

COMPLIANCE UPDATE

February 2026 | Part 1 of 2



Table of content

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- Ministry of Finance (MoF)
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
- Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)
- Extension of the due date for filing of the Electronic Challan-cum-Return (ECR)
- Industry-wise updates
 - Coal
 - Forest and Environment
- State-wise updates

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bihar – Chandigarh – Govt of NCT of Delhi – Himachal Pradesh – Karnataka – Kerala – Madhya Pradesh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Meghalaya – Odisha – Punjab – Rajasthan – Tamil Nadu – Telangana – Uttarakhand
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Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

▪ Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2026

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on January 16, 2026, notified the *Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2026*, replacing the earlier *Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods & Services) Regulations, 2015* and introducing a consolidated regulatory framework governing both export and import transactions of goods and services.

The Regulations lay down comprehensive compliance requirements relating to submission of declarations, approved modes of receipt and payment, prescribed timelines for realisation and repatriation of export proceeds, and rules governing payments for imports.

The Regulations also introduce a uniform Export Declaration Form (EDF) requirement applicable to exports of both goods and services. Further, Authorised Dealer (AD) banks have been empowered to monitor export-import transactions, extend prescribed timelines, permit reductions, set-offs, and third-party payments, subject to conditions.

Additionally, strict electronic reporting has been made mandatory through RBI's transaction monitoring systems, including the Export Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS), Import Data Processing and Monitoring System (IDPMS), and the Foreign Exchange Transactions Electronic Reporting System (FETERS).

(To view the Regulations, Please Click [here](#))

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

▪ Single Window Automatic and Generalized Access for Trusted Foreign Investors (SWAGAT-FI) framework

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), on January 16, 2026, issued a circular introducing the *Single Window Automatic and Generalised Access for Trusted Foreign Investors (SWAGAT-FI)* framework for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) and Foreign Venture Capital Investors (FVCIs), with the objective of providing a simplified and unified investment access mechanism for trusted foreign investors in the Indian securities market.

As part of this circular, SEBI has amended the FPI Master Circular dated May 30, 2024, which governs FPI registration, KYC requirements, and investment-related compliance conditions, by inserting a new category titled *SWAGAT-FI* under Part A.

The framework applies to eligible institutional investors such as government or government-related entities, appropriately regulated mutual funds or unit trusts, insurance companies, and pension funds, subject to prescribed conditions. Existing FPIs meeting the eligibility criteria may convert to SWAGAT-FI status through an application submitted to their Designated Depository Participant (DDP).

Further, Depositories have been directed to facilitate a unified accounting and investment framework for SWAGAT-FI investments across FPIs, FVCIs, and other permitted investment vehicles, ensuring smoother compliance and transaction monitoring.

The circular will come into effect from June 01, 2026.

(To view the Circular, Please Click [here](#))

▪ **SEBI Opens Special Window for Transfer and Dematerialization of Physical Securities**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), on January 30, 2026, issued a circular announcing a special window to assist investors who were unable to transfer their physical securities before April 01, 2019, due to procedural or documentation-related difficulties.

This special window will remain open from February 05, 2026, to February 04, 2027, allowing eligible investors to regularise and complete the transfer-cum-dematerialisation of physical securities. The facility will also cover transfer requests that were earlier rejected, returned, or not processed because of deficiencies in documentation or other process-related issues.

The provisions of the circular will come into effect from February 05, 2026.

(To view the Circular, Please Click [here](#))

▪ **SEBI Removes Requirement of Letter of Confirmation (LOC) for Dematerialization Requests**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), on January 30, 2026, issued a circular removing the requirement of issuing a *Letter of Confirmation (LOC)* for dematerialisation of securities.

The circular provides that securities arising from investor service requests such as issuance of duplicate certificates, transmission, transposition, claims from unclaimed suspense accounts, and corporate actions shall now be processed only in dematerialised (Demat) form.

SEBI has further directed that, instead of issuing an LOC, Depositories shall develop a system enabling Registrars and Transfer Agents (RTAs) or listed companies to directly credit securities into the investor's Demat account after completion of necessary due diligence.

The circular shall come into force from April 02, 2026. However, any LOC (Letter of Confirmation) issued before this date may still be used for dematerialisation if submitted to the Depository Participant (DP) within 120 days of issuance.

(To view the Circular, Please Click [here](#))

Ministry of Finance (MoF)

▪ **Union Budget 2026–27 Introduces Tax Changes, Customs Rationalization, and Digital Clearance Reforms**

The Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs), on February 01, 2026, issued the Union Budget for FY 2026–27, outlining the Government's fiscal and policy priorities for the upcoming financial year.

The Budget is guided by three key “Kartavya” (duties): the first aims to accelerate and sustain economic growth through interventions such as scaling up manufacturing in strategic sectors, strengthening MSMEs, boosting infrastructure, ensuring long-term energy security, and developing City Economic Regions. The second focuses on fulfilling public aspirations by building people's capacity as partners in India's prosperity, while the third aligns with *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas* to ensure equitable access to opportunities and resources across communities and regions.

Key highlights of the Budget include the following:

- The Budget introduces tax reforms and compliance simplification measures, including the New Income Tax Act, 2025, proposed to be effective from April 2026, with simplified rules and forms. It also proposes a reduction in Tax Collected at Source (TCS) under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), lowering the rate for overseas tour packages to 2 percent and reducing TCS for education and medical remittances from 5 percent to 2 percent.
- The Budget proposes an extension of the time limit for revising income tax returns up to March 31, subject to payment of a nominal fee.

- The Budget also proposes rationalisation of customs duties, including enhanced duty-free import limits for specified export-related inputs in marine, leather, and textile products, and continued duty-free imports of specified inputs for export of leather or synthetic footwear.
- Further, the Budget introduces ease of doing business measures by streamlining cargo clearance approvals through a single interconnected digital window, enabling immediate customs clearance for goods with no compliance requirements after online registration, and rolling out the Customs Integrated System (CIS) within two years as a unified customs platform.

(To view the Notification, Please Click [here](#))

▪ **Deferred Payment of Import Duty (Amendment) Rules, 2026**

Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) on February 01, 2026, issued Deferred Payment of Import Duty (Amendment) Rules, 2026.

The amendment revises Rule 4 by establishing a uniform monthly timeline for payment of deferred import duty. Under the revised framework, deferred duty in respect of Bills of Entry returned for payment during any month (from the 1st to the last day), except March, must be paid by the 1st day of the immediately succeeding month.

However, for Bills of Entry returned for payment during the month of March (between 1st March and 31st March), the deferred duty is required to be paid within the same month, i.e., on or before 31st March.

The Rules shall come into force from March 01, 2026.

(To view the Amendment, Please Click [here](#))

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

▪ **Amendment of BIS Standards for Bonded Mineral Wool**

The Bureau of Indian Standards on January 20, 2026, notified the amendment in following standards amongst others:

- **IS 8183: 2024**, relating to Bonded Mineral Wool — Specification (Second Revision)
- **IS 17753: 2021**, relating to Paper-based Multilayer Laminated/Extruded Composite Cartons (Aseptic and Non-Aseptic) for Processed Liquid Food Products and Beverages — Specification.

The amended standards will come in effect from January 12, 2026.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Amendment of BIS Standards for Textiles**

The Bureau of Indian Standards on January 20, 2026, notified the amendment in standards of Textiles:

- IS 17361 (Part 4): 2020, ISO 11111-4: 2005 Textile Machinery - Safety Requirements Part 4 Yarn Processing, Cordage and Rope Manufacturing Machinery.
- IS 18930: 2024 Textiles - Polyester Fibre Filled Pillow - Specification
- IS 18482: 2023 Textiles - Sandwich Extrusion Laminated Polypropylene (PP) Woven Sacks for Packaging Bulk Commodities - Specification

The amended standards will come in effect from January 05, 2026.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Withdrawal of BIS Standards for Drill Pipes for Use in Oil or Natural Gas Wells**

The Bureau of Indian Standards on January 20, 2026, notified the withdrawal of following standards amongst others:

- IS 6647 - 1972 Specification for Drill Pipes for Use in Oil or Natural Gas Wells
- IS 5433 - 1969 Specification for Oil Well Steel Casing Pipes and Couplings
- IS 9443 - 1980 Guidelines for Marking Purity of Silver-on-Silver Articles/Ornaments

The standards will be withdrawn from January 16, 2026.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Amendment of BIS Standards for Air Coolers**

The Bureau of Indian Standards on January 20, 2026, notified the amendment of following standards amongst others:

- IS 3315: 2024 Direct Evaporative Air Cooler - Specification (Fourth Revision)
- IS 5456: 2024 Positive Displacement Type Air Compressors and Exhausters - Testing and Acceptance (Third Revision)
- IS 9523: 2000 Ductile Iron Fittings for Pressure Pipes for Water, Gas and Sewage - Specification (First Revision)

The amended standards will come in effect from January 16, 2026.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **BIS Standards for Breathing Air Compressor Package**

The Bureau of Indian Standards on January 20, 2026, notified the establishment of following standards amongst others:

- IS 15879: 2026 Breathing Air Compressor Package - Specification (First Revision)
- IS 17093: 2026 Technical Supply Conditions for Reciprocating Air Compressors for General Purpose and Industrial Applications (First Revision)

The standards will be established with effect from January 12, 2026.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **BIS Standards for Textiles**

The Bureau of Indian Standards on January 28, 2026, notified the establishment of the following standards of Textiles:

- IS 2422: 2026 Textiles — Water Repellent Fabric for Capes and Raincoats — Specification (Fourth Revision)
- IS 6347: 2026 Textiles — High Density Polyethylene Continuous Filament Twines for Fishing — Specification (Second Revision)
- IS 13260: 2026 Textiles — Appearance of Cotton Yarn using Photographic Standards — Method of Grading (First Revision)

The standards will be established with effect from January 16, 2026.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)

▪ **Implementation of "Update and Edit Insured Person (IP) details" option on ESIC Portal**

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) on January 29, 2026, issued a circular informing that provision has been made on the ESIC portal for the implementation of "Update and Edit Insured Person (IP) details".

Vide this implementation, photo of self and family can now be uploaded in the registration details of Insured Persons through Insurance Module of ESIC.

(To view the circular, please click [here](#))

(To view the User manual to Update Family Details Photo by IP Login, please click [here](#))

(To view the User manual to Update Family Details Photo by Employer Login, please click [here](#))

(To view the User manual to IP Details Self and Dependent photo by staff Login, please click [here](#))

Extension of the due date for filing of the Electronic Challan-cum-Return (ECR)

▪ **Revision of timelines for preparation of Annual Performance Assessment Report (APAR) for the Year 2024-25 through SPARROW**

Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) on January 22, 2026, issued a circular further extending the due date for filing the Electronic Challan-cum-Return (ECR) for wage month December 2025.

The monthly Electronic Challan-cum-Return (ECR) is to be filed on the 15th day of the following month. The circular dated January 15, 2026, extended the due date for submission of returns for the wage month December 2025 from January 15, 2026, to January 20, 2026.

Now, as per circular dated January 22, 2026, the due date has further extended previous due date by a period of two (02) days, i.e., from January 20, 2026, to January 22, 2026.

Further, it was clarified that no interest or damages will be levied for ECRs and payments which will be made within the extended due date till January 22, 2026. However, when additional timeline expires on January 23, 2026, the default shall be counted from 15th i.e. for eight days.

(To view the circular, please click [here](#))

Industry-wise updates

Coal

- **Amendment in Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**
The Ministry of Coal, on January 28, 2026, issued a notification amending the First Schedule of the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**.

The notification specifies that in the First Schedule of the Act, under the heading “Specified Minerals” for the word “Coal”, the words “Coal, including Coking Coal” shall be substituted.
(To view the Amendment, Please Click [here](#))

Forest and Environment

- **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026**
The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), on January 28, 2026, notified the *Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026*, in supersession of the earlier Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. The new Rules introduce enhanced segregation, accountability, and digital monitoring requirements to strengthen waste management across the country.

Key Features of SWM Rules, 2026:

- Waste generators must now segregate waste into four distinct categories:
 - **Wet Waste:** Kitchen waste and fruit peels (for composting/bio-methanation).
 - **Dry Waste:** Plastic, paper, metal, and glass (for Material Recovery Facilities).
 - **Sanitary Waste:** Diapers and tampons (must be securely wrapped).
 - **Special Care Waste:** Paint cans, bulbs, and expired medicines (designated collection points).
- The Rules also impose greater accountability on Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), defined as entities having a floor area of 20,000 square metres or more, or generating 100 kg or more waste per day. BWGs are required to process wet waste on-site or procure Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility (EBWGR) certificates, given their significant contribution to overall waste generation.
- Further, the Rules introduce a centralised digital tracking system through an online portal to monitor waste movement from generation to disposal. Registrations, audits, and reporting obligations for waste processing facilities are required to be carried out digitally, replacing physical documentation and improving compliance oversight.

These rules will come into effect from April 01, 2026.

(To view the Rules, Please Click [here](#))

- **MoEFCC Notifies Amendments to Water Pollution Consent Guidelines, 2026**
The amendments introduce a new clause defining the Registered Environment Auditor, in alignment with the Environment Audit Rules, 2025, and establish an online unified consent and authorization management portal as the central digital platform for processing consent applications.
Key Amendments are as follows:
 - A new clause is added defining the Registered Environment Auditor, aligning with the Environment Audit Rules, 2025.
 - The regulation introduces the term online unified consent and authorization management portal, which will serve as the central digital system for processing consent applications.
 - Applications for CTE and CTO under Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 will now follow the revised forms prescribed in the First Schedule and will include all mandated particulars and prescribed fees.
 - States/UTs can levy a one-time consent fee for operating periods ranging from 5 to 25 years, with payment required again only when extending the validity period after its expiry.
 - A single-step integrated process now applies for obtaining consent under the Water Act along with authorizations under various Waste Management Rules issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.(To view the Amendment, Please Click [here](#))

- **MoEFCC Notifies Amendments to Air Pollution Consent Guidelines, 2026**
The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), on January 23, 2026, notified amendments to the *Control of Air Pollution (Grant, Refusal or Cancellation of Consent) Amendment Guidelines, 2026* under Section 21A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

The amendments introduce new definitions, including Registered Environment Auditor, in alignment with the Environment Audit Rules, 2025.

The notification further revises the consent framework by updating the process, validity, and fee structure. It allows States/UTs to levy a one-time Consent-to-Operate fee for periods ranging from 5 to 25 years, provides for consent validity until cancellation, and introduces a consolidated mechanism covering consent and authorisations for hazardous and other waste-related requirements. Additionally, the amendments mandate the development of a centralised online portal as a single-point digital platform for all consent-related processes, prescribe timelines for grant or refusal of consent, and update the applicable application forms and schedules.

(To view the Amendment, Please Click [here](#))

State-wise updates

Bihar

▪ **Bihar Goods and Services Tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2025**

The Government of Bihar, on January 16, 2026, issued the Bihar Goods and Services Tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2025, further amending the Bihar Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017.

The notification states that a new Rule 31D has been inserted after Rule 31C, defining “applicable tax” and “retail sale price,” and specifying methods for determining the tax amount and the treatment of variations in retail sale price on packaging or across areas. Further, in Rule 86B, first proviso, a new clause (f) has been inserted, clarifying that a registered person other than a manufacturer shall be exempted under this rule only for goods covered under Rule 31D, where tax has been paid by the supplier on the retail sale price basis.

The amended Rules shall come into force from February 01, 2026.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Chandigarh

▪ **Zero-Day Automated CTE/CTO Approvals for Green Category Industries**

The Department of Public Relations, Government of Chandigarh, vide press-release dated January 24, 2026, notified regarding Zero-Day Automated CTE/CTO approvals for Green Category industries.

Under the Ease of Doing Business reform, the following changes have been stated:

- A fully automated mechanism has been introduced by the Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee (CPCC) for granting Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) to Green Category industries through the Online Consent Management & Monitoring System (OCMMS) portal, eliminating manual scrutiny.
- The approval timeline for CTE/CTO for Green Category units has been reduced from up to 15 days to instant (zero-day) issuance, covering approximately 40% of industries in Chandigarh.

This reform is an extension of the Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee’s (CPCC) ongoing ease-of-doing-business measures, including auto-renewal of Consent to Operate (CTOs), exemption for White Category industries, reduced inspection frequency, removal of consent requirements for Diesel Generator (DG) sets up to 1000 KVA, and shortened processing timelines, further lowering compliance burden for industries.

(To view the Press Release, please click [here](#))

Govt of NCT of Delhi

▪ **Revocation of Actions under Stage III of GRAP and Intensifying Actions under Stage I and II of modified GRAP**

The Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM), vide order dated January 22, 2026, revoked the actions under Stage-III (Severe category) of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) and directed for continued implementation of actions under Stage-I and Stage-II of the modified GRAP dated November 21, 2025.

The order states the following, namely:

- Upon review of air quality data and forecasts from IMD and IITM, the Sub-Committee on GRAP observed an improvement in air quality, and has accordingly revoked the order dated January 16, 2026, invoking Stage-III (Severe) GRAP actions with immediate effect.
- Actions under GRAP Stage-I and Stage-II shall continue to remain in force and shall be strictly implemented across NCR in accordance with the modified GRAP.

Construction and demolition sites that were shut down due to specific violations shall not be permitted to resume operations without explicit approval of the Commission.

(To view the Order, please click [here](#))

▪ **DERC (Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering for Renewable Energy) (Seventh Amendment) Guidelines 2025**

The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission vide notification dated January 20, 2026, issued the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering for Renewable Energy) (Seventh Amendment) Guidelines, 2025, further amending the DERC (Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering for Renewable Energy) Guidelines, 2019.

The key amendments include:

- Guideline 3(2) has been substituted to provide that the Virtual Net Metering framework shall be applicable to all consumers in the NCT of Delhi, including consumers having a single point of supply.
- Guideline 3(6) has been substituted to provide that Distribution Licensees shall facilitate and bear the capital expenditure towards Service Line-cum-Development (SLD) and network augmentation for renewable energy projects, including new connections, under Virtual Net Metering (VNM) and Group Net Metering (GNM) schemes.

The guidelines come into effect from the date of uploading on DERC website.

(To view the Bill, please click [here](#))

Himachal Pradesh

▪ **Himachal Pradesh Minor Minerals (Concession) and Minerals (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage) Eighth Amendment Rules, 2026**

The Government of Himachal Pradesh vide notification dated January 15, 2026, notified the Himachal Pradesh Minor Minerals (Concession) and Minerals (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage) Eighth Amendment Rules, 2026 thereby amending the Himachal Pradesh Minor Minerals (Concession) and Minerals (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage) Rules, 2015.

The key amendments that have been made are:

- Rule 2(1)(h) has been substituted to define “Competent Authority” as the authority declared by the Government for the purposes of the Rules. In cases involving forest land, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Himachal Pradesh State Forest Department, has been designated as the Competent Authority.
- In Rule 7, for the words “State Geologist”, the words “Competent Authority” has been substituted.
- Rule 15(1) has been substituted to require applicants to deposit a security amount, as specified in the First Schedule, in the form of a Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) pledged in favour of the Director or the PCCF.

(To view the Amendment, please click [here](#))

Karnataka

▪ **Revised Profession Tax Rate for February 2026**

The Government of Karnataka, on January 17, 2026, issued an advisory regarding payment of Profession Tax for the month of February 2026. It has been stated that, as per the Karnataka Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments (Amendment) Act, 2025 dated April 15, 2025, the Profession Tax payable for the month of February has been revised.

Accordingly, Profession Tax for February 2026 onwards shall be payable at the rate of INR 300 per employee, and employers are advised to remit the same under their registered Registration Certificate (RC) for the relevant month.

(To view the Note, please click [here](#))

▪ **Draft Code on Wages Karnataka Rules, 2021**

The Government of Karnataka, on January 23, 2026, issued the Draft Code on Wages Karnataka Rules, 2021. The draft rules lay down the framework for implementation of the Code on Wages, including provisions relating to wage fixation and administrative mechanisms within the State.

The draft rules specify the manner of calculating the minimum rate of wages, the procedure for fixing the floor wage under Chapter III, the constitution and functioning of the State Advisory Board, and provisions relating to payment of dues, claims, and related matters. Objections and suggestions on the draft may be submitted to the Secretary to Government, Labour Department, within forty-five days from the date of issuance.

(To view the Draft, please click [here](#))

- **Draft Code on Social Security (Karnataka) Rules, 2026**

The Government of Karnataka, on January 29, 2026, issued the Draft Code on Social Security (Karnataka) Rules, 2026. The Rules provide the State-specific framework for implementing the Code on Social Security, 2020, in Karnataka.

The notification states that the Rules prescribe procedures for registration, contribution, record-keeping, inspections, and compliance by employers and aggregators. The Rules cover social security benefits for employees, gig workers, platform workers, and unorganised workers. They aim to streamline administration, ensure digital processes, and strengthen social security coverage across sectors in the State.

The Rules shall come into force from the date of commencement of the Code on Social Security, 2020. Objections or suggestions may be submitted within 45 days from January 29, 2026.

(To view the Draft, please click [here](#))

- **Notification of Industrial Relations (Karnataka) Rules, 2026**

The Government of Karnataka, on January 23, 2026, notified the Industrial Relations (Karnataka) Rules, 2026. The Rules provide the procedural framework for implementation of the Industrial Relations provisions within the State.

The notification states that Rule 2 lays down key definitions, including terms such as “electronically” and “code.” Rule 3 prescribes the written agreement for settlement under clause (zi) of Section 2, Rule 4 provides for the constitution of the Works Committee, and Rule 5 specifies the manner of selecting employer and worker representatives for the Grievance Redressal Committee. **The Rules have come into force with effect from January 23, 2026.**

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

- **Draft Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (Karnataka) Rules, 2026**

The Government of Karnataka, on January 23, 2026, issued the draft Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (Karnataka) Rules, 2026, to operationalize the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 in the State. The draft rules propose a comprehensive framework governing registration, licensing, welfare, safety standards, and working conditions for workers across establishments in Karnataka.

The draft provides for common electronic registration and licensing, enhanced health and safety requirements including mandatory risk assessment, medical examinations, and safety audits, and imposes clear employer obligations for welfare facilities such as drinking water, sanitation, canteens, crèches, and first aid. Special provisions have also been included for inter-State migrant workers, contract labour, women workers, and gig/platform workers, with simplified compliance through digital registers, returns, and inspections. The draft further strengthens enforcement mechanisms and prescribes penalties for non-compliance.

(To view the Draft, please click [here](#))

- **Karnataka Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2026**

The Government of Karnataka, on January 27, 2026, notified the Karnataka Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2026, further amending the Karnataka Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017. The amendment introduces provisions relating to valuation of goods based on retail sale price.

The notification inserts a new Rule 31D after Rule 31C, providing for determination of the value of supply of goods based on retail sale price. It also amends Rule 86B by inserting a new clause (f) in the first proviso, clarifying that registered persons other than manufacturers shall be exempted only in respect of goods covered under Rule 31D, where tax has been paid by the supplier on the retail sale price basis. **The amended Rules shall come into force from February 01, 2026.**

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Kerala

- **Exclusion of Airport Sector from Minimum Wages Schedule**

The Government of Kerala, on January 23, 2026, issued a notification proposing to exclude employment in the “Airport Sector” from Part-I of the Schedule to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The sector had earlier been included in Part-I through G.O.(P) No. 96/2020/LBR dated December 18, 2020, published as S.R.O. No. 893/2020 in the Kerala Gazette.

The notification states that the Airports Authority of India is a statutory body constituted under the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994, and the Central Government is the appropriate authority

for fixation and revision of minimum wages for employees engaged in the airport sector. Accordingly, the State Government has proposed that minimum wages for this sector in Kerala shall not be fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 by the State Government.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 26(2) read with section 26(2A) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Government has invited objections or suggestions within three months from the date of publication in the Kerala Gazette, to be addressed to the Special Secretary, Labour and Skills (E) Department, Government of Kerala.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Kerala Minor Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2026**

The Government of Kerala, on January 19, 2026, issued the Kerala Minor Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2026, further amending the Kerala Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2015.

Key amendments include:

- In Rule 14, sub-rules (6), (7), and (10), the words "one year" are substituted with "two years".
- In Rule 14, after sub-rule (12), a new sub-rule (13) is inserted, providing for movement permits and royalty payment where extraction of ordinary earth encounters other minor minerals.
- In Rule 57, a proviso is inserted requiring a INR25,000 application fee for submission of quarry closure plans, except for Laterite (building stone).
- In Rule 67, after sub-rule (6), sub-rule (7) is inserted, requiring INR25,000 application fee for approval of mining schemes, except for Laterite (building stone).

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Madhya Pradesh

▪ **Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (MPERC), Sixth Amendment to Intra-State Open Access Regulation**

The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (MPERC), on January 20, 2026, notified the Sixth Amendment to the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Intra-State Open Access in Madhya Pradesh) (Revision-I) Regulations, 2021, under the relevant provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003. The amendment updates the existing regulatory framework governing intra-State open access in Madhya Pradesh.

The notification introduces specific revisions to Regulation 13.2 of the Principal Regulations, aimed at refining the operational and procedural aspects of open access transactions within the State. The amended regulations shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Madhya Pradesh Gazette and shall apply uniformly across the entire State of Madhya Pradesh.

(To view the Amendment, please click [here](#))

▪ **Enforcement of Amendments to Madhya Pradesh Motor Vehicle Tax Act**

The Government of Madhya Pradesh, on January 23, 2026, issued a notification regarding the enforcement of amendments to the Madhya Pradesh Motor Vehicle Tax Act. It has been stated that the amendments introduced under the Madhya Pradesh Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2025, have been brought into force with effect from January 23, 2026.

The notification clarifies that these amendments relate specifically to the Madhya Pradesh Motoryan Karadhan Adhiniyam, 1991, as listed at Serial No. 11 of the Schedule, and shall apply from the notified date of commencement.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Meghalaya

▪ **Prohibition on Disposal of Waste into Streams and Wells**

The Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board, on January 19, 2026, issued a notification regarding the prohibition on the use of streams or wells for disposal of polluting matter along the catchment and tributaries of the Rongkon, Ringre, and Gandrak Streams.

The notification highlights the following provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016:

- Rule 4(2): Waste generators are prohibited from throwing, burning, or burying solid waste on streets, open public spaces outside their premises, drains, or water bodies.
- Rule 15(G): Waste generators must not litter streets, open spaces, drains, or water bodies with any waste (e.g., paper, bottles, cans, wrappers, fruit peel), and must segregate waste at source and hand it over to authorised waste collectors.

- Rule 15(K): Street sweepers must not burn tree leaves collected during street sweeping; leaves must be stored separately and handed over to authorised waste collectors or agencies.

The notification reinforces proper waste management practices and compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, to prevent pollution of streams and catchment areas.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Odisha

▪ **Odisha Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Act, 2025**

The Government of Odisha, on January 16, 2026, notified Odisha Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Act, 2025 further to amend the Odisha Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1956.

The following amendments have been made:

- Insertion of Section 1(2-a): The Act now applies to establishments employing 20 or more employees.
- Insertion of Section 4A: All establishments, irrespective of number of Employees, must display the name of establishment on a sign board in front of the establishment in Odia and other language.
- Amendment of Section 7: Daily working hours increased from 9 hours to 10 hours, with a 12-hour cap including overtime.
- Overtime limit enhanced from 50 hours to 144 hours per quarter.
- Substitution of Section 9: The period of work of an employee should not exceed six continuous hours without an interval for rest of at least half an hour.
- Insertion of Section 23A: The State Government, may by notification in the official Gazette, allow employment of women employees during night with their written consent and subject to prescribed safety conditions.

The Odisha Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, is hereby repealed with past actions saved and validated.

The notification shall be deemed to have come into force from November 08, 2025.

(To view the Amendment, please click [here](#))

Punjab

▪ **Draft Punjab Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Rules, 2025**

The Government of Punjab on January 22, 2026, issued the Draft Punjab Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Rules, 2025, aiming to strengthen workplace safety, health, and welfare for employers.

Key highlights of the Draft Rules are as follows:

- Establishments need to register and maintain records electronically. Digital inspections will make compliance easier and more transparent.
- Employers must have procedures for reporting accidents, conducting inquiries, providing compensation, and handling emergencies.

Employers need to provide safety training and set up Safety Committees where required.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Rajasthan

▪ **Draft Rajasthan Industrial Relation Rules, 2026**

The Government of Rajasthan has released the Draft Rajasthan Industrial Relations Rules, 2026, on January 20, 2026, framed under the Industrial Relations Code, 2020. These rules apply to all industrial establishments in Rajasthan. They are designed to regulate settlements, trade unions, standing orders, dispute resolution, and workforce restructuring.

Key highlights of the Draft Rules are as follows:

- Individual worker disputes require signatures of both the employer and the worker.
- Trade Unions must register using Form-II with affidavit and fee.
- Equal representation from employers and workers, maximum 10 members, women representation mandatory, tenure of 3 years in Grievance Redressal Committee.

- Works Committee must be formed wherever directed, with up to 20 members, ensuring worker representation is not less than employer representation.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Classification of industrial sectors into Red, Orange, Green, White and Blue categories**

The Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) has issued a notification dated January 21, 2026, regarding the classification of industrial sectors into five categories: Red, Orange, Green, White, and Blue.

The Board has adopted a revised methodology for harmonized classification, covering 419 industrial sectors such as Manufacturing of Automobiles (integrated facilities), Asbestos and Asbestos based industries, Lead-acid Battery manufacturing (excluding assembling and charging of lead acid Battery in micro scale), Mining of minor minerals (except Sand/riverbed material mining).

The revised classification will be effective from February 1, 2026.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Tamil Nadu

▪ **Tamil Nadu Amendment to Minor Mineral Concession Rules**

The Government of Tamil Nadu on January 19, 2026, has notified amendments to the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, under Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

The amendments aim to strengthen procedural clarity, safeguard applicants' interests, and ensure better compliance and accountability in minor mineral concessions.

- Key Points are mentioned below:
- Application fees increased from INR 1,500 to INR 5,000.
- A refundable security deposit equal to twice the applicable seigniorage fee is now required for the quantity of mineral applied for.
- Security deposits are refunded immediately if the application is rejected or the permission is granted to another applicant.
- The District Collector may cancel permissions in case of excess removal or violations.
- After the expiry or exhaustion of permitted mineral quantity, the Assistant Director of Geology and Mining will inspect and certify compliance before the refund is processed.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Tamil Nadu Water Resources (Regulation, Management and Augmentation) Bill, 2026**

The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly introduced L.A. Bill No. 6 of 2026, dated January 24, 2026, a legislation aimed at creating a comprehensive statutory framework for the regulation, management, and augmentation of water resources across the State.

The Bill seeks to ensure equitable, efficient, and sustainable use of water, while promoting participatory governance in the management of surface water and groundwater resources. A key feature of the legislation is the establishment of the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Management Authority, which will be responsible for formulating water policies, preparing water resource management plans, and regulating water abstraction and usage.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Telangana

▪ **Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission (Licensee's Duty for Supply of Electricity on Request) Second Amendment Regulation, 2026**

The Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission, on January 17, 2026, notified the Licensee's Duty for Supply of Electricity on Request (Second Amendment) Regulation, 2026, amending Regulation No. 4 of 2013 to simplify and expedite LT service connections and additional loads in electrified areas.

The amendment introduces uniform, load-based Service Line Charges (Rs./kW) for new LT connections and additional loads within 1 km of the network, covering Domestic, Commercial, Industrial, Agriculture, and EV Charging Stations. For apartments and multi-storied buildings, the combined contracted load applies, and the Distribution Licensee will supply, erect, own, and maintain the Distribution Transformer without charging its cost under the specified scope. It also clarifies recovery of transformer costs for dedicated transformers, rationalises Development Charges based on load thresholds, and empowers the Commission to issue implementation directions.

(To view the Amendment, please click [here](#))

Uttarakhand

- **Government of Uttarakhand issued a notification amending the Uttarakhand Value Added Tax Act, 2005**

The Government of Uttarakhand, on January 20, 2026, issued a notification amending Schedule II of the Uttarakhand Value Added Tax Act, 2005, under Section 4(4) of the Act, read with the Uttar Pradesh General Clauses Act, 1904, as applicable to the State. The amendment substitutes the existing entry at Serial No. 5 of Schedule II relating to Natural Gas, to clearly specify the tax point and applicable rate.

As per the revised entry, Natural Gas, whether imported or manufactured, shall be taxable at the rate of 5 percent, with effect from the day following the date of publication of the notification. The amendment has been issued in the interest of public policy and revenue regulation.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

ABOUT US

UnComplycate is an end-to-end compliance and contract management solutions provider that integrates domain experience with IT-enabled implementation, monitoring and management protocols.

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