by the Government from time to time.

o Section 299B, which specifies, Power of the State Government to exempt or reduce fee levied or charged or assessed in respect of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, has been inserted, namely: (1) The State Government may, if in its opinion it is necessary in the public interest so to do, by notification and subject to such restrictions and conditions and for such period, as may be specified in the notification, exempt or reduce the fee payable under this Act, for any Board or Corporation or Organization owned or controlled by the Central Government or the State Government. (2) The State Government may, by notification cancel or vary any notification issued under sub-section (1). (3) Where any restriction or condition specified under sub-section (1) is contravened or is not observed by a person or a declaration furnished under sub-section (1) is found to be wrong, then such person shall be liable to pay by way of penalty, an amount equal to twice the difference between the fee payable at the rate specified by or under the Act and the fee paid at the rate specified under the notification on consideration in respect of which such contravention or non-observance has taken place or a wrong declaration is furnished. (4) For removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that the levy of imposts, assessment and collection of fee or penalty under the Act as amended by the Karnataka Municipal Corporations and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Act, 2021 or any rules, notification, order, letter or guidelines shall be deemed to have always been levied and collected as levy of imposts. (5) No penal proceeding shall be commenced against any person for any contravention of the provisions of Chapter-XV of the Act that may arise as a consequence of the retrospective amendment made by the Karnataka Municipal Corporations and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Act, 2021.

o Section 299C, which specifies, Validation of levy and collection of fee has been inserted, namely: Notwithstanding anything contained in any judgment, decree or order of any Court, Tribunal or other authority to the contrary levy, assessment or collection of any amount as fee or penalty for sanctioning plan or commencement certificate or occupancy certificate made or purporting to have been made under section 299A and any action or thing taken or done, (including any notices or orders issued or assessment made) and all proceedings held and any levy and collection of fee or amount purported to have been collected by way of fee or penalty in relation to such levy, assessment or collection under the provisions of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976 (Karnataka Act 14 of 1977) or any rules, notifications, order, guidelines or letters before the commencement of this Act shall be and shall be deemed to be valid and effective for all purposes as if such levy, assessment or collection or action or thing had been made, taken or done under the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976 (Karnataka Act 14 of 1977) as amended by the Karnataka Municipal Corporations and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Act, 2021 and accordingly:- (a) all acts, proceedings or things done or any action taken by the Government or the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike officers as the case may be in connection with the levy, assessment or collection of any amount as fee for all purposes be deemed to be and to have always been made, done or taken in accordance with law; (b) no suit or other proceeding shall be maintained or continued in any Court or Tribunal or before any authority for the refund of any such fee; and (c) no Court shall enforce any decree or order directing the refund of any such fee.”

• In the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Act, 2020 (Karnataka Act 53 of 2020), the following sections have been inserted: o Section 240A, which specifies, Levy of imposts, restriction and condition, has been inserted, namely: (1) The Chief Commissioner may grant such permission to execute the work together with a site

plan of the land, ground plan, elevations and sections of the building subject to such restrictions and conditions, as may be specified in the bye-laws or he may refuse to grant such licence, subject to the conditions specified in section 244. (2) The Chief Commissioner while fixing the rates for levy of fee or penalty shall consider all the costs related to the issue and execution of the approval as he may deem fit. (3) The Chief Commissioner may for approving or sanctioning the plan or grant of commencement certificate or completion certificate,- (A) charge and levy the following fee at such rates based on the guidance value fixed by the Department of Stamps and Registration under the provisions of the Karnataka Stamp Act, 1957, namely:- (a) fee for issuance of license; (b) fee for maintenance of public roads or storing of construction materials in public places during construction viz, ground rent; (c) security fee ensuring that the construction is in accordance with plan sanctioned; (d) fee for commencement certificate; (e) fee for completion certificate; and (f) such other fee as specified by the Government from time to time. (B) charge and levy any other deposit or fee or cess specified under any other law in force. o Section 240B, which specifies, Power of the State Government to exempt or reduce fee levied or charged or assessed has been inserted, namely: (1) The State Government may, if in its opinion, it is necessary in the public interest so to do, by notification and subject to such restrictions and conditions and for such period as may be specified in the notification, exempt or reduce either prospectively or retrospectively, the fee payable under this Act for any Board or Corporation or Organization owned or controlled by the Central Government or the State Government. (2) The State Government may, by notification cancel or vary any notification issued under sub-section (1). (3) Where any restriction or condition specified under sub-section (1) is contravened or is not observed by a person or a declaration furnished under sub-section (1) is found to be wrong then such person shall be liable to pay by way of penalty an amount equal to twice the difference between the fee payable at the rates specified by or under the Act and the fee paid at the rates specified under the notification on the consideration in respect of which such contravention or non-observance has taken place or a wrong declaration is furnished: Provided that, before taking action under sub-section (1), the person shall be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard. (4) For the removal of doubts it is hereby declared that, the levy of imposts, assessment and collection of fee or penalty under the Act as amended by the Karnataka Municipal Corporations and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Act, 2021 or any rules, notification, order, letter or guidelines shall be deemed to have always been levied and collected as levy of imposts. o Section 240C, which specifies, Validation of levy and collection of fees has been inserted, namely: Notwithstanding anything contained in any judgment, decree or order of any Court, Tribunal or other authority to the contrary, levy, assessment and collection of any amount as fee or penalty for sanctioning Building plan, Commencement Certificate, made or purporting to have been made under section 240A, section 246 and any action initiated or done, including any notices or orders issued or assessment made and all proceedings held and any levy and collection of fee or amount purported to have been collected by way of fee or penalty in relation to such levy, assessment or collection, under the provisions of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Act, 2020 (Karnataka Act 53 of 2020) or any rules, notification, order, letter or guidelines, before the commencement of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Act, 2021 shall be and shall be deemed to be valid and effective for all purposes, as if such levy, assessment or collection or action had been made, taken or done under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Act, 2020 (Karnataka Act 53 of 2020) as amended by the Karnataka Municipal Corporations and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Act, 2021 and accordingly,- (a) all acts, proceedings or things done or any action taken by the Government or the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike officers as the case may be in connection with the levy, assessment or collection of any amount as fee for all purposes be deemed to be and to have always been made, done or taken in accordance with law; (b) no suit or other proceeding shall be maintained or continued in any Court or Tribunal or before any authority for the refund of any such fee; and (c) no Court shall enforce any decree or order directing the refund of any such fee.” [(LA Bill No. 48 of 2021)]

[View Document](#)

Karnataka Goods and Services Tax (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 08, 2021 | State | Karnataka

The Government of Karnataka on December 07, 2021 has issued the Karnataka Goods and Services Tax (9th Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Karnataka Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017. The following amendments have been made:

- Section 10B, which specifies Aadhaar authentication for registered person, has been inserted, namely: "10B. Aadhaar authentication for registered person .— The registered person, other than a person notified under sub-section (6D) of section 25, who has been issued a certificate of registration under rule 10 shall, undergo authentication of the Aadhaar number of the proprietor, in the case of proprietorship firm, or of any partner, in the case of a partnership firm, or of the karta, in the case of a Hindu undivided family, or of the Managing Director or any whole time Director, in the case of a company, or of any of the Members of the Managing Committee of an Association of persons or body of individuals or a Society, or of the Trustee in the Board of Trustees, in the case of a Trust and of the authorized signatory, in order to be eligible for the purposes as specified in column (2) of the Table below:- Provided that if Aadhaar number has not been assigned to the person required to undergo authentication Of the Aadhaar number, such person shall furnish the following identification documents, namely: — (a) her/his Aadhaar Enrolment ID slip; and (b) (i) Bank passbook with photograph; or (ii) Voter identity card issued by the Election Commission of India; or (iii) Passport; or (iv) Driving license issued by the Licensing Authority under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (59 of 1988): Provided further that such person shall undergo the authentication of Aadhaar number within a period of thirty days of the allotment of the Aadhaar number.”;
- In rule 45, which specifies Final Return, the following explanation has been inserted: “Explanation. - For the purposes of this sub-rule, the expression “specified period” shall mean.- (a) the period of six consecutive months commencing on the 1st day of April and the 1st day of October in respect of a principal whose aggregate turnover during the immediately preceding financial year exceeds five crore rupees; and (b) a financial year in any other case.”;
- In rule 89, which specifies Liability of directors of private company, sub-rule 1A has been inserted, namely: “(1A) Any person, claiming refund under section 77 of the Act of any tax paid by him, in respect of a transaction considered by him to be an intra-state supply, which is subsequently held to be an inter-State supply, may, before the expiry of a period of two years from the date of payment of the tax on the inter-State supply, file an application electronically in FORM GST RFD-01 through the common portal, either directly or through a Facilitation Centre notified by the Commissioner: Provided that the said application may, as regard to any payment of tax on inter-state supply before coming into force of this sub-rule, be filed before the expiry of a period of two years from the date on which this sub-rule comes into force.”;
- Rule 96, which specifies Constitution of Authority for Advance Ruling, in sub-rule (1), clause (c) has been inserted, namely: “(c) the applicant has under gone Aadhaar authentication in the manner provided in rule 10B”
- Rule 96B, which specifies, Bank Account for credit of refund, has been inserted, namely: “96C. Bank Account for credit of refund.- For the purposes of sub-rule (3) of rule 91, sub- rule (4) of rule 92 and rule 94, “bank account” shall mean such bank account of the applicant which is in the name of applicant and obtained on his Permanent Account Number: Provided that in case of a proprietorship concern, the Permanent Account Number of the proprietor shall also be linked with the Aadhaar number of the proprietor.” This Amendment shall come into force with effect from the September 24, 2021. *Disclaimer – Kindly find the Table (for rule 10B) in the provided Document.

[View Document](#)

Karnataka Goods and Services Tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 08, 2021 | State | Karnataka

The Government of Karnataka on December 6, 2021 has issued the Karnataka Goods and Services Tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Karnataka Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017. This shall come into force from August 29, 2021. The following have been amended namely: - • In rule 138 E the following proviso shall be inserted namely: - "Provided also that the said restriction shall not apply during the period from the 1st day of May, 2021 till the 18th day of August, 2021, in case where the return in FORM GSTR-3B or the statement of outward supplies in FORM GSTR- 1 or the statement in FORM GST CMP-08, as the case may be, has not been furnished for the period March, 2021 to May, 2021." [Notification No. FD 02 CSL 2021]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Value Added Tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 08, 2021 | State | Karnataka

The Finance Department of Tripura on December 08, 2021 has issued the Tripura Value Added Tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Tripura Value Added Tax Act, 2004. The following amendments have been made: • Rule 45A, has been inserted, namely: "45A. Every registered dealer whose gross turnover in a year exceeds forty lakh rupees shall get his accounts, in respect of that year audited by an accountant within six months from the end of that year and obtain a report of such audit in Form-XLIV." • "Form-XLIV" which specifies "Statement of Audited Accounts" has been inserted. *Disclaimer – Kindly Find FORM-XLIV in the Annexure-A in the provided link. [Notification No. F.1-1 (43) -TAX/ 2021 (Part)]

[View Document](#)

Karnataka Goods and Services Tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2021

Dec 07, 2021 | State | Karnataka

The Government of Karnataka on December 04, 2021 has issued the Karnataka Goods and Services Tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2021 to further amend the Karnataka Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017. The following amendment has been made: • Rule 80, which specifies annual return has been substituted, namely: "80. Annual return - (1) Every registered person, other than those referred to in the second proviso to section 44, an Input Service Distributor, a person paying tax under section 51 or section 52, a casual taxable person and a non-resident taxable person, shall furnish an annual return for every financial year as specified under section 44 electronically in FORM GSTR-9 on or before the thirty-first day of December following the end of such financial year through the common portal either directly or through a Facilitation Centre notified by the Commissioner: Provided that, a person paying tax under section 10 shall furnish the annual return in FORM GSTR-9A. (2) Every electronic commerce operator required to collect tax at source under section 52 shall furnish annual statement referred to in sub-section (5) of the said section in FORM GSTR -9B. (3) Every registered person, other than those referred to in the second proviso to section 44, an Input Service Distributor, a person paying tax under section 51 or section 52, a casual taxable person and a non-resident taxable person, whose aggregate turnover during a financial year exceeds five crore rupees, shall also furnish a self-certified reconciliation statement as specified under section 44 in FORM GSTR-9C along with

the annual return referred to in sub-rule (1), on or before the thirty-first day of December following the end of such financial year, electronically through the common portal either directly or through a Facilitation Centre notified by the Commissioner.” • FORM GSTR-9 has been amended. • FORM GSTR-9C has been amended. [NOTIFICATION (4-F/2021)]

[View Document](#)

Kerala

Govt. of Kerala revises Kera Suraksha Insurance Scheme

Dec 29, 2021 | State | Kerala

The Government of Kerala on December 28, 2021 has issued a notification to revise the Kera Suraksha Insurance Scheme which ensures the benefits of the Coconut Safety Insurance Scheme implemented by the Coconut Development Board for coconut climbing workers and Neera technicians. The following revisions have been made: • The insurance cover has been increased to Rs 5 lakh. • The scheme, which is being implemented as accident insurance, will also cover hospital expenses up to Rs 1 lakh. • The policy will be free for the first year for those undergoing Coconut Development Board's 'Friends of Coconut Tree training' and Neera Technician training. • During this period the Board will bear the policy amount of Rs 398.65. • The term of insurance is one year. Applications for the policy should be attested by the Agriculture Officer, Panchayat President, CPF Officer and CPC Directors. • These applications along with age proof certificates should be sent to the Chairman, Coconut Development Board, SRV Road, Kera Bhavan, Kochi. A Demand Draft of Rs 99 payable at Ernakulam in the name of Coconut Development Board should be enclosed with the application.

[View Document](#)

Govt. of Kerala waives stamp duty on loans to street vendors

Dec 29, 2021 | State | Kerala

The Government of Kerala on December 28, 2021 has issued Complete waiver of stamp duty on loans to street vendors. The following was stated namely: - • Complete waiver is to be given under the PM Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi [PM SVANidhi] scheme.

[View Document](#)

Draft Kerala Code on Wages Rules, 2021

Dec 27, 2021 | State | Kerala

The Labour Department of Kerala on December 15, 2021 has issued the Draft Kerala Code on Wages Rules, 2021. The following acts have been superseded: 1. The Kerala Payment of Wages (General) Rules, 1958; 2. The Kerala Payment of Wages (Procedure) Rules, 1958; 3. The Kerala Payment of Wages (undisbursed wages) Rules, 1998; 4. The Kerala Payment of Wages (Procedure) Applications to scheduled Employment Rules 1964; 5. The Kerala Payment of Wages (unclaimed amounts) Rules, 1958; 6. The Kerala Payment of Wages (Manner of recovery of excess deductions) Rules, 1968; 7. The Kerala Payment of Wages (Deductions for National defence fund and defence savings schemes) Rules, 1964; and 8. The Kerala Minimum Wages Rules, 1958; The important provisions of the code are as followed: • Manner of calculating minimum rate of wages (1) For the purposes of sub-section (5) of section 6, the minimum rate of wages shall be fixed on the day basis keeping in view the following criteria, namely: (I) the standard working-class family which includes a spouse and two children apart from the earning employee that is an equivalent of three

adult consumption units; (ii) a net intake of two thousand seven hundred calories per day per consumption unit; (iii) sixty-six meters cloth per year per standard working class family; (iv) housing rent expenditure to constitute ten per cent. of food and clothing expenditure; (v) fuel, electricity and other miscellaneous items of expenditure to constitute twenty per cent. of minimum wage; and (vi) expenditure for children education, medical requirement, recreation and expenditure on contingencies to constitute twenty-five per cent. of minimum wage. (2) When the rate of wages for a day is fixed, then, such amount shall be divided by eight for fixing the rate of wages for an hour and multiplied by twenty-six for fixing the rate of wages for a month and in such division and multiplication the factors of one-half and more than one-half shall be rounded as next figure and the factors less than one-half shall be ignored. In case of a five-day working week, the hourly rate of minimum wages so calculated shall be used to derive the minimum wages for the day. • Interval for revision of variable dearness allowance The cost of living allowance and the cash value of the concession in respect of essential commodities at concession rate shall be computed once before the 1st April and then before the 1st October in every year to revise the variable dearness allowance payable to the employees on the minimum wages considering the Average Consumer Price Index Number for Industrial Workers published by the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. • Hours of work of classes of employees under sub-section (2) of section 13. In case of classes of employees mentioned in sub-section (2) of section 13, the spread over of the hours of work may exceed twelve hours in any day. • Calculation of wages for part time employee. If any employee who is not in employment for normal working day but has worked for not less than four hours in working day shall be eligible for minimum wages computed by dividing the daily rate of minimum wages by eight (hours) with fifteen per cent. rise in it and quotient being stepped up to the nearest paisa. • Intimation of deduction. (1) Where an employer makes any deduction in pursuance of the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 20, he shall make intimation electronically or by registered post of such deduction to the Inspector-cum-Facilitator having jurisdiction, within ten days from the date of such deduction, explaining therein the reason of such deduction. (2) The Inspector-cum-Facilitator shall, after receiving intimation under sub-rule (1), examine such intimation and if he finds that the explanation given therein is in contravention of any provision of the Code or the rules made thereunder, he shall initiate appropriate action under the Code against the employer within thirty days from the date of receipt of such intimation. • Registers. (1) Every employer of an establishment to which the Code applies shall maintain, electronically or in physical form, in the formats appended to these rules, the following registers: (i) Employee Register in Form VI, (ii) Register of Attendance, Wages, Overtime, Fines and Deductions for Damage and Loss in Form VII. (2) All fines and all realisations thereof referred to in sub-section (8) of section 19 shall be recorded in a register to be kept by the employer electronically or in physical form in Form – VII appended to these rules, and the authority referred to in said sub-section (8) shall be the Commissioner of Labour, Maharashtra State. (3) All deductions and all realisations referred to in sub-section (3) of section 21 shall be recorded in a register to be kept by the employer electronically or in physical form in Form VII appended to these rules. (4) Registers required to be maintained under these rules shall be preserved for a period of five years after the date of last entry made therein. • Payment of wages. Where the employees are employed in an establishment through contractor, then, the company or firm or association or any other person who is the proprietor of the establishment shall pay to the contractor the amount towards wages payable to him or it, in respect of the wages of employees in accordance with the provisions of the Code. All persons likely to be affected thereby and the notice is hereby given that the said draft notification will be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of forty five days from the date of publication of the draft rules in the Official Gazette in which this notification is published are made available to the public; Objections and suggestions, if any, may be addressed to the Secretary to Government, Labour and Skills (E) Department, Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 001. Objections and suggestions, which may be received from any person with respect to the said Draft Rules before the expiry of the period specified above will be considered by the Government of Kerala. [Notification No.LBRD-E1/1/2021-LBRD]

[View Document](#)**Draft Kerala Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Rules, 2021**

Dec 27, 2021 | State | Kerala

The Labour Department of Kerala on December 15, 2021 has issued the Draft Kerala Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Rules, 2021. The following rules have been superseded: 1. The Kerala Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Services) Rules, 1998; 2. The Kerala Factories Rules; 1957; 3. The Kerala Factories (Major Accident Hazard Control) Rules, 2005 4. The Kerala Factories (Welfare Officers) Rules, 1957 5. Kerala Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Rules, 1971; 6. The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Kerala Rules, 1983; 7. The Kerala Motor Transport Workers Rules. 1962; 8. The Kerala Plantation Labour Rules. 1959; 9. The Kerala Plantation (Welfare Officers) Rules, 1978 10. The Kerala Beedi and Cigar workers (Conditions of Employment) Rules, 1968. The following objectives have been given: The draft rules provide for operationalization of provisions in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 relating to safety, health and working conditions of the Dock Workers, Building or other construction workers, Mines workers, Inter-State Migrant worker, Contract labour, Working journalist, Audio-visual workers and Sales promotion employees. The draft Rules are aimed at enhancing safety, health and working conditions in establishments, simplifying the procedures and protocols, allowing electronic mode of maintaining registers, records and furnishing returns, thus ensuring safe, healthy and decent working conditions. The salient features of the draft rules include: • No employee shall be employed without issuing an appointment letter in a format that includes designation, category of skill, wages, etc. • Annual health examination shall be conducted free of cost for every worker of factory, dock, mine and building or other construction work, who has completed 45 years of age. • Journey allowance once in a year for to & fro journey • Single electronic registration, license and annual integrated return for an establishment. • An All-India single license for contractor supplying or engaging contract labour in more than one State for five years. • Prohibition of employment of contract labour for core activity of an establishment. • Payment of wages to contract labour (a) the contractor shall fix the wage periods and no wage period shall exceed one month. (b) The wages of every person employed as contract labour in an establishment or by the contractor shall be paid before the expiry of seventh day after the last day of the wage period. (c) The wages shall be disbursed through bank transfer or electronic mode only. • Safety committees have been made mandatory for every establishment employing 500 workers and rules have been provided for composition and functions of safety committees. • The rules relating to safety of women employment in all establishments for all type of work before 6 a.m. and beyond 7 p.m. with their consent. • Mines rules have been integrated with the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions rules. All persons likely to be affected thereby and notice is hereby given that the said draft notification will be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of forty five days from the date on which the copies of the Official Gazette in which this notification is published are made available to the public; Objections and suggestions, if any may be addressed to the Secretary to Government, Labour and Skills (D) Department, Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 001. Objections and suggestions, which may be received from any person or organization with respect to the said draft notification before expiry of the period specified above, will be considered by the State Government. [Notification No. LBRD -D2/395/2020-LBR]

[View Document](#)

Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff) Regulations,2021.

Dec 07, 2021 | [State](#) | [Kerala](#)

The Kerala State Electricity Board Limited on December 1, 2021 has issued the final Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff) Regulations,2021. The following was stated namely: -

- Specific action by KSEBL is warranted in the following matters to get full redressal of concerns: Employee cost to be considered as base figure to determine norms for the control period. The recovery of unfunded actuarial liability.
- Constitution of a committee for preparation and filing of CAPEX, MYT ARR& ERC petition & Tariff petition.
- Brain storming sessions on smart metering, TOD tariff application and other tariff proposals.

[Order No. B.O. (FTD) N o . 894 /202 1 (KSE B/TnaC7C676SERC Regu ta tions / 202t_22]

[View Document](#)

Lakshadweep

Draft Lakshwadeep Value Added Tax, 2021.

[Dec 08, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Lakshadweep](#)

The Lakshwadeep Administration on December 7, 2021 has issued the Draft Lakshwadeep Value Added Tax, 2021. The following has been stated namely: - • Comments/Suggestions from stakeholders are invited on or before January 1, 2022 by 5 PM. • Comments/suggestions must be sent through registered post or e-mailed at lak-adps@nic.in [Notice No. F.No.100/01/2019-PS&T]

[View Document](#)

Madhya Pradesh

MP Govt. issues amendment to the MP Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules, 2017

Dec 23, 2021 | State | Madhya Pradesh

The Department of Urban Development and Housing Department, Madhya Pradesh on December 17, 2021 has issued amendments to the Madhya Pradesh Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules, 2017. The following rules have been amended namely: - • In Rule 2 which specifies "Definitions" the following sub rule (k) has been added namely:- "'Parking space' means an enclosed or unenclosed, covered or open area which is sufficient in size to park vehicles and which may be provided in basements and/or stilt and/or podium and/or independent structure built for providing parking spaces and/or parking provided by mechanized parking arrangements and which is not a garage." • In Rule 3(1) which specifies "A promoter shall furnish the following additional information and documents, along with those specified under the section 4 of the Act, for registration of a project with the Authority" has been substituted namely; Name, photograph, contact details, office and residential addresses and authentic copy of the PAN and Aadhaar card of the promoter. "A promoter shall furnish the following additional information and documents, along with those specified under section 4 of the Act, for registration of a project with the Authority" has been substituted namely; Contact details including mobile number, e-mail address, office and residential address." • Rule 8 which specifies "Revocation of registration of the project" the following sub-rule (2) has been inserted namely: "The registration granted to the promoter under section 5 of the Act shall not be revoked unless the Authority has given to the Promoter not less than thirty days' notice, in writing, stating the ground on which it proposes to revoke the registration and has considered any cause shown by the promoter within the period of that notice against the proposed revocation." [Notification No. F-3-103/2021/18-5]

[View Document](#)

MP Govt. amends notification No e-way bill shall be required for intra-state movement of goods in the State

Dec 07, 2021 | State | Madhya Pradesh

The Commissioner of State Tax, Madhya Pradesh on December 2, 2021 has issued amendment to notification F-A-3-08-2018-1-V(43) which specifies "No e-way bill shall be required to be generated for intra-state movement of goods in the State of MP." This shall come into force from December 2, 2021. The following amendments have been made namely: - • The following items will be inserted namely: - All types of Fabric Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted/not knitted or crocheted. Motor Vehicles and Accessories parts thereof Rubber and articles thereof All types of utensils Non-alcoholic beverage Pesticides Kirana Goods Paints and Putty Mineral Water and aerated water [Notification no. F-A-3-08-2018-1-V(85)]

[View Document](#)

Manipur

Manipur Govt. issues SOP for Covid-19

Dec 27, 2021 | State | Manipur

The State Disaster Management Authority, Manipur on December 21, 2021 has issued Standard Operating Procedures(SOP) in regard to COVID-19. The following was stated namely: - • The standard Operating Procedure in respect of opening of educational institutions, social of swimming pools and also gatherings, operation imposing night curfew shall continue being implemented till January 20, 2021. • Mandatory wearing of face mask at all gatherings shall be strictly enforced • Event Organizer shall issue clear advance instructions to all invitees/participants to wear face mask and Organizer shall also keep spare face masks available at the venue. • Organizer shall assign specific persons to ensure everyone wears face masks. [Notification No. No. H-1601/6/2020-HD-HD]

[View Document](#)

Govt. of Manipur extends the validity of order related to opening of educational Operating of swimming pools and also imposing night curfew

Dec 24, 2021 | State | Manipur

The Home Department of Manipur on December 21, 2022 has issued an order to further extend the date of an earlier order dated November 20, 2021, which specifies the Standard of Procedure (SOP) related to opening of educational Operating of swimming pools and also imposing night curfew now that has been further extended for one month that is January 20, 2021. The following paragraph is the reference to the implementation: Mandatory wearing of face mask at all gatherings shall be strictly enforced. Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates shall issue Orders making it a direct responsibility of the Event Organizer. Event Organizer shall issue clear advance instructions to all invitees/participants to wear face mask and Organizer shall also keep spare face masks available at the venue. Organizer shall assign specific persons to ensure everyone wears face masks. Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police shall assign duties to Sub Divisional Officers, Sub Divisional Police Officers, etc to inspect various events/gatherings being organized in their jurisdictions and ensure wearing of face mask by all. Penalties to be imposed promptly on violators, including the Event Organizer.

[View Document](#)

Manipur Govt. issues guidelines for International Arrivals

Dec 22, 2021 | State | Manipur

The Directorate of Health of Services, Manipur on December 15, 2021 has issued Guidelines for International Arrivals. This will be in effect from December 16, 2021. The following was stated namely: - • International Passengers traveling to Manipur via road or air need to get their details on the Air Suvidha portal and must present it to the officials. • The traveller must be under home quarantine for 7 days if not quarantined since arrival to India. • Testing via RT-PCR will be done on the 8th day. [Notification NO.

2/COVID-19/DHS-2020(PT 1)]

[View Document](#)

Govt. of Manipur has issued a list of General/Restricted/Public holidays

Dec 17, 2021 | State | Manipur

The General Administration Department of Manipur on December 02, 2021 has issued a notification to provide the list of General/Restricted/Public Holidays for the calendar year 2022. The Public Holidays, which comes under Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 are as followed : • New Years' Day • Imoinu Iratpa • Gaan-Ngai • Republic Day • Lui-Ngai-Ni • Yaosang 2nd Day • Yearly closing of Banks Account • Sajibu Nongmapanba (Cheiraoba) • Cheiraoba • Good Friday • Idul-Fitr • Kang (Rathajatra) • Independence Day • Mera Chaoren Houba of Lainingthou Sanamahi • Durga Ashtami Diwali (Deepavali) • Ningol Chakkouba • Kut [Notification No. 06/22/2021-R&L]

[View Document](#)

Meghalaya

Meghalaya Regulation of Gaming Rules, 2021

Dec 24, 2021 | State | Meghalaya

The Government of Meghalaya on December 21, 2021 has issued the Meghalaya Regulation of Gaming Rules, 2021. The foremost provisions of the rules are as followed:

- Eligibility for Applying for grant of license
- o Rules for conduct of games of chance and Games of skill by Operator other than Local Organization

The Applicant shall have to fulfil the following conditions in order to be eligible to apply for grant of License under the Act:-

- (a) The Applicant must have minimum 5 (Five) years of continuous experience of conducting games of skill and games of chance.
- (b) The Applicant should not have been blacklisted in any part of India for conducting games of skill and/or games of chance.
- (c) The applicant should not have been charge sheeted or convicted of any offence under Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999 or money laundering in India'
- (d) In case the Applicant is a firm/company, it shall be ensured that the controlling stake remains in India, and that all executive decisions are taken in India.

- Form and Manner of Application for grant of license

- (a) Any eligible person, firm or entity interested to operate Games of Skills and Games of Chance as specified in Schedule A and B of the Act respectively, shall submit an application in Form 1' to the Commissioner of Taxes, specifying the game or games for which the license is being sought.
- (b) The Application shall be accompanied with a non-refundable application fee of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees one Lakh) only in form of a demand draft drawn in favor of the Commissioner of Taxes, Government of Meghalaya' payable at Shillong, Meghalaya.
- (c) Such an application shall be accompanied by documents prescribed as under:
 - (i). If the Applicant is an individual person then his identity proof in form of Election Photo Identification Card (EPIC) or Aadhar Card; Income tax returns filed in accordance with law for immediately preceding three years along with certificate of a qualified and registered chartered accountant certifying present financial status and specifying existing liabilities; a note on the software technology platform, a proposed business plan and financial projections. Provided, where the individual belongs to a notified Scheduled Tribe of the State of Meghalaya, instead of Income Tax Returns, a certificate of a qualified and registered Chartered Accountant as to income and expenditure and existing financial status and liabilities for the immediately preceding three years shall be submitted by such person.
 - (ii) If the Applicant is a Firm, the Certificate of Registration, Identity proof of all the partners of the firm as above, along with Income Tax returns filed by the Firm, in accordance with law, for immediately preceding three years along with certificate of a qualified and registered chartered accountant certifying present financial status of the firm and specifying existing liabilities; a note on the software technology platform, a proposed business plan and financial projections.
 - (iii) If the Applicant is a company or any other entity, certificate of incorporation/registration along with identity proof as above of its Authorized representative, audit returns for immediately preceding three years and a certificate of a qualified and registered chartered accountant certifying present financial status of the company/entity and specifying existing liabilities, a note on the software technology platform, a proposed business plan and financial projections.
- (d) Every application referred to above shall be submitted in both hard and soft copy. The soft copy of the application shall be in PDF format and be sent to comtax-meg@gov.in. The Hard Copy has to be submitted to the office of Commissioner of Taxes, Shillong, Meghalaya either physically or through registered post.
- (e) Any Application submitted without the application fee shall not be entertained and no intimation in this regard shall be sent to the applicant.
- (f) Any Application, submitted without any of the required documents prescribed above shall be rejected after granting an opportunity of 30 (thirty) days to the applicant to furnish the document along with reason for not submitting the same with the Application.
- (g) The Commissioner of Taxes shall have the discretion to seek any other or further information and/or document from the applicant to satisfy himself of the background, bona-fide and financial status of the Applicant and to

ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act and the Rules and may reject the application summarily for not providing such information and/or document without justifiable cause to his satisfaction. • Procedure for suspension and cancellation of licence (a) A license is liable to be cancelled under Section 13 of the Act on the following grounds: (i) For violation of the provisions of the Act, Rules or Instructions issued by the Licensing Authority; or (ii) For violation of the terms and conditions of the license; or (b) Before considering the cancellation of license, the Commissioner of Taxes shall issue a notice to show cause to the Licensee as to why the license should not be cancelled for the violation in question, and shall grant 30 (thirty) days' time to the licensee to make a written as well as oral representation. In case of violation of terms of the License, 30 (thirty) days' time shall be allowed to remedy the breach. (c) During the pendency of enquiry for assessing the breach till a decision for cancellation of license is reached, the Licensing Authority, on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Taxes, may suspend the License, by way of a written order to that effect, if it may deem fit. In absence of any such written order of suspension of license, the license shall be deemed to be in existence and valid till it is cancelled. (iii) If the license was found to have been obtained by furnishing incorrect information which the Licensee knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true. (i) While passing an order of suspension of license pending enquiry under this Rule, there shall not be any requirement of providing any hearing to the Licensee. (d) The Commissioner of Taxes shall forward the case for cancellation of license along with his recommendations to the Licensing Authority for decision. • Responsibility of a licensee It shall be the responsibility of all Licensees under this Act to ensure the following: - (a) That only players above the age of 18 are permitted to play games for stake either through the website/mobile app or at the physical premises. (b) That all payments on the site are made through registered and recognized payment modes including credit/debit cards, net banking, use of e-wallets etc, that comply with RBI rules and regulations. Payment in cash, if any, shall be permissible only subject to compliance with KYC norms and full disclosure only at the physical premises which shall be recorded in a 'register' kept at the premises for that purpose; Provided that any payment of more than Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-five Thousand) shall not be accepted in cash. (c) It shall be ensured that there is no violation of foreign exchange laws of India. (d) The licensee shall provide a dashboard with a user name and password to the Licensing Authority and Commissioner of Taxes to facilitate supervision of activities of the licensee. (e) The licensee is required to set up an office in Meghalaya within 30 (thirty) days from the date of issue of license. (f) The licensee must have in place a foolproof fraud prevention control mechanism and effective safeguard to prevent players from suffering financial injury. (g) The Licensee is required to prominently display a charter for responsible gaming on its website and mobile app and physical premises where gaming is being conducted. • Fees and Royalty (a) Every Licensee shall pay to the Licensing Authority the 97.8% following fees and royalties as mentioned below: (i) The 'Annual License Fee' of 2 (two) crore rupees. (ii) In addition, the licensee shall further be required to pay an amount of 2% of the Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR) generated as royalty to the Licensing Authority quarterly. (b) The royalty for the preceding quarter shall be paid by the licensee by the fifteenth day of following quarter duly filling the details in the statement in Form-4 failing which interest @ two percent per month on the late payment of royalty will be levied, on the condition that the royalty is paid within a month of following quarter and a penalty equivalent to one-fifth of the royalty shall be charged on the licensee, in the event of failure to make payment within a month of following quarter. (c) All payments to the Licensing Authority shall be deposited into the Consolidated Fund of the State in the manner prescribed by the Licensing Authority. (d) A licensee shall be required to execute a Bank Guarantee of 2 (two) crore rupees in favor of the Government as security deposit every year at the time of the issue and renewal of the license. On the expiry of the period of one year, the licensee shall either renew or give a fresh Bank Guarantee of an equal amount to the Government.

[Notification No. ERTS (T) 61/2020-A/175]

[View Document](#)

Meghalaya Govt. issues Minor Veterinary Services to be rendered by non-graduate para-veterinarian

[Dec 15, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Meghalaya](#)

The Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department, Meghalaya on December 13, 2021 has issued Minor Veterinary Services in respect of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department, in the State of Meghalaya. The following services is to be rendered by the non-graduate para veterinarian under supervision namely: - • Preventive health care and disease reporting i.e. diagnosis of common diseases and their treatment. • Veterinary first aid and pregnancy diagnosis • Prevention of external and internal parasite • Non-surgical castration • All type of vaccination and prophylactic treatment • Compounding and dispensing medicine. • Assist all registered Veterinary practitioner in performing major operation • Artificial insemination and follow up action [Notification No. VET (E)17/2001/605]

[View Document](#)

Nagaland

Central Govt. declares Nagaland as Disturbed Area

Dec 30, 2021 | [State](#) | [Nagaland](#)

The Ministry of Home Affairs on December 30, 2021 has issued a notification to declare the whole state of Nagaland as 'Disturbed Area' for the period of six months starting from December 30, 2021 after observing that the area comprising the whole of the State of Nagaland is in such a disturbed and dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary. [Notification No. S.O. 5448(E)]

[View Document](#)

Pondicherry

Govt. of Puducherry notifies on premature condemnation of vehicles

Dec 24, 2021 | State | Pondicherry

The Finance Department of Puducherry on December 21, 2021 has issued a notice on premature condemnation of vehicles belonging to school education department. The following proposal has been made: "The condemnation processes have been Initiated approximately 8 years after the date of vehicles kept on off-road condition. Un-serviced vehicles kept idle for such a long period would have no depreciation value and in turn result to loss of monetary value to the Government" The Administrative Departments/Heads of Departments shall ensure strict compliance with the above proposals relating to condemnation/premature condemnation of vehicles, If any should be submitted to the Government within 2 months of a vehicle going off road.

[View Document](#)

Punjab

Govt. of Punjab notifies holiday for factories and shops and Establishments

[Dec 23, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Punjab](#)

The Home Department of Punjab, on December 22, 2021 has issued a notification to provide a short leave/holiday for all factories and Shops and commercial establishments on December 24, 2021 which is Friday which are falling under ward No. 1 to Ward no. 35 of Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh due to upcoming Municipal Corporations Elections on December 24, 2021. [Notification No. 12/7/30-HII(2)-2021/15148]

[View Document](#)

Punjab Food Grains Transportation Policy, 2022

[Dec 20, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Punjab](#)

The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Punjab on December 16, 2021 has issued The Punjab Food Grains Transportation Policy, 2022. It shall be in effect from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. The policy has the following few clauses namely: - • Clause 3 which specify “General Information” has been inserted namely: - “The transportation of food grains and stock articles in the State of Punjab shall be carried out by all State Procurement Agencies (SPAs) and FCI through an open competitive and transparent tendering process as per these policy guidelines and instructions issued there under from time to time.” • Clause 5 which specify “Technical Qualifications” has been inserted namely: - “Tenderer must possess an arrangement of minimum number of trucks required for each cluster. If the tenderer submits a bid for more than one cluster then the arrangements of the trucks has to be made for each cluster, separately.” • Clause 9 which specify “Security Deposit” has been inserted namely: - “The Successful tenderer will deposit security @ Rs. 5/- per M.T. for the capacity of the cluster determined as per clause 5 D and for which contract has been awarded, in the form of Bank draft in favour of MD in concerned agency. The security shall be deposited within three days of issue of letter of award, with the District Manager of concerned procurement agency. • Clause 15 which specify “Appeal” shall be inserted namely: - “The appeal against any orders of District Tender Committee shall lie before the Competent Authority or any other official delegated to do so by the competent authority within 30 days of the date of passing of such orders by the DTC. The appeal or second appeal against the orders of the competent authority shall lie with the Administrative Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Punjab within 15 days of the date of passing of such order by the Competent Authority.” [Notification No. BG1 (921) – 2021/11399]

[View Document](#)

Punjab Food grains Labour and Cartage Policy 2022

[Dec 20, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Punjab](#)

The Department of Food, civil supplies and Consumers, Punjab on December 16, 2021 has issued the Punjab Food grains Labour and Cartage Policy 2022 to all labour operations carried out at storage centres, railheads and PEG godowns throughout the State of Punjab during the period from January 01, 2022 to

December 31, 2022 and to all Cartage operations involved in carriage of food grains and stock articles from mandis/railheads to various storage points, including rice mills, situated up to 8 KM from such mandi(s)/railheads. And, to all State procurement agencies in the State of Punjab & Food Corporation of India (FCI), involved in procuring of food grains for the Central pool or the State pool. The General Information about the policy are as followed: (a) The labour operations and cartage work in the State of Punjab shall be got carried out by all State Procurement Agencies (SPAs) and FCI through an open competitive and transparent bidding process as per these policy guidelines and instructions issued thereunder from time to time. (b) Labour tenders (Including PEG) shall be called first from L&C societies and WMCs as per clause 6 of this policy for labour operations only. Provided, however, that where such contract for labour operation work(s) is not awarded to any L&C society or WMC, then, the procedure shall be adopted as mentioned in clause 6(G) of this policy. (c) The tenders for all PEG godowns at a centre will be called separately for each PEG godown. (d) The tenders for labour work will be called cluster wise. All the godowns except PEG godowns, of all state agencies at a storage centre will be considered as one cluster. (e) Cartage tenders shall be invited cluster wise. District Food and Supplies Controller, in consultation with the District Managers of all the procuring agencies, shall make a list of different clusters (Group of mandis) depending upon their geographical location, proximity, the arrival of wheat and/ or paddy in previous year and their distance from storage points/rice mills. The concerned DFSC will ensure that the clusters should be made in such a way so as to incur minimum expenditure on cartage of food grains. Clusters once made should not be ordinarily changed. However, in compelling circumstances if restructuring/alteration in clusters is necessary, it may be done, with the prior approval of concerned Deputy Director (Field), subject to the condition that no change shall be allowed in such clusters whose tenders have been finalized. (f) Loading of food grains in mandis will be carried out by the Commission Agents at the rates notified by the Punjab Mandi Board. (g) All the Managing Directors (MDs) of State Procurement Agencies (SPAS); General Manager of FCI, Punjab Region; Members of District Tender Committees; tenderers; successful tenderers; contractors and all officials of the procuring agencies including FCI shall ensure compliance of these guidelines. (h) The advertisements for inviting tenders for transportation shall be published in at two least leading newspapers for wide publicity, out of which at least one shall be a Punjabi newspaper. (i) Tender Policy along with terms and conditions shall also be made available on department's web-site www.foodsuppb.gov.in. (j) A detailed notice containing the name of cluster, capacity of cluster and required EMD will be displayed on notice boards of concerned District Controller, Food and Civil Supplies and will also be displayed on e-portal along with bid documents. (k) The tenders under this policy shall be called for the year 2022 and shall be valid for the period from January 01, 2022 to December 31, 2022. • Grievance Redressal:- In order to ensure smooth transportation of food grains and redressal of grievances the following grievance redressal mechanism shall be followed in each district: - A. The Deputy Commissioner concerned will appoint Assistant Commissioner (Grievance) as Grievance Officer to tackle on priority all such complaints from various tenderers which have the potential to create serious law and order situation during procurement season. B. The Department of Home Affairs, Government of Punjab, will ensure to appoint a senior officer not below the rank of Superintendent of Police, in each district, to take action on complaints involving law and order situation and to provide adequate police arrangements where ever required. • Powers to interpret, issue instructions and make rules: All the powers to interpret any clause /clauses in this policy, to issue instructions and make rules, shall lie with the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Punjab.

[View Document](#)

Punjab Government amends CC No. 41/2021 dt. November 23, 2021 regarding reduction in the electricity tariff rates

Dec 07, 2021 | State | Punjab

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) on December 02, 2021 has issued a circular to amend CC No. 41/2021. The following amendments are as follows: • The following sentence is deleted from the subject cited circular: ■■■■■■ ■■■■■■ ■■■■-11-2021 ■■■■ ■■■■■■ 7 KW ■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■■■ ■■■■■■ ■■■■ ■■ ■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■ • The following provisions/conditions are added to the said circular:- 1. In case any consumer having sanctioned load above 7 KW applies/has applied on or after 01.11.2021 to reduce load below 7 KW and seeks another connection in same premises then JE & SDO should verify/certify the genuineness of the same. 2. For new connections with load between 5 KW to 7 KW, JE should check & certify the genuineness of the load. [Circular No. 1220/25]

[View Document](#)

Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission issues notice Inviting Objections/Comments on Staff Paper in respect of Amendments in Interest on Working Capital of the PSERC MYT Regulations, 2019

Dec 07, 2021 | State | Punjab

The Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission on December 3, 2021 has issued notice Inviting Objections/Comments on Staff Paper in respect of Amendments in Regulation 33, 43 and 51-Interest on Working Capital of the PSERC MYT Regulations, 2019. The following have been stated namely: - • Objections/Comments of the stakeholders are invited on the above Staff Paper within 15 days from its publication • All the objectors may also send a soft copy of their Comments/Objections to the Secretary/PSERC at secretarypsercchd@gmail.com • The Commission shall hold a public hearing in the matter on December 29, 2021, at 11:30 A.M. in the Commission's office. Those who wish to participate may send their credentials on secretarypsercchd@gmail.com

[View Document](#)

Rajasthan

Rajasthan Govt. issues Clarification on GST on service supplied by restaurants through e-commerce operators

[Dec 29, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Rajasthan](#)

The Commercial Tax Department, Rajasthan on December 23, 2021 has issued Clarification on GST on service supplied by restaurants through e-commerce operators. The following clarifications have been issued namely: - • The ECO shall be liable to pay GST on restaurant services from January 1, 2022. The ECOs will no longer be required to collect TCS and file GSTR 8 in respect of restaurant services on which it pays tax in terms • ECOs are not required to take separate registration for payment of tax on restaurant service • The invoice in respect of restaurant service supplied through ECO will be issued by ECO [Circular No. 23/2021]

[View Document](#)

Tamil Nadu

TNPCB extends the time limit for TPUs to switch over Mechanical Evaporator followed by agitated thin film dryer for disposal

Dec 16, 2021 | State | Tamil Nadu

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) on December 08, 2021 has issued a notification to provide final extension to all the IETPS/CEPTS of Textile processing Units and Tannery units which have effluent generation Quantity of 100 KLD and above to switch over to over Mechanical Evaporator followed by agitated thin film dryer for disposal for Final RO rejects for further period of Six months.

[View Document](#)

Tripura

Govt. of Tripura appoints date of enforcement of certain sections of TGST act

[Dec 31, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Tripura](#)

The Finance Department of Tripura on December 30, 2021 has issued a notification to provide the date of enforcement of certain sections of Tripura Goods and Services Tax (4th Amendment) 2021. The sections which are to be enforced on January 01, 2022 are as followed: • Section 2, which specifies Definitions. • Section 3, which specifies officers under the Act. • And section 7 to 15, which specifies Levy and collection of Tax and Time and Value of supply (Collectively) [Notification NO.F.1 -11(91)-TAX/GST /2021 (Part-III)]

[View Document](#)

Ministry of Finance issues amendments to certain notifications under Customs Act, 1962

[Dec 31, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Tripura](#)

The Finance Department, Tripura on December 28, 2021 has issued Notification to bring into force certain section from Tripura State Goods and Services Tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2021. The following sections have come into force under Rule 2 which specify “definitions” namely: - • 2(6)(i)(2) • 2(6)(i)(3) • 2(7) [NO.F.1-11(91)-TAX/GST/2021(PART)]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Govt. has issues Circular on GST on service supplied by restaurants through e-commerce operators

[Dec 27, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Tripura](#)

The Office of the Chief Commissioner of State Tax, Tripura on December 24, 2021 has issued Circular on GST on service supplied by restaurants through e-commerce operators –reg. The following was stated namely: - • The Clarification issued vide Circular No. 167/23/2021 which specify “the tax on supplies of restaurant service supplied through e- commerce operators shall be paid by the e-commerce operator” shall be followed. [Circular No. 2312021 - GST (State)]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Govt. Exempts Tax for registered person who earns up to Rs. 2 crore Turnover

[Dec 21, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Tripura](#)

The Finance Department, Tripura on December 18, 2021 has issued notification regarding exemption of tax. This shall come into force from August 1, 2021. It was stated namely: - • A Registered person whose aggregate turnover in the financial year 2020-21 is up to two crore rupees, is exempted from filing annual return for the said financial year. [Notification No. F.1-11(91)-TAX/GST/2021(PART)]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Govt. issues notification to appoint date of section 6 coming into force

Dec 21, 2021 | State | Tripura

The Finance Department, Tripura on December 18, 2021 has issued notification for the enforcements of a section under Tripura State Goods and Services Tax (Fourth Amendment) Act' 2021. This shall come into force on June 1, 2021. The following section has been enacted namely: - • Section 6 which specify “In section 50(1) of the Tripura State Goods and Services Tax Act, the following was substituted namely: Provided that the interest on tax payable in respect of supplies made during a tax period and declared in the return for the said period furnished after the due date in accordance with the provisions of section 39, except where such return is furnished after commencement of any proceedings under section 73 or section 74 in respect of the said period, shall be payable on that portion of the tax which is paid by debiting the electronic cash ledger.” has come into force. [Notification No. F.1-11(91)-TAX/GST/2021(PART)]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Govt. has issued notification to appoint date of certain sections coming into force

Dec 21, 2021 | State | Tripura

The Finance Department, Tripura on December 18, 2021 has issued notification for the enforcements of two sections under Tripura State Goods and Services Tax (Fourth Amendment) Act' 2021. This shall come into force on August 1, 2021. The following sections has been enacted namely: - • Section 4 which specifies “omitting of section 35 from The Tripura Goods and Service Act.” has come into force. • Section 5 which specify “substituting section 44 of The Tripura Goods and Service Act with the following: Every registered person, other than an input Service Distributor, a person paying tax under section 51 or section 52, a casual taxable person and a non-resident taxable person shall furnish an annual return which may include a self-certified reconciliation statement, reconciling the value of supplies declared in the return furnished in the financial year, with the audited annual financial statement for every financial year electronically, within such time and in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed.” has come into force. [Notification no. F.1-11(91)-TAXGST/2021 (PART)]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Government revises minimum basic wages for “Safai Karamchhari”

Dec 10, 2021 | State | Tripura

The Tripura Labour Department on December 04, 2021 has revised the variable dearness allowance based on 6-monthly average consumer price index numbers for a period of six months. Further, the government has decided to pay the dearness allowance to “Safai Karamchhari” amounting to Rupees 239 per day as the minimum basic wages with effect from October 01, 2021. [Notification No. F.87 (1)-LAB/ENF/MW/7103-21]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Government Revises VDA for cooperative stores and societies

Dec 10, 2021 | State | Tripura

The labour Department Tripura on December 04, 2021 has issued a notification to revise the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) for the "Cooperative Stores and Societies including Large Size Multipurpose Cooperative Society (LAMPS), Primary Marketing Cooperative Society (PMCS) and Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (PACS)" with effect from October 01, 2021. VDA according to the category is as followed: • Cooperative Stores and Societies including Large Size Multipurpose Cooperative Society (LAMPS) 1. Managing Director (MD) – Rs.8,493/- 2. Accountant - Rs.7,045 /- 3. Supervisor - Rs.6,888/- 4. Salesman/Clerk/Driver - Rs. 5,479/- 5. Peon/Weightman/ Helper/Night Guard - Rs.4,853/- • Primary Marketing Cooperative Society (PMCS) 1. Manager - Rs.7,045/- 2. Accountant - Rs.6,701/- 3. Supervisor - Rs. 6,106/- 4. Salesman/Clerk/Driver - Rs. 5,479/- 5. Peon/Weightman/ Helper/Night Guard - Rs. 4,853/- • Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (PACS) 1. Manager – Rs.10,968/- 2. Accountant - Rs.8,493/- 3. Supervisor – Rs.8,454/- 4. Salesman/Clerk/Driver – Rs.6,701/- 5. Peon/Weightman/ Helper/Night Guard – Rs.4,853/- [Notification No.F.22(60)-LAB/ENF/MW/CS/2009/7362-79]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Government revises VDA for the "Stone Breaking and Stone Crushing workers"

Dec 10, 2021 | State | Tripura

The Tripura Labour Department on December 04, 2021, revises the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) for different categories of workers engaged in the employment of STONE BREAKING AND STONE CRUSHING shall be effective from October 01, 2021. The Revised VDA is as followed: • 1.0 mm to 10 mm chips is Rs. 24.19 per Cft. • 11 mm to 20 mm chips is Rs. 17.00 per Cft. • 21 mm to 40 mm chips is Rs. 11.47 per Cft. [Notification No. F.21(25) / ENF/MW/2013/7085-7102]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Govt. Revises VDA for Mechanical Workshops employees

Dec 10, 2021 | State | Tripura

The Labour Department, Tripura on December 4, 2021 has revised the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) of the workers engaged in "Mechanical Workshops". This is in effect from October 1, 2021. The VDA Payable from October 1, 2021 is namely: - • Highly Skilled – Rs. 244.73 • Skilled – Rs.117.29 • Semi-Skilled – Rs. 98.27 • Un-Skilled – Rs. 95.41 [Notification No.F.21(25)-LAB/ENF/MW/2013(8)/7406-24]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Govt. Revises VDA for Public Motor Transport employees

[Dec 10, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Tripura](#)

The Labour Department, Tripura on December 4, 2021 has issued Notification to further amend Notification No. F.21(52)-LAB/MW/MTW/2000(A)/3067-82 dated July 30, 2021 which specifies "Variable dearness Allowance (VDA) for Motor Transport workers". This is in effect from October 1, 2021. The classification of Public Motor Transport workers whose basic wages and food allowances has been revised are namely: - • Dumper Driver - Rs. 56.63 • Driver Heavy Vehicle - Rs. 35.83 • Medium Vehicle - Rs. 22.23 • Light Vehicle - Rs. 22.60 • Asst. Handy Man/Cleaner: Heavy Vehicle - Rs. 30.70 Medium/Light Vehicle - Rs. 19.37 • Conductor - Rs. 30.76 • Head Clerk/Accountant - Rs. 18.84 • Booking Clerk - Rs. 18.92 • Time Keeper - Rs. 17.44 • Inspector/Ticket Checker - Rs. 18.66 • Mail Runner - Rs. 23.17 • Peon/Other Class-IV staff - Rs. 20.15 [Notification No. F.22 (52)-LAB/MW/MTW/2001(A)/7445-61]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Labour Department revises minimum rates of wages for "Rubber plantation"

[Dec 10, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Tripura](#)

The Tripura Labour Department on December 04, 2021, revises minimum rates of wages and Variable Dearness Allowances (VDA) for different categories of workers engaged in the employment of "Rubber Plantation" which will be effective from October 01, 2021. Category of workers are as under: 1. Tappers / Processing workers (for adult male and female): Rs. 340.00 only for 8 hours of work 2. Rubber Plantation filed workers (for adult male and female): Rs. 328.00 only for 8 hours of work. [Notification No. F.22 (49)-LAB/MW/Rubber/2013/1722-39]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Government revised VDA for Hotel and Restaurant Workers

[Dec 10, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Tripura](#)

The Labour Department, Tripura on December 04, 2021 has issued the revised the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) on the basis of six monthly average Consumer Price Index number with effect from October 01, 2021 for categories of workers engaged in the employment of "Hotel and Restaurant" in Tripura. 1. Highly Skilled – Head Cook, Clerk, Cashier, Accountant, Receptions, etc – Rs. 11,139 2. Skilled – Assistant Cook, Cook Helper, etc – Rs. 9,966 3. Semi-Skilled – Wetter, services boy, Server, Cleaner etc – Rs. 8,208 [Notification No.F.21(93)-LAB/ENF/MW/HR/2012/7327-44]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Government Revised VDA for the employment of Incense Sticks

[Dec 10, 2021](#) | [State](#) | [Tripura](#)

The Labour Department, Tripura on December 04, 2021 has issued the revised the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) on the basis of six monthly average Consumer Price Index number with effect from October 01, 2021 for categories of workers engaged in the employment of “Incense Sticks” in Tripura. The following revisions in the VDA have been made: (a) Rs.53.00, per Kg. incense sticks shall be paid by the owner/contractor, if the workers supply bamboo on his/her own cost. (b) Rs. 38.00 per Kg. incense sticks shall be paid by the owner/ contractor, if the owners/contractors. supply bamboo to the workers. (c) Rs. 5477.00 per month shall be paid to the monthly rated workers. [Notification No.F.21(87)-LAB/ENF/MW/ISM/2011/7345-61]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Government revises Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) for “Rice Mill Workers”

Dec 10, 2021 | State | Tripura

The Tripura Labour Department on December 04, 2021, revises the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) for different categories of workers engaged in the employment of RICE MILLS shall be effective from October 01, 2021. Whereas, the total minimum wages per month for the following categories of workers are: • Hallerman / Machineman – Rs. 9,737/- per month. • Boiling / drying for paddiy – Rs. 47.28/- per 100 kg paddies. • Winnowing – 1. By Hand – Rs. 33 per 100 kg rice. 2. By Fan – Rs. 27 per 100kg rice. [Notification No. F.21(25)-LAB/ENF/MW/COM/94(C)/ 7140-57]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Govt. Revises VDA for Petrol Pump employees

Dec 10, 2021 | State | Tripura

The Labour Department, Tripura on December 4, 2021 has revised the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) of the workers engaged in “Petrol Pump”. This is in effect from October 1, 2021. The VDA Payable from October 1, 2021 is namely: - • Skilled – Rs.75.09 • Semi-Skilled – Rs. 71.19 • Un-Skilled – Rs. 67.29 [Notification No.F.21(27)-LAB/ENF/COM/2011/7425-44]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Govt. Revises VDA for Pvt. Security Guard employees

Dec 10, 2021 | State | Tripura

The Labour Department, Tripura on December 4, 2021 has revised the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) of the workers engaged in “Pvt. Security Guard”. This is in effect from October 1, 2021. The VDA Payable from October 1, 2021 is namely: - • Skilled – Rs.173.95 • Semi-Skilled – Rs. 158.10 • Un-Skilled – Rs. 147.93 [Notification No.F.21(65)-LAB/ENF/MW/2006/7158-75]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Govt. Revises VDA for Pvt. Teaching Institutes/Coaching Schools (Excluding State Govt. Aided Pvt. Schools) employees

Dec 10, 2021 | State | Tripura

The Labour Department, Tripura on December 4, 2021 has revised the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) of the workers engaged in “Teaching Institutes/Coaching Schools (Excluding State Govt. Aided Pvt. Schools)”. This is in effect from October 1, 2021. The VDA Payable from October 1, 2021 is namely: - • High/Higher Secondary Schools: Headmaster/Teacher-in-charge – Rs. 230.69 Teacher – Rs. 168.90 Clerical Staff – Rs. 168.90 Daptri/Helper/Group-D Staff – Rs. 111.07 • Senior Basic and Primary Schools (Class-I to VIII): Headmaster/Teacher-in-Charge – 168.90 Teacher – Rs. 146.55 Clerical Staff – Rs.140.64 Daptri/Helper/Rikshaw Puller – Rs. 111.07 • Nursery/Pre-Primary Schools: Headmaster/Teacher-in-charge – Rs. 162.66 Teacher – Rs. 140.64 Clerical Staff – Rs. 140.64 Daptri/Helper aia/Rickshaw Puller – Rs. 111.07 [Notification No. F.22(44)-LAB/ENF/MW/INS/98(L)/7176-95]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Labour Department revises VDA for different categories of workers engaged in the employment of “Shops and Establishments”

Dec 10, 2021 | State | Tripura

The Tripura Labour Department on December 04, 2021 has decided to revise the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) for different categories of workers engaged in the employment of shops and establishments in Tripura and shall be payable with effect from October 01, 2021. Whereas, the total minimum wages per month for the following categories of workers are: ■ Unskilled: Rs 6,314 per month ■ Semi-skilled: Rs. 6,927 per month ■ Skilled: Rs. 7,747 per month The overtime rate shall be the double of the ordinary rate of minimum wages. [Notification No.F.87(30)-LAB/ENF/MW/SHOPS/2002(A)/7066-84]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Government Revised VDA for the employment of Gold Smith

Dec 10, 2021 | State | Tripura

The Directorate of Labour of Tripura on December 04, 2021, has revised the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) of the workers engaged in the employment of “Gold Smith” with effect from October 01, 2021. The VDA payable from October 01, 2021 are as followed: • Apprentice – Rs. 221 (For manufacturing or process of 3(three) per day grams gold or 8 hours of work) • Semi-Skilled – Rs. 317 (For manufacturing or process of 3(three) per day grams gold or 8 hours of work) • Skilled- Rs. 370 (For manufacturing or process of 3(three) per day grams gold or 8 hours of work) [Notification No.F.22(60)-LAB/ENF/MW/Goldsmith/2012/7309-26]

[View Document](#)

Tripura Government Revised VDA for the employment of Loading and Unloading

Dec 10, 2021 | State | Tripura

The Labour Department, Tripura on December 04, 2021 has issued the revised the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) on the basis of six monthly average Consumer Price Index number with effect from October 01, 2021 for categories of workers engaged in the employment of "Loading and Unloading" in Tripura. The following revisions in the VDA have been made: A) Skilled worker (working more than 1year & over 30 years of age) - Rs.559.00 x (26+4) Days = Rs. 16,770/-(26 working days + 4 days leave) B) Semi-skilled (Working more than 6 months but less than 1year and over 30 years of age) - Rs.519.00 x (26+4) Days = Rs. 15,570/- (26 working days + 4 days leave) C) Un-skilled (Working less than 6 months and age below 35 years) - Rs.480.00 x (26+4) days = Rs. 14,440/- (26 working days + 4 days leave) D) Managerial /Clerical (Non-working categories/clerical) - Rs.480.00 x (26+4) days = Rs. 14,440/- (26 working days + 4 days leave) [Notification No.F.21(43)-LAB/ENF/MW/LOADING/99/7380-7405]

[View Document](#)