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FROM ROOM RENT TO TREATMENT COSTS: PARLIAMENT'S FOCUS ON HEALTHCARE AFFORDABILITY

Healthcare expenditure in India is increasingly shaped by the cost of treatment in the private sector, particularly where patients require hospitalisation or specialised care. For many households, the financial burden does not arise from a single charge, but from the cumulative cost of room rent, professional fees, diagnostics, medicines, consumables and extended hospital stays.

Against this backdrop, the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare**, in its **176th Report on "Affordability and Accessibility of Healthcare Facilities in Public and Private Sector"** ([read report](#)), examined the factors contributing to healthcare costs and the continuing burden of out-of-pocket expenditure. The Report, presented to both Houses of Parliament on 7 August 2026, contains 368 recommendations covering affordability, pricing, financial protection, healthcare infrastructure and accessibility.

1. RISING COST OF PRIVATE HEALTHCARE

The Committee has noted a substantial difference between the cost of treatment in public and private healthcare facilities. As per the *80th Round of the National Sample Survey (2025)*, the average expenditure on hospitalisation was INR 6,631 in government hospitals compared with INR 50,508 in private hospitals. The average cost of inpatient treatment was reported at INR 37,858, of which INR 34,064 was borne by patients as out-of-pocket expenditure.

The Committee has also taken note of the continuing increase in medical costs. Medical inflation has been estimated at 10–13% annually, with rising costs of hospitalisation, diagnostics, medicines and other healthcare services placing increasing pressure on households and, consequently, on health insurance premiums. One such practice identified by the Committee is **room-rent-linked pricing of clinical procedures**, under which the charges for certain procedures can vary depending on the room category selected by the patient.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE: AT A GLANCE

The Committee has made several recommendations aimed at improving affordability and transparency in private healthcare, namely:

- **Standardisation of healthcare costs:** Standard rates for essential treatments, diagnostics and routine procedures across private hospitals.
- **Elimination of differential billing:** Removal of pricing practices, under which the cost of treatment may vary depending on the category of room selected.
- **Greater price transparency:** Clear information on hospital charges and the expected cost of treatment before admission.
- **Evidence-based pricing:** Develop treatment and package rates using actual healthcare cost data, with periodic review to account for variations in treatment requirements and medical inflation.
- **Financial protection for patients:** Strengthen mechanisms for clearer information on treatment costs, insurance coverage and the patient's financial liability.

3. THREE-STAR HOTEL TARIFF AS A BENCHMARK FOR ROOM CHARGES

Within this wider framework, the Committee has specifically examined the charges levied for hospital rooms in large metropolitan cities. The Committee observed that hospital room charges are not uniform and may vary across regions and even among hospitals operating in the same area because of differences in infrastructure, service levels and operating costs. It was concluded that the rationalisation of room charges needs to be undertaken on an “emergent basis.”

The Committee has therefore recommended that **hospital room charges should not exceed the average room tariff prevailing in three-star hotels in the peripheral area or vicinity of the hospital**. It has further recommended making this benchmark mandatory for private hospitals in large metropolitan cities. However, it has also been recognised that hospital accommodation involves costs that do not arise in a hotel setting. Accordingly, it has stated that resident doctor costs, nursing costs, disposable consumables, meals and laundry charges may be added to the basic room tariff.

4. STANDARDISING THE COST OF TREATMENT

The Committee has also recommended moving towards **standardised treatment and procedural charges**, supported by actual healthcare cost data. It has proposed that private and public healthcare institutions formulate and publicly display fixed and unified package rates for standard surgical and medical procedures.

For patients requiring care beyond an acute intervention, the Committee has recommended the formulation of “Continuum of Care” packages, bringing preventive, diagnostic, curative and palliative services within a single capped financial framework. The intention is to address expenditure that may continue through follow-up, rehabilitation and palliative care rather than limiting financial protection to the initial procedure or hospitalisation.

5. WAY FORWARD

The Parliamentary discussion on hospital room charges is broader than the much-publicised comparison with three-star hotel tariffs. The Committee is effectively seeking to address a system in which patients may face wide variations in charges, limited visibility of the total cost of treatment and additional expenditure that becomes apparent only after treatment has commenced.

Taken together, the recommendations point towards a broader objective of creating a **more transparent, evidence-based and predictable healthcare pricing framework**, where patients are better protected from arbitrary billing while healthcare providers are compensated on the basis of the actual cost of delivering care.

COMPLIANCE UPDATE

October 2026 | Part 1 of 2

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

▪ Establishment of New Indian Standards

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on September 17, 2026, published the establishment of new Indian Standards, including standards relating to Internet of Things (IoT) data exchange platforms, ENT surgery instruments, office equipment and ENT workstations.

The Notification provides as follows:

- IS/ISO/IEC 30161-1:2020 and IS/ISO/IEC 30161-2:2023 have been established for IoT data exchange platforms.
- Revised standards IS 11319:2026 and IS/ISO/IEC 19798:2025 replace the corresponding 1985 and 2017 standards, which will be withdrawn from February 28, 2027.
- IS 19810:2026 has been established for ENT workstations.

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

▪ Establishment of New and Revised Indian Standards

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on September 17, 2026, published the establishment of new Indian Standards, including standards relating to dental instruments, telecommunications, surge arresters, forensic sciences, medical devices and information technology.

The Notification provides as follows:

- IS 3890 (Part 1):2026, IS 5795:2026, IS 6829:2026, IS 6870:2026, IS 7474:2026, IS 8948:2026, IS 11044:2026, IS 11317:2026, IS 11929:2026 and IS 12601:2026 have been established for various dental instruments, replacing the corresponding earlier standards, which will be withdrawn from February 28, 2027.
- IS/ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802-15-9:2024 has been established for telecommunications and information exchange between systems, replacing IS 802.15.9:2021, which will be withdrawn from February 28, 2027.
- IS 15086 (Part 10):2026, IS 17742 (Parts 1, 3, 4 and 5):2026, IS 18344 (Part 7):2026 and IS 19903:2026 have been established for surge arresters, forensic sciences, washer-disinfectors and learning analytics interoperability, respectively.

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

▪ Extension of Withdrawal Dates for Existing Indian Standards

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on September 17, 2026, published a Corrigendum extending the withdrawal dates of certain earlier Indian Standards.

The Corrigendum provides as follows:

IS 868:1990 - Sealing Wax - Specification (First Revision), which was to be withdrawn on September 6, 2026, will now be withdrawn on March 6, 2027.

The withdrawal date of the standard specified at S. No. 01 has been extended from August 9, 2023, to February 9, 2027

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

▪ Extension of Withdrawal Date for Liquid Toilet Cleaner Standard

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on September 21, 2026, published a Corrigendum extending the withdrawal date of the earlier Indian Standard for liquid toilet cleaners.

The Corrigendum provides as follows:

- IS 7983:1994 – Toilet Cleaner, Liquid — Specification (First Revision), which was to be withdrawn on September 12, 2026 upon establishment of IS 7983:2026 – Liquid Toilet Cleaner — Hydrochloric Acid Based — Specification (Second Revision), will now be withdrawn on March 12, 2027.

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

▪ Establishment and Revision of Indian Standards for Chemical Analysis, Safety, Textiles and Biodiversity

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on September 21, 2026, published the establishment of new Indian Standards, including standards relating to chemical analysis, metallographic specimen preparation, cathodic protection, mountaineering helmets and biodiversity.

The Notification provides as follows:

- IS 228 (Part 29):2026 and IS 1493 (Part 13):2026 have been established for chemical analysis of steels and iron ores.
- Revised standards IS 4123:2026, IS 7739 (Parts 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11):2026 and IS 8062 (Part 2):2026 replace corresponding earlier standards, which will be withdrawn from March 15, 2027.
- IS 11207:2026, IS 12261:2026, IS 16090:2026 and IS 16383:2026 have been established for mountaineering helmets, metallic materials, geotextiles and light conveyor belts, respectively.
- New standards IS/ISO 17298:2025, IS 19883:2026 and IS 19917:2026 have been established for biodiversity and soil quality.

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

▪ **Establishment of New and Revised Indian Standards for Paper, Palladium, Air Quality and Agricultural Machinery**

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on September 21, 2026, published the establishment of new and revised Indian Standards relating to paper testing, palladium, air pollution, agricultural machinery, indoor air quality and food testing.

The Notification provides as follows:

- IS 1060 (Part 5/Sec 23):2026, IS 3096:2026 and IS 5182 (Part 17):2026 have been established for testing of paper and board, fine grade palladium and measurement of hydrocarbons in air, respectively.
- Revised standards IS 9980:2026, IS 12239 (Part 3):2026, IS 17118 (Part 3):2026 and other specified standards replace corresponding earlier standards, which will be withdrawn from March 15, 2027.
- IS 17118 (Part 9):2026, IS 19824:2026 and IS 19889:2026 have been established for indoor air quality, determination of minerals and trace elements in foodstuffs, and tractor-operated rectangular/square balers, respectively

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

▪ **Establishment and Revision of 27 Indian Standards for Industrial, Chemical, Textile and Safety Products**

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on September 21, 2026, published the establishment and revision of 27 Indian Standards covering industrial products, chemicals, textiles, safety equipment and engineering specifications.

The Notification provides as follows:

- Revised standards including IS 1367 (Part 14/Sec 3):2026, IS 1407:2026, IS 5685:2026, IS 6819:2026, IS 6994 (Part 5):2026 and IS 7149:2026 have been established, replacing corresponding earlier standards.
- Revised standards have also been notified for conveyor belts, protective clothing, screw threads, fasteners, phosphorus, pentasulphide and zinc phosphide, with the corresponding earlier standards to be withdrawn from March 15, 2027.
- New standards including IS 1367 (Part 14/Sec 6):2026, IS 18263 (Part 2):2026, IS 19707:2026, IS 19838:2026, IS 19868:2026, IS 19895:2026, IS 19906:2026 and other specified standards have been established without corresponding standards for withdrawal.

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

▪ **Amendments to Indian Standards for Steel, Textiles and Coir Products**

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on September 21, 2026, notified amendments to six Indian Standards relating to steel, textiles and coir products

The Notification provides as follows:

- IS 277:2018 (Galvanized Steel Strips and Sheets), IS 4409:2023 (Ferronickel) and IS 6911:2026 (Stainless Steel Plate, Sheet and Strip).
- IS 11928:2023 (Textiles - Roundslings), IS 16709:2017 (Polypropylene Woven Valve Sacks) and IS 19103:2025 (Coir Pith Block).

The standards without the amendments shall remain in force concurrently until March 14, 2027.

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

▪ **Establishment of Revised Quality Management Systems Standard**

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on September 25, 2026, notified the establishment- Quality Management Systems - Requirements (Fifth Revision).

The Notification provides as follows:

- IS/ISO 9001:2026 replaces IS/ISO 9001:2015 (Fourth Revision).
- The earlier standard shall remain in force concurrently with the revised standard until March 25, 2027, after which it will be withdrawn.

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

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

■ Procedure for Registration and Filing of Form

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), on September 15, 2026, issued Notification No. 3 of 2026 prescribing the procedure for registration and filing of Form No. 98 under Rule 160 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026.

The Notification provides as follows:

- Reporting persons/entities must obtain ITDREIN through the Income Tax e-filing portal for filing Form No. 98.
- Form No. 98 must be digitally signed and filed electronically within the timelines prescribed under Rule 160.
- Corrections and deletion of erroneously filed reports may be made through the prescribed Correction Statement and Deletion Statement.

The procedure is effective from September 15, 2026; reporting for FY 2025-26 and earlier years will continue through Form No. 61.

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

■ Fourth Amendment to Income-tax Rules, 2026

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), on September 17, 2026, notified the Income-tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2026.

The amendments provide as follows:

- The deadline for applying for registration as a valuer and registration as an authorised income-tax practitioner has been extended from September 30, 2026, to March 31, 2027, with revised Forms 169 and 171 substituted for these applications.
- The mode of serving certain tax-related communications has been changed from affixing a digital signature to electronic communication, while certain provisions relating to tax recovery, arrest and detention have been omitted or revised.
- The procedural amendments are deemed effective from April 1, 2026, while the remaining amendments take effect from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

■ Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) Reporting Requirements for Transfer of Immovable Property by Non-Residents

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), on September 22, 2026, notified the Income-tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2026, introducing changes relating to Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on certain transfers of immovable property.

The Notification provide as follows:

- TDS provisions for transfer of immovable property by a non-resident to a resident property by a non-resident to a resident individual or Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) have been incorporated.
- Forms 132 and 141 have been amended, including a new Schedule E in Form 141 requiring key details of the property, buyers, non-resident sellers, consideration and TDS.
- Additional details such as the Tax Residency Certificate and Tax Identification Number of non-resident sellers are required, where applicable.

The amendments shall come into force from October 1, 2026.

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

■ Extension of Income Tax Return and Audit Report Filing Deadlines

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), on September 28, 2026, extended the filing timelines for certain Income Tax Returns (ITRs) and audit reports for Assessment Year 2026-27.

The Notification provides as follows:

- The due date for filing the Return of Income has been extended from October 31, 2026, to November 21, 2026.
- The due date for furnishing the corresponding audit report has been extended to October 21, 2026.

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

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)

▪ Upgradation in emSigner Version 3.3 for New Digital Signature Tokens

The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), on September 19, 2026, issued an Advisory regarding emSigner version 3.3 for use of Digital Signature Certificates (DSCs) on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Portal.

The Advisory provides as follows:

- Users issued new DSC tokens on or after September 21, 2026, must upgrade to emSigner version 3.3.
- Existing valid DSCs on working tokens may continue to be used with the current emSigner version.
- DSCs issued on FIPS 140-2 tokens on or before September 21, 2026, will remain valid until expiry; fresh issuance or renewal will generally require FIPS 140-3 tokens.
- emSigner version 3.3 is compatible with existing tokens.

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

▪ Mandatory Additional Qualifiers for Export of Certain Textile Products

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), on September 24, 2026, issued Circular prescribing mandatory additional qualifiers for export declarations relating to certain textile products.

The Circular provides as follows:

- Mandatory additional qualifiers/identifiers have been enabled for specified tariff items covering woven and knitted fabrics used in the manufacture of Fire/Flame Retardant (FR) textile products.
- Exporters must mandatorily declare the prescribed qualifiers/identifiers while filing export declarations in the Customs Automated System.
- The requirement will be effective from November 1, 2026, and is intended to facilitate identification of FR textile products for implementation of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles.

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

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. (FSSAI)

▪ Amendments to Laboratory and Sample Analysis Regulations

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), on September 18, 2026, notified the Food Safety and Standards (Laboratory and Sample Analysis) Amendment Regulations, 2026, further amending the 2011 Regulations.

The Regulations provide that:

- Laboratories shall use FSSAI-prescribed or adopted methods of analysis or, where unavailable, validated methods from specified national or international bodies.
- Food Analysts shall issue regulatory sample reports within 14 days, while reports for imported food samples shall be issued within five days.
- Delays in issuing reports shall be communicated to the concerned authority with reasons and the additional time required.
- Forms A and B have been omitted.

The amendments shall come into force from April 1, 2027.

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

▪ Restriction on Labelling Non-Dairy Analogue Products as “Paneer”

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), on September 22, 2026, proposed amendments to the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011 to prevent non-dairy analogue products from being marketed as "Paneer".

The Draft Regulations provide as follows:

- Products made from non-milk constituents cannot be described, labelled or marketed as "Paneer".
- Products already licensed or registered under the "Analogue in Dairy Context" category must discontinue the use of the term "Paneer".
- Objections or suggestions may be submitted within 60 days from publication of the notification.

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

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

▪ Extension of Deadline for Filing Personal Guarantor Insolvency Resolution Process Forms

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), on September 24, 2026, issued a Circular further extending the deadline for filing electronic Personal Guarantor Insolvency Resolution Process (PGIRP) forms under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

The Circular provides as follows:

- The deadline for filing applicable PGIRP-1 to PGIRP-6 forms has been extended to December 31, 2026.
- Penalties for delayed submission or modification of the forms shall be levied only after December 31, 2026.

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

▪ Amendment to Liquidation Process Regulations

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), on September 22, 2026, notified the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, further amending the Liquidation Process Regulations, 2016.

The Regulations provide as follows:

- A liquidator may modify the list of stakeholders upon receiving additional information warranting such modification.
- The liquidator shall intimate the Adjudicating Authority regarding such modification within 30 days of the modification.

The amendment shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

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

▪ Commencement of Fee for Delayed Filing of Liquidation Forms

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), on September 24, 2026, issued a Circular regarding the levy of fee for delayed filing of forms under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016.

The Circular provide as follows:

- Each liquidation form due on or before September 30, 2026, and filed after the due date, including through correction or updation, shall attract a fee of ₹500 per month plus applicable Goods and Services Tax (GST) for the period of delay.

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

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

▪ Repeal of Guidelines on Repatriation of Dividends by Insurance Intermediaries

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), on September 22, 2026, issued a Circular repealing the Guidelines on repatriation of dividends by insurance intermediaries having majority by foreign investors.

The Circular provides as follows:

- The guidelines dated January 3, 2020, have been repealed with effect from July 30, 2026.
- The repeal follows amendments removing the requirement of prior approval of IRDAI for repatriation of dividends and the condition relating to related party payments.

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

Ministry of Finance (MoF)

▪ Revision of Special Additional Excise Duty on Petrol and Diesel Exports

The Ministry of Finance, on September 16, 2026, issued a Notification revising the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) applicable to exports of petrol and high-speed diesel.

The Notification provides as follows:

- The SAED on export of petrol has been revised to INR 0.50 per litre.
- The SAED on export of high-speed diesel has been revised to INR 20 per litre.
- These revised rates apply from September 16, 2026, which is the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

▪ **Revision of Special Additional Excise Duty on Aviation Turbine Fuel Exports**

The Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, on September 16, 2026, issued a Notification, revising the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) applicable to Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) exported from India.

The Notification provides as follows:

- The SAED on export of ATF has been revised to INR 15 per litre.
- The revised rate replaces the earlier rate of INR 19 per litre prescribed immediately before this amendment.
- The revised rate is effective from September 16, 2026.

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

▪ **Exemption from Road and Infrastructure Cess on High-Speed Diesel Exports**

The Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, on September 16, 2026, issued Notification, revising the Road and Infrastructure Cess (RIC) applicable to the export of high-speed diesel.

The Notification provides as follows:

- The RIC on export of high-speed diesel oil has been reduced from INR 1 per litre to Nil, thereby providing an exemption from this cess on such exports.
- The revised rate is effective from September 16, 2026, the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

▪ **Extension of Anti-Dumping Duty on Specified Imports**

The Ministry of Finance, on September 22, 2026, issued a Notification, further amending the imposition of anti-dumping duty on specified imports.

The Notification provides as follows:

- The anti-dumping duty imposed under the principal notification will remain in force up to and including March 26, 2027, unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier.
- The amendment extends the validity of the existing anti-dumping duty beyond its earlier prescribed period.

The amendment is effective from September 22, 2026.

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

▪ **Reduction in Basic Customs Duty on Specified Edible Oils**

The Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, on September 23, 2026, issued Notification, further amending Notification dated October 24, 2025, which prescribes effective Basic Customs Duty rates on specified imported goods, including edible oils.

The Notification provides as follows:

- The Basic Customs Duty on crude soybean oil and other soybean oil has been reduced from 10% to 5% and 32.5% to 27.5%, respectively.
- The duty on crude palm oil and other palm oil has been reduced from 10% to 5% and 32.5% to 27.5%, respectively.
- The duty on crude sunflower-seed oil has been reduced from 10% to Nil, while the duty on other sunflower-seed oil has been reduced from 32.5% to 22.5%.
- The revised rates are effective from September 24, 2026.

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

▪ **Imposition of Countervailing Duty on Calcium Carbonate Filler Masterbatch**

The Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, on September 23, 2026, issued Notification imposing countervailing duty on specified Calcium Carbonate Filler Masterbatch imported from Vietnam.

The Notification provides as follows:

- Countervailing duty has been imposed at producer-specific rates ranging from USD 9.11 to USD 69.19 per metric tonne.
- Individual duty rates are subject to production of a valid commercial invoice containing the prescribed producer declaration; otherwise, the rate applicable to other producers will apply.
- The duty will remain in force for five years, unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier.
- The Notification is effective from September 23, 2026.

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

▪ **Addition of Campbell Bay and Car Nicobar as Customs Locations**

The Ministry of Finance, on September 23, 2026, issued Notification, relating to the appointment of customs ports and locations for specified purposes.

The Notification provides as follows:

- Campbell Bay and Car Nicobar in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar have been added as notified customs locations.
- Both locations are authorised for unloading of imported goods and loading of export goods or any class of such goods.
- The amendment is effective from September 23, 2026, the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

▪ **Revision of Anti-Dumping Duty on Jute Products from Bangladesh and Nepal**

The Ministry of Finance, issued Notification on September 24, 2026 amending the anti-dumping duty on specified jute products from Bangladesh and Nepal.

The Notification provides as follows:

- Anti-dumping duty rates on specified jute yarn/twine, hessian fabric and jute sacking bags have been revised on a producer-specific basis.
- Anti-dumping duty on jute sacking cloth from Bangladesh has been extended, subject to specified producer-wise exclusions and conditions.
- A valid commercial invoice containing the prescribed producer declaration is required to claim a producer-specific duty rate.

The revised provisions are effective from September 24, 2026.

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

▪ **Revision of Special Additional Excise Duty on High-Speed Diesel**

The Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, on September 30, 2026, issued a Notification, further amending Central Excise relating to the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) on specified petroleum products.

The Notification provides as follows:

- The SAED on high-speed diesel has been revised to INR 16 per litre.
- The revised rate shall be effective from October 1, 2026.

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

▪ **Revision of Special Additional Excise Duty on Aviation Turbine Fuel**

The Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, on September 30, 2026, issued a Notification, further amending Notification relating to the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

The Notification provides as follows:

- The SAED on Aviation Turbine Fuel has been revised to INR 10.50 per litre.
- The revised rate shall be effective from October 1, 2026.

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

▪ **Revision of Customs Tariff Values for Specified Imported Goods**

The Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, through the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), on September 30, 2026, issued a Notification, further amending Notification relating to tariff values for specified imported goods.

The Notification provides as follows:

- Revised tariff values have been prescribed for palm oil, palmolein, crude soya bean oil and brass scrap, including US\$1,229 per metric tonne for crude palm oil and US\$8,149 per metric tonne for brass scrap.
- The tariff value for specified gold has been fixed at US\$1,339 per 10 grams, while specified silver has been fixed at US\$1,965 per kilogram.
- The tariff value for areca nuts remains unchanged at US\$11,574 per metric tonne.

The revised tariff values shall be effective from October 1, 2026.

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

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

▪ Framework for Novation of Over-the-Counter (OTC) Derivative Contracts

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on September 22, 2026, finalised the framework for novation of Over-the-Counter (OTC) derivative contracts, allowing an existing counterparty to be replaced by a new counterparty.

The Circular provides that:

- Novation requires consent of the remaining party, prevailing market rates and a tripartite agreement between the parties.
- The incoming party takes over the existing contract on the same terms, with the applicable mark-to-market value exchanged between the outgoing and incoming parties.
- The framework covers foreign exchange, interest rate, government securities and credit derivatives and applies from September 22, 2026.

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

▪ Introduction of New Credit Derivatives

The Reserve Bank of India, on September 22, 2026, updated the Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Credit Derivatives) Directions, 2026.

The Directions provide as follows:

- Introduction of derivatives on credit indices and total return swaps on corporate bonds.

The Directions are effective immediately.

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

▪ Updation to Risk Management and Inter-Bank Dealings Directions

The Reserve Bank of India, on September 22, 2026, updated the Master Direction - Risk Management and Inter-Bank Dealings, consolidating directions governing foreign exchange derivatives, overseas commodity and freight hedging, non-resident bank rupee accounts and inter-bank foreign exchange dealings.

The Master Direction provides as follows:

- Authorised Persons must comply with the prescribed directions for conducting foreign exchange transactions with customers and constituents.
- The Master Direction consolidates the applicable instructions and is updated from time to time to reflect changes in the regulatory framework.

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

▪ Updation to Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives Directions

The Reserve Bank of India, updated as on September 22, 2026, updated the Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives) Directions, 2025.

The Directions provide as follows:

- The Directions regulate Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives undertaken in the over-the-counter and recognised stock exchange markets.
- Eligible market participants may undertake prescribed interest rate derivative products, subject to applicable conditions and purpose-based requirements.

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

▪ Amendments to Export and Import of Goods and Services Regulations

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on September 22, 2026, issued the Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026.

The Amendment Regulations provide as follows:

- The period for realization and repatriation of export proceeds is reduced from 15 months to 9 months, with the extended period reduced from 18 months to 12 months.
- Exporters already on the Caution List as on September 30, 2026, will continue to be governed by the existing orders until removed from the list.
- Authorised Dealers may handle specified transactions undertaken before October 1, 2026, that previously required RBI approval.

The amendments come into force from October 1, 2026.

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

▪ **Regulation of Forward Contracts in Government Securities**

The Reserve Bank of India, on September 22, 2026, issued an updated Reserve Bank of India (Forward Contracts in Government Securities) Directions, 2025.

The Directions provide as follows:

- The Directions regulate bond forwards in government securities undertaken in the Over-the-Counter (OTC) market.
- Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding specified categories) and Standalone Primary Dealers may act as market-makers, while eligible non-retail users may undertake such transactions subject to prescribed conditions.
- Bond forwards may be physically, or cash settled and are subject to prescribed reporting and margining requirements.

The Directions are effective from May 2, 2025.

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

▪ **Updation to FEMA Reporting Master Direction**

The Reserve Bank of India, on September 23, 2026, updated the Master Direction - Reporting under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, which consolidates the reporting requirements and forms to be submitted by or through Authorised Persons and Authorised Dealer Category-I Banks.

The Master Direction provides as follows:

- Reporting requirements under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 are consolidated across foreign exchange transactions, including foreign investment, borrowing and lending, trade and overseas direct investment.
- Authorised Persons and Authorised Dealer Category-I Banks are required to ensure accurate and timely submission of prescribed reports and forms.

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

▪ **Updation to Master Direction on Money Transfer Service Scheme**

The Reserve Bank of India, updated as on September 29, 2026, updated the Master Direction - Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS) governing inward personal remittances from abroad to beneficiaries in India.

The Master Direction provides as follows:

- Indian Agents under MTSS must comply with prescribed eligibility, Net Owned Funds, collateral, KYC, Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism requirements.
- The scheme permits only inward personal remittances, with an individual remittance capped at USD 2,500 and a maximum of 30 remittances per beneficiary in a calendar year.
- Indian Agents remain responsible for the due diligence, audit, inspection and conduct of their Sub-Agents and must comply with prescribed reporting requirements.

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

▪ **Updation to Master Direction on Money Changing Activities**

The Reserve Bank of India, updated as on September 29, 2026, updated the Master Direction - Money Changing Activities, consolidating the directions applicable to authorised persons undertaking money changing activities.

The Master Direction provides as follows:

- Authorised Money Changers and other Authorised Persons must comply with the prescribed requirements for undertaking money changing activities under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.
- The Master Direction consolidates the applicable rules, directions and operational requirements relating to money changing activities and foreign exchange transactions.
- The Master Direction is applicable to Authorised Dealers and Full-Fledged Money Changers, as specified therein.

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

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

▪ **FAQs on Preferential Issue of Units by Infrastructure Investment Trusts**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), on September 28, 2026, issued FAQs on Preferential Issue of Units by Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs).

The FAQs provide as follows:

- Listed InvITs may undertake preferential issues subject to unitholder approval, six-month listing of existing units, stock exchange in-principle approval and applicable listing and disclosure requirements.
- The unitholder notice must disclose the purpose, NAV, proposed units, pre- and post-issue unitholding, completion timeline and ultimate beneficial owners.
- Pricing is based on the 90-day and 10-day volume weighted average prices for frequently traded units and NAV-based valuation for infrequently traded units.

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

▪ **FAQs on Preferential Issue of Units by Real Estate Investment Trusts**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), on September 28, 2026, issued FAQs on Preferential Issue of Units by Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).

The FAQs provide as follows:

- Preferential issues by listed REITs require unitholder approval, six-month listing of existing units and stock exchange in-principle approval.
- Persons transferring units during the preceding 90 trading days are generally ineligible, subject to specified exceptions. The issue is limited to 200 investors per financial year, excluding institutional investors.
- Pricing is based on the 90-day and 10-day volume weighted average prices for frequently traded units and NAV-based valuation for infrequently traded units

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

▪ **FAQs on Specialized Investment Funds for Investors**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), on September 22, 2026, issued FAQs on Specialized Investment Funds (SIFs) for investors.

The FAQs provide as follows:

- SIFs offer advanced investment strategies, including limited unhedged short exposure, with a minimum investment of ₹10 lakh per PAN, except for Accredited Investors.
- If investor-initiated transactions reduce holdings below ₹10 lakh, 30 days are provided to restore the threshold, failing which units may be redeemed.
- Redemption may be daily for equity, at least weekly for debt and twice weekly for hybrid strategies, with a notice period of up to 15 working days.
- SIFs are subject to applicable KYC requirements, five-level Risk-band disclosures and periodic portfolio disclosures.

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

▪ **FAQs on Specialized Investment Funds for Mutual Funds and Asset Management Companies**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), on September 22, 2026, issued FAQs on Specialized Investment Funds (SIFs) - Part B & C for Intermediaries and Distributors.

The FAQs provide as follows:

- Registered mutual funds may establish SIFs subject to prescribed eligibility criteria.
- SIFs must have a separate brand name and logo, approved by the Asset Management Company (AMC), Trustee Company and SEBI.
- AMCs must maintain a separate website or dedicated webpage for SIFs and comply with applicable requirements on advertisements, performance disclosures and investor education.
- The sponsor, AMC or mutual fund's existing brand may be used in SIF promotional material for the first five years from SEBI approval.

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

▪ **Common Reporting Platform Extended to Clearing Corporation Members**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), on September 17, 2026, issued a press release regarding the extension of Samuhik Prativedan Manch, a common technology-based reporting platform, to eligible Clearing Corporation Members (CMs).

The announcement provides as follows:

- From September 30, 2026, CMs who are also stock brokers may submit 14 compliance reports through the platform, covering approximately 60% of their reporting requirements.
- Reports submitted on the platform will be accessible to all relevant Clearing Corporations, eliminating duplicate reporting.
- The second phase, proposed from December 31, 2026, will cover the remaining reports and explore extension to Professional Clearing Members (PCMs).

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

▪ **Master Circular for Debenture Trustees**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), on September 28, 2026, issued a Master Circular for Debenture Trustees, consolidating the applicable circulars issued up to September 28, 2026.

The Master Circular provides as follows:

- The Master Circular dated August 13, 2025, stands rescinded and replaced by the new Master Circular.
- Existing actions, applications, rights, obligations, liabilities, penalties and proceedings under the rescinded Master Circular will continue to remain valid.
- The Master Circular consolidates the applicable requirements for Debenture Trustees chapter-wise at one place.

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

Industry-wise updates

Agriculture & other rural sectors

■ **New Plant Quarantine Requirements for Tissue-Cultured Aquatic Plants**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, on September 16, 2026, amended the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 by adding 64 tissue-cultured aquatic plant species from Denmark to the permitted import entries.

The Order provides as follows:

- Importers must obtain a Phytosanitary Certificate declaring that the plants were obtained from mother stock tested and maintained free from viruses and other pests.
- No additional special import conditions have been prescribed for these plants.
- The amendment is effective from September 23, 2026, i.e. the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

■ **Plant Quarantine Conditions for Import of Dried Taxus Leaves**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, on September 16, 2026, amended the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 to prescribe conditions for importing dried *Taxus wallichiana* var. *mairei* leaves for therapeutic purposes.

The Order provides as follows:

- Imports must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate confirming freedom from specified pests and diseases.
- The material must be free from soil, plant debris and quarantine weed seeds and undergo drying at 60°C for 18 hours, with the treatment recorded on the certificate.

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

■ **Specifications for Phosphogypsum (Granular) for Commercial Trials**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, on September 17, 2026, issued an Order notifying specifications for Phosphogypsum (Granular) to be manufactured for conducting commercial trials for a period of three years.

The Order provides as follows:

- Phosphogypsum (Granular) manufactured for commercial trials must comply with prescribed limits for moisture, sodium, sulphur, calcium sulphate dihydrate and fluoride content.
- At least 90% of the material must pass through a 4 mm IS sieve and be retained on a 1 mm IS sieve.
- The maximum limits for heavy metals have been prescribed.

The specifications will apply for three years from September 17, 2026.

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

■ **Prohibition on Registration of Paraquat Dichloride**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, on September 22, 2026, issued an Order prohibiting the registration of Paraquat Dichloride under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

The Order provides as follows:

- Registration of Paraquat Dichloride has been prohibited with effect from the date of publication of the Order.
- Existing certificates of registration granted for Paraquat Dichloride shall stand cancelled from the same date.
- The Registration Committee shall call back the existing certificates of registration.

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

■ **Addition of New Fertiliser Specifications and Analysis Methods**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, on September 24, 2026, issued an Order further amending the Fertiliser (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Order, 1985.

The Order provides as follows:

- Calcium Nitrate (granular) and Copper Sulphate (liquid) have been added to the prescribed specifications of fertilisers.
- New methods of analysis have been prescribed for total nitrogen, phosphorus, zinc, copper and potassium in nano fertilisers.
- The Order comes into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

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

Chemical Industries

■ Temporary Suspension of Quality Control Requirements for Linear Alkyl Benzene

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, , on September 29, 2026, issued an Order further amending the Linear Alkyl Benzene (Quality Control) Order, 2022.

The Order provides as follows:

- The requirement of conformity to the specified Indian Standard for Linear Alkyl Benzene shall remain suspended from April 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.
- The suspension has been provided to prevent supply chain disruption and ensure availability of Linear Alkyl Benzene.

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

■ Extension of RELIEF Intervention Eligibility Timeline for Export Facilitation

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), on September 30, 2026, issued Notification, further extending the timelines under Component I of the Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF) under the Export Promotion Mission.

The Notification provides as follows:

- The eligibility and validity criteria have been extended up to March 31, 2027 for shipments meant for delivery or transshipment under the intervention.
- The extension is intended to facilitate trade resilience and support exporters facing continuing logistics challenges arising from the West Asia crisis.
- All other provisions of the earlier notifications remain unchanged.

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

■ Extension of Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products Scheme up to December 31, 2026

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), on September 30, 2026, notified the continuation of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme up to December 31, 2026.

The Notification provides as follows:

- The RoDTEP Scheme shall continue to apply to eligible exports by Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) units, Advance Authorisation (AA) holders, Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units and Export Oriented Units (EOUs) up to December 31, 2026.
- The existing RoDTEP rates and value caps under Appendices 4R and 4RE, as applicable on September 30, 2026, shall remain unchanged.
- All other terms and conditions of the Scheme shall remain unchanged.

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

■ Extension of Timeline for Surrender of Unutilised Raw Sugar TRQ

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), on September 30, 2026, issued a Public Notice extending the timeline for surrender of unutilised Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) quantity allocated for import of Raw Sugar.

The Public Notice provides as follows:

- TRQ holders may surrender any unutilised quantity allocated under the Raw Sugar TRQ up to October 15, 2026.
- Surrender shall be subject to payment of 0.5% of the Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) value of the surrendered quantity.

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

■ Extension of Minimum Import Price Condition on Sulfadiazine Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API)

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), on September 30, 2026, issued a Notification extending the Minimum Import Price (MIP) condition on imports of Sulfadiazine API covered under Chapter 29 of ITC (HS), 2022, Schedule-I (Import Policy).

The Notification provides as follows:

- The MIP condition of Rs. 1,774 per kg on the Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) value of Sulfadiazine API, being the value below which the item cannot be imported, stands extended up to November 30, 2026.
- All other terms and conditions of the earlier notification remain unchanged.

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

▪ **Extension of Minimum Import Price Condition on ATS-8**

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), on September 30, 2026, issued a Notification extending the Minimum Import Price (MIP) condition on specific items covered under Chapter 29 of ITC (HS), 2022, Schedule-I (Import Policy).

The Notification provides as follows:

- The MIP condition of USD 111 per kg on the Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) value of ATS-8 {(4R-Cis)-1,1-Dimethylethyl-6-cyanomethyl-2,2-dimethyl-1-3-dioxane-4-acetate}, being the value below which the item cannot be imported, stands extended up to November 30, 2026.

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

▪ **Extension of Minimum Import Price Condition on Virgin Multi-layer Paper Board**

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), on September 30, 2026, issued a Notification extending the Minimum Import Price (MIP) condition on specific items covered under Chapter 48 of ITC (HS), 2022, Schedule-I (Import Policy).

The Notification provides as follows:

- The MIP condition of INR 67,220 per MT on the Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) value of Virgin Multi-layer Paper Board (VPB), being the value below which the item cannot be imported, stands extended by six months up to March 31, 2027.

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

Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

▪ **New Standards for Active Electrical Energy Meters**

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Consumer Affairs, on September 15, 2026, notified the Legal Metrology (General) Fifth Amendment Rules, 2026, introducing requirements for active electrical energy meters.

The Notification provide as follows:

- New metrological and technical requirements have been prescribed for electricity meters, including prepayment, multi-tariff, direct-connected and transformer-operated meters.
- Requirements have been specified for accuracy classes, permissible errors, operating conditions, energy-flow measurement and performance under disturbances.
- The provisions shall come into force 180 days from publication in the Official Gazette.

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

▪ **Voluntary Aadhaar Authentication for WDRA Services**

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, on September 15, 2026, published the use of Aadhaar authentication by the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) and its regulated repositories.

The Notification provides as follows:

- Aadhaar authentication may be used voluntarily for onboarding and service transactions through WDRA and regulated repository platforms.
- Consent is mandatory, and services cannot be denied for refusing or being unable to undergo Aadhaar authentication.
- Alternate identification documents such as PAN, Driving Licence, Passport and Voter Identity Card must be accepted.

The Notification takes effect from its publication in the Official Gazette.

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

▪ **New Labelling Requirements for Cosmetics and Toiletries**

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, on September 21, 2026, notified the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2026, introducing additional labelling requirements for certain packaged products.

The Notification provide as follows:

- Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, cosmetics and toiletries must display a red/brown dot for products of non-vegetarian origin and a green dot for products of vegetarian origin at the top of the principal display panel.

The amendments shall come into force from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

Commerce and Industries

■ **Revision in Timeline for Issuance of Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificates**

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), on September 16, 2026, issued a Trade Notice revising the timeline for issuance of Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificates (PSICs).

The Trade Notice provides as follows:

- Recognised Pre-Shipment Inspection Agencies (PSIAs) have been given a one-time seven-day relaxation to clear backlog PSICs for inspections conducted before August 25, 2026.
- PSICs shall be generated and issued within two days of inspection and uploaded from the same geographical location or country where the inspection was conducted.

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

■ **Extension of Timeline for Surrender of Unutilised Raw Sugar Tariff Rate Quota**

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), on September 17, 2026, published a Public Notice extending the timeline for surrender of unutilised Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) quantity allocated for import of 10 lakh metric tonnes of raw sugar.

The Public Notice provides as follows:

- TRQ holders may surrender any unutilised quantity up to September 30, 2026.
- Surrender shall be subject to payment of 0.5% of the Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) value of the surrendered quantity.

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

■ **Gas Cylinders Rules Amended for Mobile Refuelling Units**

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, on September 21, 2026, notified the Gas Cylinder (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, further amending the Gas Cylinders Rules, 2016.

The Rules provide as follows:

- Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)/Compressed Biogas (CBG) Mobile Refuelling Units (MRUs) may dispense gas into approved on-board fuel cylinders of specified vehicles and equipment.
- CNG MRUs shall be owned by authorised City Gas Distribution companies, while CBG MRUs shall be owned by Form E&F licensees.
- MRUs shall be filled only at designated licensed premises and shall not be used for unauthorised public retail dispensing.

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

Electronics and Information Technology

■ **Guidelines for Film Certification**

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, on September 16, 2026, issued revised Guidelines for Film Certification, superseding the guidelines dated December 6, 1991.

The Guidelines provide as follows:

- Films must avoid glorification of violence, crime, drug or tobacco use, cruelty, sexual violence and discrimination.
- Films depicting narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances must carry the prescribed statutory warning.
- Films may be certified as U/A 7+, U/A 13+ or U/A 16+ based on content and need for parental guidance.
- Film titles must not be provocative, vulgar or offensive.

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

■ **Compulsory Registration for Smartphone Screen Protectors**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, on September 21, 2026, amended the Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirement of Compulsory Registration) Order, 2021 to include screen protectors for smartphones.

The Notification provides as follows:

- Screen Protectors for smartphones have been added to the Schedule under S. No. 66, with IS 19348:2025 - Glass Screen Protector - Specification as the applicable Indian Standard.
- The compulsory registration requirements under the 2021 Order will apply to such products from April 1, 2027.

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

Forest and Environment

▪ **Draft Rules on Environmental Compensation for Stubble Burning**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, on September 17, 2026, issued draft Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (Imposition, Collection and Utilization of Environmental Compensation for Stubble Burning) Rules, 2026, proposing to supersede the 2023 Rules and their 2024 amendment.

The Draft Rules provide as follows:

- Environmental compensation may be imposed at INR 5,000 per incident for land below 2 acres, INR 10,000 for land of 2 acres or more but below 5 acres, and INR 30,000 for land above 5 acres.
- The compensation must be paid within 30 days of issuance of the challan; unpaid amounts may be recovered as arrears of land revenue, with a corresponding red entry in the land revenue record.

The Draft Rules would apply to Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and the National Capital Region of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and are proposed to come into force upon publication in the Official Gazette.

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

Home

▪ **Substitution of Secretary Designation for Capital Development Matters**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, on September 1, 2026, notified the substitution of the designation of the competent authority for matters allocated to the Department of Capital Development.

The notification provides that:

- References to "Secretary, Urban Development" or "Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs" in any Act, rule, regulation, notification, order, guideline, bye-law or scheme shall, in relation to subjects allocated to the Department of Capital Development, be substituted with "Secretary, Department of Capital Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs."
- Actions taken, orders passed or things done by the Secretary, Urban Development or Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs before September 1, 2026, in relation to such subjects shall remain valid and shall be deemed to have been taken by the competent authority.

The change follows the constitution of the Department of Capital Development within the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and allocation of subjects to the Department under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.

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

▪ **Amendment to Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Targets**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, on September 21, 2026, notified the Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target (Amendment) Rules, 2026, further amending the Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025 under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023.

The Amendment Rules provide as follows:

- The entries under the Sector: Petroleum Refinery in the Second Schedule of the principal Rules have been substituted with revised entries.
- The amendment also provides for substitution of specified existing entries under the Petroleum Refinery and Textile sectors notified through the notification dated January 13, 2026.
- The Amendment Rules come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

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

▪ **Extended Validity of Environmental Clearance for Port Projects**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, on September 21, 2026, amended the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 to rationalise the validity period of Environmental Clearance for ports and related projects.

The Amendment provides as follows:

- Prior Environmental Clearance for ports, harbours, breakwaters and dredging will now be valid for 20 years, replacing the earlier 10-year validity.

- The validity may be extended by 5 years, subject to review of existing environmental safeguards and incorporation of additional safeguards in the Environmental Management Plan, where required.
- In deserving cases, a further 5-year extension may be granted where the project remains non-operational, subject to environmental safeguards being reviewed.

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

■ **Permitted Storage of Additional Chemicals in Island Coastal Regulation Zones**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, on September 22, 2026, amended the Island Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019 to permit storage of specified petroleum products in CRZ areas, excluding CRZ-IA.

The Amendment provides as follows:

- Linear Alkyl Benzene, N-Paraffin and Carbon Black Feedstock have been added to the list of products permitted for receipt and storage in CRZ areas, excluding CRZ-IA.
- The amendment comes into force from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

Health

■ **Changes Proposed to New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, on September 16, 2026, published draft rules proposing amendments to the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019.

The Rules provide as follows:

- The requirement to mention "for export purpose only" in specified applications for clinical trial-related permissions is proposed to be removed.
- Provisions are proposed to recognise prior intimation and deemed approval as alternatives to the existing approval process under specified cases.
- Corresponding changes are proposed to Forms CT-05 and CT-07 and related provisions.

The draft rules will be considered after 30 days from the date the Gazette is made available for public comments.

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

■ **Draft Requirement for CCTV Surveillance at Retail Drug Premises**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Health and Family Welfare, on September 16, 2026, published draft rules to further amend the Drugs Rules, 1945.

The Draft Rules provide as follows:

- Retail supply of prescription drugs, other than wholesale dealing, is proposed to be made through premises equipped with a Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance system.
- The CCTV recordings would be required to be preserved for a minimum period of 3 months.
- Objections and suggestions may be submitted within 30 days from the date the Gazette is made available to the public.
- The proposal will take effect only upon final publication of the amendment rules.

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

■ **Draft Exemption for Levonorgestrel Emergency Contraceptive Pills**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Health and Family Welfare, on September 16, 2026, published draft rules to amend the Drugs Rules, 1945, proposing an exemption for Levonorgestrel Tablets 0.75 mg/1.5 mg from specified sale-licensing requirements.

The Draft Rules provide as follows:

- Levonorgestrel Tablets 0.75 mg/1.5 mg are proposed to be included under Schedule K as an exempted drug.
- The packaging and package insert must carry prescribed warnings stating that the emergency contraceptive pill is for emergency use only, is not an abortion pill and does not protect against HIV or sexually transmitted infections.
- Frequent use warnings and advice to consult a health facility or Registered Medical Practitioner for regular contraception must also be provided.
- The draft will be considered after 30 days, and will take effect only upon final publication in the Official Gazette.

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

Labour & Employment

■ **Corrigendum to Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, 2026**

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, on September 16, 2026, issued a Corrigendum, relating to the Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, 2026.

The Corrigendum provides as follows:

- References to provident funds exempted under Section 143 of the Code on Social Security, 2020 have been incorporated at specified places in the Scheme.
- The provision relating to amounts payable to eligible family members has been corrected to include the nominee, wherever applicable.
- Certain references, terminology and calculation errors in the Scheme have been corrected, including "46" to "44" and "?+?-?" to "1+2-3".
- The corrections also include changes in terminology such as "deposit-linked" and "establishment/establishments".

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

■ **Revision in Inspection Charges for Exempted Establishments**

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, through a corrigendum dated September 17, 2026, has revised the inspection charge applicable to establishments exempted from the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952.

The Corrigendum provide as follows:

- The inspection charge has been reduced from 0.35% to 0.18% of wages, subject to a minimum of INR 8,750.

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

■ **Revision of Wage Ceiling under the Code on Social Security, 2020**

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, on September 17, 2026, vide Notification has superseded Notification No. S.O. 2702(E) dated May 29, 2026, revising the wage ceiling prescribed for the purposes of Chapter III of the Code on Social Security, 2020. The wage ceiling for the purposes of Chapter III has been fixed at INR 25,000 per month, with effect from September 17, 2026, being the date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette

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

■ **Corrigendum to Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 2026**

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, on September 24, 2026, published a Corrigendum, relating to the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 2026.

The Corrigendum provides as follows:

- Corrections have been made to specified provisions relating to employees, international workers, contributions and exempted provident funds.
- Various provisions relating to forms, administrative charges, withdrawals, nominations and interest accounts have been corrected.
- Several typographical, terminology, cross-reference and calculation errors have also been rectified throughout the Scheme.

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

■ **Expansion of Coverage under Employees' Pension Scheme, 2026**

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, on September 25, 2026, amended the Employees' Pension Scheme, 2026 to expand the eligibility for membership under the Scheme.

The Amendment provides as follows:

- Employees who are members of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 2026 but are not members of the Employees' Pension Scheme will be eligible for membership, subject to their wages being within the wage ceiling notified by the Central Government.

The amendment shall be effective from September 17, 2026.

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

Coal and Mining

■ **Penalty Provisions for Coal Block Allocation Rules**

The Ministry of Coal, on September 16, 2026, notified the Coal Blocks Allocation (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026.

The Amendment Rules provide as follows:

- Rule 18 has been inserted prescribing penalties for contravention of the Coal Blocks Allocation Rules, 2017.
- Penalties will apply in accordance with Sections 25A and 25B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Mines and Minerals Adjudication of Penalties Rules, 2026.

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

▪ **Revised Penalty Provisions under Colliery Control Rules**

The Ministry of Coal, on September 16, 2026, notified the Colliery Control (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026.

The Amendment Rules provide as follows:

- Rule 13 of the Colliery Control Rules, 2004 has been substituted to prescribe penalties for contravention of the Rules.
- Penalties will be imposed in accordance with Sections 25A and 25B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Mines and Minerals Adjudication of Penalties Rules, 2026.

The Amendment Rules come into force from September 9, 2026.

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

▪ **Reduction in Time Periods under Offshore Areas Mineral Auction Rules**

The Ministry of Mines, on September 24, 2026, notified the Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Amendment Rules, 2026, amending the auction process under the Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2024.

The Notification provide as follows:

- The time periods prescribed under Rule 9 for specified stages of the offshore mineral auction process have been reduced from three years to two years.
- The amendment shall come into force from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

Oil & gas production

▪ **Amendments to Technical and Safety Standards for City Gas Distribution Networks**

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board, on September 18, 2026, notified the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Technical Standards and Specifications including Safety Standards for City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Amendment Regulations, 2026.

The Notification provide as follows:

- Multi-layered composite (MLC) pipes complying with ISO 17484-1 or IS 17544 may be used upstream of consumer meters, subject to prescribed safety and installation requirements.
- Requirements relating to DPRS/IPRS fencing, above-ground service piping and use of existing LPG manifold pipeline systems for PNG supply have been revised.
- Squeezing and reopening of thermoplastic pipes at the same location is prohibited, with a minimum distance of one metre between consecutive squeeze-off locations.
- The amendments are effective from September 18, 2026, the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

Shipping, ports, fisheries

▪ **Requirements for Medicines and Medical Officers on Indian Ships**

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, on September 16, 2026, notified the Merchant Shipping (Medicines, Medical Stores, Appliances, and Medical Officers) Rules, 2026, replacing the earlier rules.

The Notification provide as follows:

- Ships of 200 gross tonnage or more must carry prescribed medicines, medical stores and appliances and maintain related records.
- Medicines must be properly labelled and stored, with poisons and controlled substances kept under lock and key.
- Ships carrying more than 100 persons, including crew, must carry a qualified Medical Officer.

The Rules shall come into force from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

▪ **New Requirements for Ships Operating in Indian Coastal Waters**

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, on September 16, 2026, notified the Merchant Shipping (Regulation of Entry of Ships into Coastal Waters) Rules, 2026, replacing the 2012 Rules.

The Rules provide as follows:

- Ships operating in Indian coastal waters must maintain prescribed insurance, class certification and marine pollution response contracts.
- Foreign ships must submit required documents to the port authority at least 48 hours before port entry.
- Non-compliance may result in denial of entry or detention of ships and applicable penalties.

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

▪ **Registration and Safety Requirements for Sailing Vessels**

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, on September 16, 2026, notified the Merchant Shipping (Sailing Vessels) Rules, 2026, superseding the 1997 Rules.

The Rules provide as follows:

- Every mechanised sailing vessel engaged in sea-going trade must be registered and obtain a certificate of registry.
- No vessel may ply or proceed to sea without an assigned freeboard and the required inspection and survey.
- Applications for registration, alterations and transfer of ownership must be made in the prescribed forms within the specified timelines.

The Rules come into force from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

▪ **Rules for Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Ships**

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, on September 21, 2026, published the Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) Rules, 2026, replacing the Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Cargo) Rules, 1995.

The Rules provide as follows:

- Ships carrying dangerous goods in packaged or solid bulk form must comply with the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code, including requirements for packaging, labelling, stowage, segregation and documentation.
- Ships carrying dangerous chemicals, liquefied gases or radioactive materials must comply with the applicable international safety codes and certification requirements.
- Non-compliance by owners, masters, shippers or other relevant persons is subject to penalties under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.

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

▪ **Rules for Prevention of Oil Pollution from Vessels**

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, on September 22, 2026, published the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Oil from Vessels) Rules, 2026, replacing the earlier rules.

The Notification provide as follows:

- Vessels must comply with prescribed oil pollution prevention, discharge and record-keeping requirements.
- Oil tankers of 150 gross tonnage and above and other vessels of 400 gross tonnage and above are subject to prescribed surveys and certification.
- Ports must provide reception facilities for oil and oily waste from vessels.

The Rules are effective from publication in the Official Gazette.

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

▪ **Rules for Control of Discharge of Noxious Liquid Substances from Ships**

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, on September 22, 2026, published the Merchant Shipping (Control of Discharge of Noxious Liquid Substances) Rules, 2026, replacing the 2010 Rules.

The Rules provide as follows:

- Vessels carrying noxious liquid substances in bulk must comply with prescribed design, equipment, pumping, piping and discharge requirements to prevent marine pollution.
- Discharge of residues, tank washings and mixtures containing Category X, Y or Z substances is restricted and permitted only subject to prescribed conditions.
- Where discharge is permitted, it must generally be made at least 12 nautical miles from land, in water at least 25 metres deep and through approved underwater discharge outlets.

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

Telecommunication

■ **Revised Standards for Telecommunication Equipment**

The Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunications, on September 17, 2026, notified the following revised standards for telecommunication equipment through the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC):

- TEC 49111:2026 – Test Guide: Element Management System (eMS) for Next Generation Network (NGN).
- TEC 52011:2026 – Test Guide: Structured Local Area Network (LAN) Cabling.

The revised standards shall come into effect from the date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

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

■ **Adoption of TSDSI-Transposed Standards as National Standards**

The Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunications, on September 17, 2026, notified 202 Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI)-transposed 3GPP Standards (Release 15-18) for adoption as National Standards.

The Notification provides as follows:

- The 202 transposed standards are adopted as National Standards for telecommunication equipment.
- The adopted National Standards are available on the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) website.

The standards come into effect from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

■ **Revised Standard for E-band Fixed Radio Relay System**

The Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunications, on September 17, 2026, notified the following revised standard for telecommunication equipment through the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC):

- TEC56432609 - Essential Requirements: E-band Fixed Radio Relay System.

The existing and revised standards shall remain concurrently applicable for 90 days, after which only the revised standard shall apply.

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

■ **Revised Standards for Telecommunication Equipment**

The Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunications, on September 18, 2026, notified revised standards for telecommunication equipment.

- TEC 45070:2026 - Generic Requirements for 40, 30 and 20 metre towers for cellular systems.
- TEC 59061:2026 - Test Guide for Trunk Media Gateway.

The revised standards shall be effective from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

■ **New Standards for Telecommunication Equipment**

The Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunications, on September 18, 2026, notified three new standards for telecommunication equipment under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

The Notification provides as follows:

- TEC 66101:2026 - Test Guide for Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) based standalone/hybrid power supply for Wi-Fi and similar telecom terminals.
- TEC 49141:2026 - Test Guide for Intrusion Prevention Systems.
- TEC 88321:2026 - Test Guide for Passive Optical Network Optical Time Domain Reflectometer for Fibre to the Home (FTTH) applications.

The standards come into effect from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

■ **Mandate of Voice and SMS-Only Tariff Options in Telecom Services**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), on September 21, 2026, issued a press release notifying the Telecom Consumer Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2026.

The Regulations provide as follows:

- Telecom service providers must offer Special Tariff Vouchers (STVs) exclusively for Voice and Short Message Service (SMS) for validity periods corresponding to existing Voice, SMS and data STVs.
- Such STVs must include options for 30 days or less, monthly renewal on the same date, and at least one longer-validity option, with appropriate tariff reduction.

The amendment aims to provide more affordable and flexible recharge options for consumers who do not require data services.

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

▪ **Digital Connectivity Rating Platform for Properties**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), on September 25, 2026, launched the Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform to facilitate rating and public disclosure of digital connectivity of properties.

The Platform provides as follows:

- Property Managers can register properties, submit rating applications and documents, select a registered Digital Connectivity Rating Agency (DCRA) and track the rating process.
- Registered DCRAAs can conduct connectivity assessments, record test results and issue digital rating certificates through the platform.
- Consumers can search rated properties, view and verify digitally signed rating certificates through the platform.
- The platform operates under the Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, 2024, as amended in 2026, and the Rating Manual 2026.

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

▪ **Mandatory Voice and SMS-Only Tariff Options in Telecom Services**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), on September 21, 2026, notified the Telecom Consumers Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, further amending the Telecom Consumers Protection Regulations, 2012.

The Amendment Regulations provide as follows:

- Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) must offer Special Tariff Vouchers (STVs) exclusively for Voice and SMS, with an appropriate reduction in tariff.
- Such STVs must be offered for validities of 30 days and less than 30 days corresponding to the validity periods of existing Voice, SMS and data STVs.
- TSPs must also offer an STV renewable on the same date every month, and at least one STV with a longer validity corresponding to an existing Voice, SMS and data STV.
- The Amendment Regulations shall come into force after 30 days from their publication in the Official Gazette.

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

Transport including aviation, railways, road, inland waterways

▪ **Draft Requirement for Retrofitting Emission Control Devices in Heavy Motor Vehicles**

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, on September 16, 2026, published draft rules further amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 to prescribe requirements for retrofitting emission control devices in certain motor vehicles.

The Draft Rules provide as follows:

- A new Rule 115-DA is proposed to require retro-fitment of Retrofit Emission Control Devices (RECDs) on M and N category vehicles having Gross Vehicle Weight exceeding 3,500 kg and equipped with Compression Ignition engines.
- The retro-fitment of RECDs must conform to the requirements of AIS-228, as amended from time to time.

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

Utilities (water, gas, electricity)

▪ **Draft Technical Requirements for Renewable Energy Plants**

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA), on September 16, 2026, notified the draft Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Construction of Electric Plants and Electric Lines) 2nd Amendment Regulations, 2026.

The Draft Regulations provide as follows:

- Renewable energy plants commissioned after July 1, 2027, must have at least 15% grid-forming inverters, with all Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Power Conversion Systems having grid-forming control.
- Ground-mounted solar and on-shore wind plants must have co-located Energy Storage Systems (ESS) of at least 10% of installed capacity, with 2-hour storage for plants commissioned after July 1, 2027, and 4-hour storage for plants commissioned after July 1, 2029, and up to June 30, 2031.
- Objections and suggestions may be submitted within 30 days of publication in the Official Gazette.

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

▪ **Amendments to Deviation Settlement Mechanism for Renewable Energy Projects**

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), on September 16, 2026, published the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Deviation Settlement Mechanism and Related Matters) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2026.

The Amendment Regulations provide as follows:

- Deviation charges for Wind and Solar (WS) Sellers will be treated at par with General Sellers for projects bid on or after January 1, 2027, and other projects commissioned on or after January 1, 2029.
- Infirm power injected by standalone Energy Storage Systems (ESS) before completion of the trial run will be paid at the normal deviation rate, subject to a ceiling on INR 2/kWh.
- Deviation charges may be paid within the timeline specified in the Detailed Procedure approved by CERC, in addition to the existing 10-day timeline.

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

▪ **Corporate Average Fuel Economy Norms for M1 Category Motor Vehicles**

The Ministry of Power, on September 29, 2026, notified the Corporate Average Fuel Economy Norms and energy consumption standards for M1 category motor vehicles for the period from April 1, 2027, to March 31, 2032.

The Notification provides as follows:

- Manufacturers must meet prescribed annual Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards based on the weighted average mass of vehicles manufactured or imported for domestic sale.
- Manufacturers must report prescribed fuel consumption, CO₂ performance and sales data, including MIDC and WLTP performance data from April 1, 2027.
- Credits and debits will be assessed annually; credits may be pooled or traded, while debit balances may be offset through prescribed credit buyout.
- Manufacturers with fewer than 1,000 eligible vehicles in a reporting period are exempt from specific CAFE targets but must continue reporting actual fuel consumption.

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

State-wise updates

Andhra Pradesh

▪ **Drafts Risk-Based Amendments to Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2011**

The Government of Andhra Pradesh, vide notification dated September 23, 2026, issued draft amendments to the Andhra Pradesh Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2011. The proposed rules introduce a risk-tiered compliance framework aimed at simplifying verification protocols, expanding self-certification options, and rationalizing verification fee structures across various industrial and commercial instruments.

The draft proposes the following changes:

- Establishes a tiered regulatory classification, i.e., categorizing weights and measuring instruments into High-Risk, Medium-Risk, and Low-Risk buckets.
- Users of equipment designated as Low-Risk can perform periodic re-verification and online self-certification subject to payment of verification fees, submission of self-declarations, and maintaining valid model approval and purchase records.
- Low-risk, self-certified equipment is exempt from mandatory physical stamping, provided a valid Certificate-cum-Declaration (Schedule VIII-A) is prominently displayed on the premises.
- Updates Schedule IX to establish a revised, unified fee framework covering specialized and advanced measuring instruments.

Stakeholders, industry associations, and the general public are invited to submit objections or suggestions within 7 days from the date of publication of the draft notification.

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

▪ **Cost of Living Index Numbers Effective October 1, 2026**

The Labour Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, vide notification dated September 28, 2026, updated the Cost-of-Living Index Numbers applicable to scheduled employments across the state.

The notification clarifies the following:

- The revised Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers and corresponding Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) rates come into force on October 1, 2026, till March 31, 2027.
- Applies to employees covered under the scheduled employments listed under Part I (Industrial) and Part II (Agricultural) of the Schedule to the Minimum Wages framework.
- Establishes revised CPI and COLA rates across diverse commercial and industrial operations, including:
 - Factories and general engineering works
 - o Building and construction operations
 - o Chemical and pharmaceutical units
 - o Cement products and brick kilns

Accordingly, employers across all listed scheduled employments must adjust their payroll structures starting October 1, 2026, to ensure compliance with the updated statutory wage thresholds.

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

Assam

▪ **Appointment of Authorities under the Industrial Relations Code, 2020**

The Labour Welfare Department, Government of Assam, on September 23, 2026, vide Notification Nos. E-749100/1 to E-749100/5, has appointed authorities under various provisions of the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.

The following has been stated, namely:

- All Assistant Labour Commissioners in Assam have been appointed as the authority to whom an employer is required to serve notice in case of retrenchment of a worker who has been in continuous service for not less than one year.
- Assistant Labour Commissioners, Labour Officers and Labour Inspectors have been appointed as Conciliation Officers for mediating in and promoting settlement of industrial disputes within their respective jurisdictions.
- The Labour Commissioner, Assam has been appointed as the Certifying Officer for performing functions under Chapter IV of the Code throughout Assam.
- The Senior Most Secretary, Labour Welfare Department, Government of Assam has been appointed as the Appellate Authority for functions under Section 32 throughout Assam.

- The Labour Commissioner, Additional Labour Commissioner, Deputy Labour Commissioner and Assistant Labour Commissioners have been designated as the Registrar, Additional Registrar, Joint Registrar and Deputy Registrar of Trade Unions, respectively.

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

▪ **Appointment of Authorities under the Code on Social Security, 2020**

The Labour Welfare Department, Government of Assam, on September 23, 2026, vide Notification Nos. E-730515/118, E-730515/119 and E-730515/121, has appointed authorities under specified provisions of the Code on Social Security, 2020.

The following has been stated:

- Assistant Labour Commissioners, Labour Officers and Labour Inspectors have been appointed as Inspector-cum-Facilitators under Section 122(1) to perform functions under Section 122(6) within their respective jurisdictions, with emphasis on facilitation, guidance and ensuring compliance by employers and employees.
- All Assistant Labour Commissioners (Independent Charge) and Labour Officers (Independent Charge) have been appointed as the Competent Authority for Chapter VII relating to Employees' Compensation within their respective jurisdictions.
- All Assistant Labour Commissioners (Independent Charge) and Labour Officers (Independent Charge) have been appointed as the Competent Authority for Chapter V relating to Gratuity.

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

Bihar

▪ **Bihar Self-Certification and Third-Party Audit and Certification Scheme, 2026**

The Labour Resources and Migrant Workers Welfare Department, Government of Bihar, vide notification on September 18, 2026, published the Bihar Self-Certification and Third-Party Audit and Certification Scheme, 2026 under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (Bihar) Rules, 2026.

The key highlights of the scheme include:

- The Scheme establishes a risk-based compliance verification framework through the Central Inspection System (CIS) Portal, providing for self-certification for Low Risk establishments and third-party audit and certification for Medium Risk establishments. It applies to establishments registered under the Code where the State Government is the appropriate Government and which are classified as Low or Medium Risk.
- Participation in the self-certification or third-party audit framework is optional for employers.
- Low Risk establishments opting for self-certification will generally not be selected for routine risk-based inspection during the validity of the self-certification, subject to specified exceptions. The CIS Portal may also randomly select not more than 5% of such establishments for verification in each financial year.
- Medium Risk establishments may opt for third-party safety audit and certification, with the expert assigned randomly through the CIS Portal. Audit findings are classified as Critical, Major or Minor, requiring corrective action within 72 hours, 15 days and 30 days, respectively.
- The employer may respond to provisional findings within 7 days and must submit an Action Taken Report with proof of compliance within 30 days of the final audit report. Timely compliance will generally exempt the establishment from routine risk-based inspection during the certification period.

The Scheme comes into force from September 18, 2026, being the date of its publication in the Official Gazette. Chapter III, will become operative from the date on which the randomised expert-allocation module on the CIS Portal is declared functional by the Labour Commissioner, Bihar.

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

▪ **One-Time Settlement Scheme for Outstanding Royalty of Brick Kilns in Bihar**

The Mines and Geology Department, Government of Bihar, on September 22, 2026, issued a Notification regarding a One-Time Settlement Scheme for recovery of outstanding royalty dues from brick kilns for brick seasons up to 2024–25. The Scheme has been introduced in view of the substantial outstanding dues and the accumulation of interest on such dues.

The following has been stated, namely:

- Under the Scheme, the amount payable for one-time settlement will be the outstanding amount after excluding the interest component from the dues mentioned in the recovery proceedings. Upon deposit of the settlement amount along with the District Mineral Foundation contribution, income tax and other applicable taxes, the concerned Mining

Officer will report that no public demand remains outstanding against the concerned auction defaulter, enabling disposal of the related auction proceedings.

- The Scheme provides for relaxation, for the specified period, of Rule 38(5) and Rule 55 of the Bihar Minerals (Concession, Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage) Rules, 2019 (as amended in 2026), along with earlier departmental letters/directions issued in this regard.
- The One-Time Settlement Scheme will remain in force from September 21, 2026, to December 20, 2026, i.e. for a period of three months.

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

■ **Appointment of Chief Inspector-cum-Facilitator under the OSHWC Code, 2020**

The Labour Resource and Migrant Labour Welfare Department, Government of Bihar, vide Notification dated September 28, 2026, has appointed the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bihar, as the Chief Inspector-cum-Facilitator under Section 34(5) of the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, read with Rule 32(1) of the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (Bihar) Rules, 2026, in respect of factories for which the State Government is the appropriate Government.

The qualifications of the Chief Inspector-cum-Facilitator will be determined in accordance with the applicable service rules, and the appointed officer will be deemed to possess the qualifications required under Section 34(5) of the Code.

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

■ **Appointment of Inspectors-cum-Facilitators for Factories under the OSHWC Code, 2020**

The Labour Resource and Migrant Labour Welfare Department, Government of Bihar, vide Notification dated September 28, 2026, has appointed all Deputy Chief Inspectors of Factories and all Inspectors of Factories as Inspectors-cum-Facilitators under Section 34(1) of the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, for factories for which the State Government is the appropriate Government. Each Inspector-cum-Facilitator will exercise the powers under the Code within the local limits of their respective jurisdiction.

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

Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu

■ **Extension of Permission for Temporary Use of Alternative Fuels**

The Pollution Control Committee, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, vide Order dated September 25, 2026, issued a further extension of permission allowing industrial units across the Union Territory to utilize alternative fuels. The order comes in continuation of earlier temporary directives Order No. 61 dated 13/03/2026, Order No. 107 dated 21/05/2026, and Order No. 121 dated 08/06/2026 issued to address persistent disruptions and supply shortages in natural gas.

As per the Order,

- Permission to utilize approved alternative fuels is extended for a further period of 15 days from the date of issuance.
- The relaxation remains strictly temporary in nature and is subject to continuous review based on natural gas supply stabilization.
- All regulatory conditions, operational parameters, and environmental safeguards prescribed in the initial order dated March 13, 2026, and subsequent extension orders remain unchanged and fully binding on industrial operators.
- Industrial units utilizing alternative fuels must maintain operational compliance with Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) standards and ensure continuous operation of prescribed Air Pollution Control Devices (APCDs) during the extended period.

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

Goa

■ **Goa Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Act, 2026**

The Department of Law, Legal Affairs Division, Government of Goa, vide notification dated September 18, 2026, published the Goa Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Act, 2026, further amending the Goa Land Revenue Code, 1968.

The following has been notified, namely:

- Section 4 has been substituted to list the classes of revenue and survey officers the Government may appoint, and to allow the constitution of a common cadre across all offices under the control of the Revenue Department. The Revenue Secretary is now the cadre

controlling authority for the seniority list, transfers and promotions of Revenue Inspectors, Awal Karkuns, Village Accountants or Talathis and other notified subordinate employees.

- The period specified in sub-sections (3) and (7) of Section 38A has been extended from six months to eighteen months.
- First appeals heard, orders passed and proceedings conducted by the Superintendent of Surveys and Land Records before the commencement of the Amendment Act have been validated, and no proceeding can be maintained or continued merely on the ground that the Superintendent lacked jurisdiction to decide such appeals.
- The Goa Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 has been repealed, with actions taken under it saved.

The Act came into force at once, except Section 4, which is deemed to have come into force on April 10, 2026.

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

■ **Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026**

The Goa Legislature Secretariat published the Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 46 of 2026), introduced in the Legislative Assembly of Goa on August 31, 2026, further amending the Goa Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1974.

The following has been provided for:

- The entry in Part 'B', item (B) of the Schedule relating to construction equipment vehicles, that is, self-propelled machinery designed for off-highway construction work such as excavators, loaders, dumpers, graders and mobile cranes, as defined under rule 2 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, has been substituted. Tax is now payable either at 1% of the cost of the vehicle annually or at 9% of the cost as one-time tax at the time of registration, against the earlier position of 9% as one-time tax alone.
- The rate itself remains unchanged, the amendment giving the registered owner the option between the annual and the one-time basis.
- The Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 has been repealed, with actions taken under it saved.

The Act is deemed to have come into force on May 12, 2026

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

■ **Registration (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2026**

The Goa Legislature Secretariat, Government of Goa, vide notification dated September 24, 2026, published the Registration (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 49 of 2026), introduced in the Legislative Assembly of Goa on August 31, 2026, further amending the Registration Act, 1908 as in force in the State of Goa.

The following has been provided for:

- Every person presenting a document for registration is required to upload a digital photograph and digital fingerprints of both hands of each party to the document, and these particulars are endorsed on the document admitted to registration.
- Registration fee is payable electronically before presentation of the document, and the payment remains valid for four months from the date of payment.
- A registering officer may refuse to register a document, recording detailed justification, on a written request from authorities such as the Enforcement Directorate, the Securities and Exchange Board of India and the Income Tax authorities, following seizure or attachment of the property under the relevant Central Acts.
- A new Part XII A allows an investigating authority to move the notified court or tribunal to have a registered document declared fraudulent. The court or tribunal may order cancellation of the document and restoration of the property to the original owner, and the registering officer cancels it within two days of receiving the order.
- The requirement of filing a true copy along with the document has been dropped, the original itself being scanned under the National Generic Document Registration System.

The Act comes into force on the date the Government appoints by notification in the Official Gazette.

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

■ **Goa Ease of Doing Business (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2026**

The Department of Law, Legal Affairs Division, Government of Goa, vide notification dated September 18, 2026, published the Goa Ease of Doing Business (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2026, amending five enactments in force in the State to reduce the compliance burden and decriminalise minor contraventions.

The following has been notified, namely:

- Under the Goa Shops and Establishments Act, 2025, an establishment employing fewer than ten employees only files an online intimation of commencement instead of registering, and working hours, rest intervals and spread over are now as notified by the Government.
- The Goa Industrial Development Corporation may grant freehold rights over a plot in an industrial estate on payment of a premium, with misuse attracting cancellation and resumption of possession.
- A business entity can now claim time-bound delivery of notified services, with an appeal generated automatically on the electronic platform if the deadline is missed.

The Act comes into force on the date the Government appoints by notification, and different dates may be appointed for different amendments.

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

■ **Goa Legal Metrology (Amendment) Rules, 2026**

The Department of Legal Metrology, Government of Goa, vide notification dated September 21, 2026, notified the Goa Legal Metrology (Amendment) Rules, 2026, further amending the Goa Legal Metrology Rules, 2011.

The following has been notified, namely:

- Registration of a manufacturer, repairer or dealer in weights and measures is now applied for online and granted on self-declaration without any prior inspection, with inspections carried out afterwards where considered necessary. A manufacturer's or dealer's certificate stays valid until cancelled, while a repairer's is renewable for one to five years against a security deposit of two thousand rupees.
- Registered persons maintain the prescribed records and file quarterly returns within the first week of the following quarter.
- A user of a low-risk weight or measure, being one whose inaccuracy carries negligible financial impact and little scope for tampering, may self-certify it through an electronic declaration on the online portal in place of re-verification, and third-party verification through Government Approved Test Centres has also been recognised.
- The Controller may serve an improvement notice specifying the failure and the measures to be taken within not less than fourteen days, with non-compliance leading to suspension of registration and an appeal lying to the Secretary, Legal Metrology within sixty days.
- In a bullion transaction, the cash receipt must state the purity of gold in karat along with the net weight and the amount for that weight.

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

■ **EPFO Goa Issues Advisory to Employers on the Revised Wage Ceiling of Rs. 25,000**

The Regional Office, Goa of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation issued an advisory to establishments in the State, following the raising of the statutory wage ceiling for mandatory EPF coverage from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000 per month by the Ministry of Labour and Employment with effect from September 17, 2026.

The following has been advised:

- Establishments are to update their payroll and compliance systems with effect from September 17, 2026, and enrol workers earning between Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 25,000 per month, who stood excluded until now.
- Electronic Challan-cum>Returns are to be filed within time, and Aadhaar and KYC details seeded on the portal to claim government incentives.
- Employer contributions are to be computed against the revised ceiling, with incentives of up to Rs. 3,000 per month available under the PMVBRY scheme for two years for non-manufacturing establishments and four years for manufacturing units.

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

Govt of NCT of Delhi

■ **CAQM Revises GRAP Framework Ahead of Winter Pollution Season in Delhi-NCR**

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), vide notification dated September 28, 2026, approved major modifications to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) schedule for the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR). The revised framework streamlines existing protocols and enforces earlier, stricter interventions across 48 consolidated action points distributed across the four pollution stages.

The notification states the following:

- Stage-Wise Action Point Distribution:
 - Stage-I: Poor: AQI 201–300: Consolidates merged dust control measures, municipal solid waste management, transport rules, and early restrictions.
 - Stage-II: Very Poor: AQI 301–400

- Stage-III: Severe: AQI 401–450
- Stage-IV: Severe+: AQI >450
- Advanced Invocation of Restrictions: Controls on Diesel Generator (DG) sets and restrictions on non-compliant inter-city buses (BS-IV and below) from NCR and adjoining states have been brought forward from Stage-II to Stage-I.
- Removal of Essential Goods Vehicle Exemptions: Following Supreme Court directives, BS-IV and below goods vehicles (Light Goods Vehicles and Medium Goods Vehicles in Stage-III; Heavy Goods Vehicles in Stage-IV) carrying essential commodities are no longer exempt from plying bans during Stage-III and Stage-IV.
- Expanded C&D Site Monitoring: Web portal-based dust monitoring and registration mandates for Construction and Demolition (C&D) sites over 500 sq. metres have been expanded beyond municipal limits to include controlled, industrial, and highway corridor zones.

Minor Stage-III Relaxation: Allows specific minor public works, including pothole repairing, under Action No. 1 of Stage-III to prevent road dust generation caused by damaged infrastructure.

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

■ **Comprehensive Seasonal Air Pollution Control Directions**

The Department of Environment and Forests, Government of NCT of Delhi, vide Notification dated June 23, 2026, issued comprehensive directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Formulated to combat recurring winter air pollution in Delhi, the unified directions come into force annually from November 1 to February 28 (or as specified for specific sub-provisions) and supersede all earlier seasonal orders.

The notification states:

- Vehicular Pollution Control Mandates:
- Dust Pollution Control & Construction Restrictions:
- Overriding Authority & Legal Penalties:
- Strict Year-Round PUCC Enforcement: All petrol, diesel, and CNG/LPG retail outlets across NCT of Delhi must dispense fuel only upon presentation of a valid Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUCC). Non-compliant vehicles identified via ANPR cameras or physical checks will be penalized.
- Non-BS VI Vehicle Ban (Nov 1 – Jan 31): All non-Delhi registered motor vehicles below BS-VI emission standards are prohibited from entering Delhi. Exemptions: CNG vehicles, Electric Vehicles (EVs), and emergency/sovereign duty vehicles.
- 50% Work from Home Mandate (Nov 1 – Jan 31): Both GNCTD government offices and private offices within NCT of Delhi must operate with a maximum 50% physical staff presence, with the remaining 50% working from home. Private firms must also stagger hours and encourage carpooling or public transport. Essential/emergency services remain exempt.
- Ban on Dust-Generating Construction (Nov 1 – Jan 31): Prohibits dust-generating demolition and outdoor civil construction (except essential public infrastructure). Non-dust interior finishing, plumbing, and electrical works remain permitted.
- Complete Construction & Demolition Ban (Dec 10 – Jan 20): Total shutdown of all C&D activities across Delhi, barring urgent government projects of public importance.
- Ban on Material Transport Vehicles (Dec 10 – Jan 20): Entry of vehicles carrying construction materials (sand, cement, aggregates, RMC, debris) into Delhi is prohibited, except those supporting strategic or essential public infrastructure projects.
- Installation of anti-smog guns (as per guidelines at Annexure–1) or mist systems (as per specifications at Annexure–2) in all commercial high-rise buildings having a built-up area exceeding 3,000 sq.
- GRAP Precedence: If the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) invokes more stringent measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), GRAP measures will take legal priority.
- Penal Action: Violations trigger prosecution under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, including imposition of Environmental Compensation, sealing/closure of premises, and criminal prosecution.

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

Gujarat

■ **Draft Legal Metrology (Enforcement) (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2026**

The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Government of Gujarat, vide Notification dated September 22, 2026, issued the Draft Gujarat Legal Metrology (Enforcement) (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2026. The proposed amendments ease compliance burdens by transitioning to self-declaration systems while simultaneously tightening enforcement mechanisms and financial penalties for non-compliance.

The draft proposes the following:

- Self-Declaration Framework & Registration System:
 - o Replaces pre-inspection licensing requirements with self-declaration-based registration for manufacturers, repairers, and dealers of weights and measures.
 - o Replaces the term “licence” with “Registration Certificate” throughout the operational rules. Establishes revised procedures governing the issuance, suspension, and revocation of Registration Certificates.
- Introduces formal Improvement Notices for minor contraventions, allowing entities a stipulated period to rectify procedural non-compliances.
- Enhances the general penalty under Rule 24 by twenty-fold, increasing the fine from INR 5,000 to INR 1,000,000 (INR 1 lakh).
- Expands the statutory scope of Schedule I to mandate specific mandatory packaging/unit declaration requirements across several industrial and consumer commodities, including LPG, CNG, LNG, etc.
 - o Stakeholders, industry participants, and the public are invited to submit objections or suggestions within 30 days from the date of gazette publication.

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

■ **Ministry of Labour and Employment Issues Revised Gazette Order Expanding ESIC Coverage Across Gujarat State**

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, vide notification dated September 2026, issued an order under the third proviso to the First Schedule of the Code on Social Security, 2020, superseding its earlier Notification No. S.O. 5206(E) dated September 22, 2026, and designated October 1, 2026 as the effective date for implementation of the Employees’ State Insurance Scheme across the remaining districts of Gujarat.

The notification extends statutory ESI contributions and benefit provisions across 31 districts in Gujarat:

- 15 Non-Implemented Districts (Full Implementation): Establishes ESI coverage for the first time across the entire geographical limits of Amreli, Aravalli, Banaskantha, Botad, Chhota Udepur, Dahod, Dang, Devbhoomi Dwarka, Gir Somnath, Kutch (Kachchh), Mahisagar, Narmada, Patan, Tapi, and Vav–Tharad.
- 16 Partially Implemented Districts (Full Expansion): Expands coverage from previously restricted industrial pockets to cover the entire areas of Ahmedabad, Anand, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Kheda, Mehsana, Morbi, Navsari, Panchmahal, Porbandar, Rajkot, Sabarkantha, Surat, and Surendranagar.

Accordingly, with effect from October 1, 2026, employers of establishments covered under the ESI Scheme and their eligible employees in these districts will be required to comply with the applicable statutory ESI contribution requirements under Section 29 of the Code on Social Security, 2020. Eligible employees will also become entitled to the benefits available under Chapter IV of the Code, including medical, sickness, maternity, disablement and dependants’ benefits.

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

Himachal Pradesh

■ **Himachal Pradesh Fixes Maximum Profit Margins for Dealers in Bilaspur District**

The Office of the District Magistrate, Bilaspur, Government of Himachal Pradesh, vide notification dated September 15, 2026, fixed the maximum margin of profit that dealers in Bilaspur district may charge on wholesale and retail sale of the commodities listed in Schedule-I to the Himachal Pradesh Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Order, 1977, in supersession of all previous notifications on the subject.

The following has been notified, namely:

- Margins have been capped commodity-wise, with foodgrains, sugar, gur, pulses, paper, tea leaves and edible oil at 2½% wholesale and 5½% retail, exercise books at 4% and 7½%, eggs at 5% and 7½%, bread at 7½% and 8½%, and fruits and non-perishable vegetables at 5% wholesale and 24% retail, perishable vegetables carrying 39% retail. Rates for fuels, meat, milk products and cooked food are fixed separately from time to time.
- Landed cost is computed on purchase price, freight, taxes and GST, loading and unloading, carriage and market fee, with interest on capital and other incidental charges at 1% each for specified items, and a shortage allowance of 1%, or 2% for gur, shakkar and khandsari.
- A dealer in both wholesale and retail may charge only one margin on a transaction, and the wholesale margin is allowed at one stage only at one station.
- In vegetable markets, commission agents and wholesalers issue Form R to the grower on purchase and Form Q to retailers showing the rate of each item and the margin charged, and retailers display a price list of fruits and vegetables in the business premises.

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

■ Himachal Pradesh Permits Round-the-Clock Operation of Shops and Commercial Establishments

The Department of Labour, Employment and Overseas Placement, Government of Himachal Pradesh, vide notification dated September 22, 2026, exempted all shops and commercial establishments in the State from Sections 9 and 10 of the Himachal Pradesh Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1969 and Rule 11 of the Himachal Pradesh Shops and Commercial Establishments Rules, 1972, with immediate effect, to promote ease of doing business and 24x7 operations.

The exemption has been granted subject to the following conditions:

- The total working hours of an employee are not to exceed the limits under the Act, and no employee is to work overtime beyond those limits.
- Every employee is to be allowed one weekly holiday as provided under the Act.
- The employer is to ensure adequate measures for the safety, security, health and welfare of all employees.
- For women employees working night shifts, the terms and conditions notified on July 31, 2025, are to be observed.
- All other provisions of the Act and the rules made under it, and other applicable labour laws, continue to apply.

The exemption remains in force for one year from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

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

Kerala

■ Amendment to Motor Vehicle Tax Notification

The Government of Kerala, on September 22, 2026, amended Notification No. G.O. (P) No. 13/2022/TRANS dated April 26, 2022, relating to regarding the Motor Vehicle Tax Concession for Differently Abled Persons. The key amendment provides that:

- The amendment increases the eligible purchase value limit for motor vehicle tax exemption available to differently abled persons. The limit has been enhanced from ₹7 lakh to ₹15 lakh. The exemption applies to three-wheelers, invalid carriages, motorcycles and motor cars owned by differently abled persons for their own use.
- The amendment gives effect to the announcement in Para 315 of the Revised Budget Speech for 2026-27. The earlier exemption limit of ₹5 lakh was increased to ₹7 lakh in 2018; the present amendment further raises it to ₹15 lakh.

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

■ Kerala Manufacture and Sale of Stamp (Amendment) Rules, 2026

The Department of Taxes, Government of Kerala, on September 15, 2026, issued the Kerala Manufacture and Sale of Stamp (Amendment) Rules, 2026, further amending the Kerala Manufacture and Sale of Stamp Rules, 1960. The key amendments include:

- Revision of Monetary Limit under Rule 36: The amount of ₹1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh) has been substituted with ₹3,00,000 (Rupees Three Lakh).
- Revision of Monetary Limit under Rule 39: The amount of ₹1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh) has been substituted with ₹3,00,000 (Rupees Three Lakh).
- Revision of Monetary Limit under Rule 40: The amount of ₹1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh), wherever occurring, has been substituted with ₹3,00,000 (Rupees Three Lakh).

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

■ Registration and Onboarding on CPCB EPR Portal for Plastic Packaging

The Government of Kerala, on September 15, 2026, informed establishments operating in the plastic packaging sector that registration is required to be completed on the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) EPR Portal for plastic packaging. Existing entities having accounts are also required to link and onboard themselves on the portal. The key requirements include:

- Establishments covered under the applicable EPR framework are required to complete registration on the designated CPCB EPR portal. Existing account holders are also required to complete the prescribed linking and onboarding process.
- The portal is to be used for reporting applicable EPR transactions and related activities.
- Concerned entities are required to use the portal for fulfilment of their prescribed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) targets.
- Annual Returns: Applicable annual returns are required to be submitted through the designated portal.

Accordingly, establishments covered under the applicable plastic packaging EPR framework are required to ensure timely completion of registration/onboarding and compliance with applicable transaction reporting, EPR target fulfilment and annual-return requirements through the CPCB EPR portal.

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

Madhya Pradesh

■ Extension of ESI Coverage to Niwari and 24 Partially Implemented Districts in Madhya Pradesh

The Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by the third proviso to the First Schedule of the Code on Social Security, 2020, has appointed October 1, 2026, as the date from which contributions from employers and employees of establishments in Niwari district and the entire areas of 24 partially implemented districts in Madhya Pradesh shall be payable under Section 29 of the Code. The key provisions include:

- The notification extends the applicability of ESI provisions to establishments in the entire area of Niwari, a non-implemented district, and the entire areas of 24 partially implemented districts.
- Madhya Pradesh Districts Covered: Agar Malwa, Alirajpur, Anuppur, Ashoknagar, Balaghat, Barwani, Betul, Chhatarpur, Damoh, Datia, Harda, Jhabua, Mandla, Narsinghpur, Panna, Rajgarh, Seoni, Sheopur, Shivpuri, Sidhi, Tikamgarh, Umari, Vidisha and Dindori.
- Employer and Employee Contributions: Contributions from employers and employees of establishments in the specified areas shall become payable under Section 29 from October 1, 2026.
- ESI Benefits: Employees of such establishments shall be eligible for benefits under Chapter IV relating to the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, as provided by the Corporation.

Accordingly, the notification extends ESI contribution and benefit coverage to the specified areas of Madhya Pradesh with effect from October 1, 2026.

(To see the notification, click [here](#))

Maharashtra

■ Maharashtra Amends Consent Fee Structure Charged by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board

The Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Maharashtra, vide government resolution dated September 24, 2026, amended its earlier resolution dated August 25, 2026, on the consent fee charged by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for establishing industries, commencing production and for consent letters issued to mining projects.

The following has been resolved:

- For micro and small enterprises located in duly notified industrial estates or areas, Consent to Establish is deemed granted on submission of a self-certified Form-I.
- The annual consent fee for local bodies and infrastructure projects is now graded by the quantum of sewage generated, running from Rs. 5,000 for up to 10 KLD to Rs. 4,00,000 above 25 MLD for a local body or housing project, and from Rs. 7,500 to Rs. 6,00,000 for projects other than housing. Consent to Establish for these projects continues on the capital-investment formula, with no rebate for building and construction projects.
- Where a diesel generator set is the only source, the annual fee is nil up to 250 KVA, Rs. 1,000 above 250 KVA and up to 500 KVA, Rs. 2,000 above 500 KVA and up to 1 MVA, and Rs. 5,000 at or above 1 MVA.
- Healthcare establishments now follow the fee structure applicable to industries, with no fee charged to health service establishments owned and operated by the State or Central Government or local body authorities.

Consent under the Water Act and the Air Act, together with authorisation under the applicable waste management rules, is to be granted through a single step procedure, and five per cent of the consent fee is credited to the Central Pollution Control Board as service fee.

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

■ Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Deviation Settlement Mechanism and Related Matters) Regulations, 2026

The Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission, vide notification dated September 21, 2026, notified the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Deviation Settlement Mechanism and related matters) Regulations, 2026, replacing the corresponding 2019 Regulations, to ensure through a commercial mechanism that grid users adhere to their schedule of drawal and injection of electricity.

The following has been notified, namely:

- The Regulations apply to conveyance of electricity through short-term, medium-term or long-term open access on the intra-state transmission system, and cover general sellers, open access generators and captive generators other than in-situ captive generators. Generating plants connected to a distribution system are covered where they undertake inter-state transactions or sell power through open access outside the licensee's area, and

bagasse-based co-generation and biomass plants with an exportable schedule of 5 MW or more are treated at par with general sellers.

- Deviation, being the difference between actual and scheduled injection or drawal, is computed for each 15-minute time block across the 96 blocks of the scheduling day, and charges for deviation are levied at the normal rate linked to the higher of the day-ahead and real-time market clearing prices on the power exchanges.
- Charges for deviation are to be paid into the State Deviation Pool Account within seven days of the statement issued by the State Load Despatch Centre, with delayed payment charges rising by 0.5% for every month of default, capped at three per cent above the base rate.
- Forecasting, scheduling and deviation settlement for solar and wind generation continue to be governed by the 2018 Regulations on the subject.

The Regulations came into force on the date of notification in the Official Gazette, except the commercial arrangements and deviation charges, which take effect from a date to be notified separately by the Commission, until when the 2019 Regulations continue to operate for energy accounting and deviation settlement.

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

■ **Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (State Grid Code) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2026**

The Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission, vide notification dated September 21, 2026, notified the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (State Grid Code) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2026, amending the State Grid Code Regulations, 2020.

The following has been notified, namely:

- The technical minimum for operation of a unit of an intra-state thermal generating station is now the minimum turndown level of 55% of its maximum continuous rating, or the level specified in the Central Electricity Authority's flexible operation regulations, whichever is lower. A station may declare a lower level on its own option, and any deviation from this requires the Commission's approval on certification from the original equipment manufacturer.
- The Scheduling and Despatch Code now expressly covers open access generators, bagasse-based co-generation and biomass plants and captive generators other than in-situ captive generators connected to the intra-state transmission system, as well as generators connected to a distribution system that undertake inter-state transactions or sell through open access outside the licensee's area.
- Sellers are to furnish unit-wise availability forecasts to the State Load Despatch Centre on a day-ahead, time-block basis, contract-wise where there are multiple contracts, and separately account for the load requirement of their captive and open access consumers.
- Definitions of ancillary services, gate closure, minimum turndown level and GNA grantee have been inserted, aligning the Code with the central connectivity and general network access framework.

The Regulations came into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. The day-ahead scheduling provisions take effect once the State Load Despatch Centre updates its scheduling software, within three months, and the revised gate closure and intra-day revision provisions only once the Centre confirms its preparedness, within one year, until when the existing provisions continue.

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

■ **Maharashtra Revises Service Charges for Transit Passes for Minor Minerals**

The Revenue Department, Government of Maharashtra, vide notification dated September 15, 2026, specified the service charges for transporting minor minerals at Rs. 120 per transit pass, in exercise of the powers under sub-rule (1) of rule 78-A of the Maharashtra Minor Minerals Extraction (Development and Regulation) Rules, 2013, and in supersession of the notification dated April 18, 2022, on the subject.

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

■ **Maharashtra Bike Taxi (First Amendment) Rules, 2026**

The Transport Department, Government of Maharashtra, vide notification dated September 23, 2026, published the draft Maharashtra Bike Taxi (First Amendment) Rules, 2026, proposing to amend the Maharashtra Bike Taxi Rules, 2025.

The following has been proposed:

- The Rules are to apply to any aggregator, delivery service provider and e-commerce entity that has on-boarded two-wheelers for delivery services in the State, bringing delivery operations within the same framework as bike taxis.

- An aggregator may on-board non-transport two-wheelers for shared mobility against a daily, weekly or fortnightly authorisation, with the vehicle not older than twelve years, fares as fixed by the Regional Transport Authority, no surge pricing, and the per-day authorisation fee deducted from daily earnings and remitted to the State Government.
- Every aggregator is to display its Unique Licence Identification Number prominently on its mobile application and website before publishing on app distribution platforms and give the Registering Authority daily access to the application to examine fare-related grievances and details of on-boarded vehicles.
- The State Government may levy an additional charge of up to two per cent of the base fare towards a rider welfare fund.

Objections and suggestions may be submitted to the Transport Commissioner on or before October 5, 2026, after which the draft will be taken into consideration.

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

Manipur

■ **Manipur Unified (Trade, Shop and Establishment) Licensing Act, 2026**

The Law & Legislative Affairs Department, Government of Manipur, vide Notification dated September 24, 2026, has published the Manipur Unified (Trade, Shop and Establishment) Licensing Act, 2026, which received the assent of the Governor on September 17, 2026.

The key highlights are:

- No person may carry on business in Manipur without obtaining a Unified Trade, Shop and Establishment Licence. Existing licence holders must migrate to the unified system within one year of notification or at the time of renewal, whichever is earlier.
- Licensing is based on self-declaration through the online Portal. Low-risk businesses receive immediate automated approval on submission of a complete application, with no prior inspection. For Medium-risk businesses, the licence is deemed approved where no deficiency is communicated within 21 working days.
- Businesses are categorised as Low, Medium or High Risk. Low- and Medium-risk businesses are not subject to pre-inspection, and, during the initial two-year period, inspections are limited to cases involving a recorded complaint and digital authorisation. Thereafter, inspections are prescribed once every three years for Low Risk and two years for Medium Risk whereas High-risk businesses require prior clearances and annual inspection.
- A Unified Trade, Shop and Establishment Governance Portal will process applications, payments, inspections, renewals and grievances, with approvals and communications to be made electronically.

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

■ **Manipur Fire and Emergency Service Act, 2026**

The Government of Manipur vide Notification dated September 16, 2026, has notified the Manipur Fire and Emergency Service Act, 2026, providing a statutory framework for fire prevention, fire safety and life-safety measures in specified buildings, factories and premises across the State.

The key highlights of the Act include:

- Owners/occupiers of buildings covered under the Act must provide the prescribed fire prevention, life safety and minimum firefighting installations and always maintain them in good repair and efficient condition.
- A Fire Safety Certificate is required for multistoried buildings above 15 metres, specified educational, institutional, assembly, business, mercantile, industrial, storage and hazardous buildings, and mixed occupancies exceeding 500 sq. metres. Such buildings are also required to have prescribed automatic sprinkler systems, fire alarms and fire extinguishers.
- Owners/occupiers are required to furnish a certificate from a qualified agency confirming compliance with fire prevention and life-safety requirements confirming that the measures are maintained in good repair and efficient condition.
- For factories, buildings or premises specified by the State Government, owners/occupiers are required to appoint a Fire Safety Officer and submit a compliance report to the Fire Officer.

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

■ **Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Tenth Amendment) Act, 2026**

The Law & Legislative Affairs Department, Government of Manipur, vide Notification dated September 16, 2026, has published the Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Tenth Amendment) Act, 2026, which received the assent of the Governor on September 11, 2026. The amendment gives

effect to corresponding changes made to the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 under Sections 153 to 155 of the Finance Act, 2026.

The key highlights are:

- Section 15(3)(b) is substituted to provide that a post-supply discount may be excluded from the value of supply where the supplier issues a credit note and the recipient reverses the input tax credit attributable to such discount in accordance with Section 34.
- Section 34(1) is amended to additionally cover cases where a discount referred to in Section 15(3)(b) is subsequently given.
- Section 54 is amended to include unutilised input tax credit allowed under the specified provision within the relevant refund framework and to clarify the exclusion for cases where refund of tax is claimed in relation to goods exported out of India with payment of tax.
- The Act provides that its provisions will come into force on such date, with prospective or retrospective effect, as the State Government may notify in the Official Gazette, and different dates may be appointed for different provisions.

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

■ **Manipur Right to Business and Investment Facilitation Act, 2026**

The Law & Legislative Affairs Department, Government of Manipur, on September 16, 2026, notified the Manipur Right to Business and Investment Facilitation Act, 2026. The Act establishes a trust-based, time-bound and risk-calibrated framework for establishment and operation of enterprises in the State through self-certification, deemed approvals, investment facilitation and fast-track mechanisms.

The key highlights are:

- A Unified Business Facilitation Portal, integrated with the National Single Window Portal, is to process approvals, registrations, clearances and services for Micro, Small, Medium, Large and Mega Enterprises.
- Enterprises are classified as Low, Medium or High Risk through an automated Risk Scoring Matrix. The matrix considers factors including pollution potential, hazardous material handling, fire and structural risk, location sensitivity, labour intensity, public interface, power load, machinery risk and waste complexity.
- Registration is provided with lifetime validity. However, an annual self-declaration of compliance, along with prescribed documents and applicable fees, is required to be filed through the Portal. Fresh approval is required only where there is a change in activity or scale.
- The Manipur Industrial Single Window Clearance Act, 2021 is repealed. Existing approvals, permissions, registrations and clearances under the repealed Act that were in force immediately before commencement will continue to remain valid and be treated as having been issued under the 2026 Act.

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

Nagaland

■ **Creation of a Separate Department of Food Processing in Nagaland**

The Government of Nagaland, on September 15, 2026, issued a Notification regarding establishment of a separate Department of Food Processing specifying its functions and sanctioned/re-deployed posts.

The following has been stated, namely:

- The Department will function as the State Nodal Authority for handling and implementing matters relating to food-processing industries and related matters in Nagaland, and as the State Nodal Agency for the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) for implementation of its existing and future plans, programmes and schemes in the State.
- The Department will implement the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, formulate the State's food-processing policy and implement the Nagaland Food Processing Industries Policy (NFPIP).
- Its functions include coordination with State and Central Government Ministries/Departments and stakeholders, and facilitation of technical support, research and product development, quality control and assurance, training, project identification and vetting/appraisal support, entrepreneur handholding, capacity building, infrastructure creation, data collection and maintenance of food-processing industry units, PMU creation and market linkages.

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

▪ **Nagaland Goods and Services Tax (Eleventh Amendment) Bill, 2026**

The Government of Nagaland, on September 15, 2026, vide Notification published the Nagaland Goods and Services Tax (Eleventh Amendment) Bill, 2026. The Bill seeks to give legislative effect to the Nagaland Goods and Services Tax (Eleventh Amendment) Ordinance, 2026.

The key highlights of the Bill include:

- The Bill proposes omission of sub-section (4) of Sections 12 and 13 and changes the reference to “plant or machinery” to “plant and machinery” in Section 17(5)(d).
- Section 34 is proposed to be amended in relation to reduction of output tax liability. For orders imposing penalty without a tax demand, the Bill proposes a 10% pre-deposit of the penalty for filing an appeal under Sections 107 and 112, subject to the specified conditions.
- Proposed Section 148A enables the Government, on the recommendation of the GST Council, to specify goods and persons to whom a track and trace mechanism will apply. Covered persons may be required to affix unique identification markings, furnish prescribed information and maintain records, provide details of manufacturing machinery, and pay the prescribed amount towards the system.
- Schedule III is proposed to cover supplies of goods warehoused in a Special Economic Zone or Free Trade Warehousing Zone to a person before clearance for export or to the Domestic Tariff Area, with retrospective effect from July 1, 2017.

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

▪ **Nagaland Goods and Services Tax (Twelfth Amendment) Bill, 2026**

The Government of Nagaland, on September 15, 2026, vide Notification, published the Nagaland Goods and Services Tax (Twelfth Amendment) Bill, 2026. The Bill seeks to give effect to corresponding amendments arising from the Finance Act, 2026 (Act No. 4 of 2026).

The following has been proposed, namely:

- Section 15(3)(b) is proposed to provide for exclusion of a post-supply discount from the value of supply where the supplier issues a credit note and the input tax credit attributable to the discount has been reversed by the recipient in accordance with Section 34.
- Amendments are proposed to address reduction of output tax liability where supplies are subsequently found to be defective or where a discount covered by Section 15(3)(b) is subsequently granted.
- Section 54 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, as applied through the State framework, is proposed to be amended to include unutilised input tax credit allowed under the specified provision within the relevant refund provision, while also clarifying the exclusion relating to cases where refund of tax is claimed on goods exported out of India with payment of tax.

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

Odisha

▪ **Draft Odisha Boilers Rules, 2026**

The Labour & E.S.I. Department, Government of Odisha, vide Notification, dated September 24, 2026, has published the draft Odisha Boilers Rules, 2026 under Section 42 of the Boilers Act, 2025. The draft proposes to supersede the Odisha Boilers Rules, 1970 and the Odisha Boilers (Inquiry, Adjudication and Appeal) Rules, 2025.

The key highlights of the draft include:

- Applications for registration and inspection are to be submitted online through the designated State Government portal, with the prescribed fee. The Inspector is required to schedule the examination within 15 days and provide the owner at least 10 days' notice. Upon completion of inspection, the registration certificate is to be issued online, digitally signed by the Inspector and countersigned by the Chief Inspector.
- Inspectors are assigned responsibility for inspection of boilers during erection, repair, registration/transfer, renewal, alteration or addition, and for verifying that boilers continue to operate in conformity with the Act, Rules and applicable certificates.
- The draft provides for inspections relating to the safe operation and maintenance of boilers, including periodic cleaning, feed-water treatment and verification of compliance with the conditions of the boiler certificate.
- Registration and first-inspection fees are prescribed based on boiler rating, ranging from INR 1,200 for a Small Industrial Boiler to INR 21,600 plus INR 600 for every additional 200 sq. metres for boilers exceeding 3,000 sq. metres.

The State Government has invited objections and suggestions to the draft Rules within 30 days from the date of publication of the notification in the Odisha Gazette i.e. September 24, 2026.

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

Puducherry

■ **Puducherry Declares Paid Holiday on Poll Day for the Thattanchavady Bye-Election**

The Labour Department, Government of Puducherry, vide circular dated September 24, 2026, directed the occupiers and employers of all factories, industries, shops and other commercial and industrial establishments in the Union territory to grant a paid holiday on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, the poll day for the bye-election to the 09-Thattanchavady Assembly Constituency.

The following has been directed:

- The holiday is to be granted to every employee enrolled as an elector in that constituency, including those working on shift basis, and no deduction or abatement of wages is to be made on that account.
- Contravention attracts the penal provisions of Section 135-B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

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

Punjab

■ **Punjab Urban Planning and Development Building (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, Government of Punjab, vide notification dated September 2, 2026, notified the Punjab Urban Planning and Development Building (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026, further amending the Punjab Urban Planning and Development Building Rules, 2021.

The following has been notified, namely:

- Rooftop installation of photovoltaic solar panels may now have a clear height of up to 2.4 metres below the panels, and the structure is left out of the calculation of the building's overall height and Floor Area Ratio. A terrace toilet not exceeding 6 sq.m in area and 2.75 m in height is likewise excluded from FAR and building height.
- The floor-to-floor height of booths, shops and shop-cum-offices is capped at 5.0 metres, the cap not applying to shops or offices inside shopping malls, standalone commercial buildings, multiplexes, miniplexes and mixed land use projects. A mezzanine in a booth is permitted only for storage of goods, limited to two-thirds of the booth area excluding the corridor, and is not counted towards FAR.
- Rule 29 on clearance zones for buildings near high tension electrical lines has been substituted, prescribing minimum vertical and horizontal clearances by voltage class, including for high voltage direct current systems, measured based on maximum deflection due to wind pressure.
- The clear height for a stilt is now to be not less than 2290 mm wherever the parameter occurs, in place of 7 feet 6 inches, and lifts are permitted up to terrace level in all categories of buildings.
- The built-up area of common indoor sports or games and common health and fitness facilities is counted at 50% towards permissible FAR, except for residential plots, farmhouses, dwelling units, marriage palaces and specified commercial developments. For a club building within a group housing project, parking is required at 1 ECS per 100 square metres of FAR area.

The Rules came into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

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

■ **Punjab Notifies Criteria for Grant of Consent to Sewage Treatment Plants**

The Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Government of Punjab, vide notification dated June 12, 2023, published in the Official Gazette on September 18, 2026, notified the criteria for grant of consent by the Punjab Pollution Control Board to sewage treatment plants installed by the Department of Local Bodies.

The following has been notified, namely:

- A sewage treatment plant falls in the Red Category irrespective of capacity or technology, and a separate consent to operate is required for each plant, granted in the first instance for one year.
- The consent fee is Rs. 2,500 per MLD of capacity per annum, subject to a minimum of Rs. 10,000 per plant per annum.
- Delay in applying for consent or its renewal attracts penalty from 10% to 100% of the annual fee depending on the length of delay, applicable where operation is outsourced to a private agency but not to plants run by government bodies.

The policy came into force from the date of its publication.

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

Tamil Nadu

■ **Online Registration Platform for White Category Industries**

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) has provided an online facility for White Category Industries to submit their intimation for registration. The online registration process comprises the following stages:

- Applicants are required to provide basic details and obtain a User ID and Password.
- Login & Fill Application: Applicants are required to log in to the portal and complete the online application form.
- Submit Application: The completed application is required to be submitted through the online portal.
- Get Acknowledgment: Upon successful submission, an acknowledgment confirming the White Category registration/intimation is issued.

Accordingly, the online process comprises four stages: Register - Login & Fill Application - Submit Application- Get Acknowledgment.

(To apply, please click [here](#))

■ **Erratum of Tamil Nadu Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2011**

The Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department, Tamil Nadu, on September 24, 2026, issued Erratum No. SRO A-17(a)/2026 to Notification No. SRO A-16(b)/2026, published in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette Extraordinary dated September 10, 2026, relating to amendments to the Tamil Nadu Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2011.

The erratum corrects the fee details prescribed under Schedule IV [See Rule 11(3)] for registration of manufacturers, repairers and dealers of weights or measures.

- Registration Certificate - Manufacturer: The fee is ₹40,000/- (corrected from ₹40,000/- per year).
- Registration Certificate - Repairer: The fee is ₹15,000/-.
- Registration Certificate - Dealer: The fee is ₹5,000/-.
- Alteration of Registration Certificate: The fee remains ₹1,000/-.

Accordingly, the erratum clarifies that the registration certificate fees specified under Schedule IV are one-time fees and are not payable annually for manufacturers, repairers and dealers of weights or measures.

(To view the amendment, click [here](#))

■ **Erratum of Tamil Nadu Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2011**

The Government of Tamil Nadu, on September 15, 2026, issued the Tamil Nadu Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Act, 2026, further amending the Tamil Nadu Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017. The key amendments include:

- Section 15(3)(b) has been substituted to provide that a post-supply discount may be excluded from the value of supply where the supplier issues a credit note and the recipient reverses the attributable input tax credit in accordance with Section 34.
- Section 34(1) has been correspondingly amended to recognise such post-supply discounts as a basis for issuance of credit notes.
- Refund of Unutilised ITC: Section 54 has been amended to include refund of unutilised input tax credit under the relevant proviso to Section 54(3) within the specified refund provisions. It further clarifies that the restriction under Section 54(14) will not apply where refund of tax is claimed in respect of goods exported out of India with payment of tax.
- Section 101A has been re-numbered as sub-section (1), with a new sub-section (2) providing that, until the National Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling is constituted under the Central GST Act, an existing authority empowered under Section 101A(1A) of the CGST Act shall be deemed to be the National Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling under the Tamil Nadu GST Act.

Effective Date: Section 5 shall be deemed to have come into force from April 1, 2026, while the remaining provisions shall come into force on such date as may be notified by the State Government.

(To view the amendment, click [here](#))

■ **Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services (Amendment) Act, 2026**

The Government of Tamil Nadu, on September 12, 2026, issued the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services (Amendment) Act, 2026, further amending the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Act, 2025. The key amendments include:

- Appointment of Officer: Section 24(3) has been amended by removing the requirement that the concerned officer shall be “not below the rank of Station Officer.”

- Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures: Section 31(1) has been revised to place responsibility on the owner or occupier, individually or jointly, of a building classified under the Act to provide the prescribed fire prevention and life safety measures.
- The prescribed measures shall, in addition to the requirements under the Act and rules, comply with the Tamil Nadu Combined Development and Building Rules, 2019, Oil Industry Safety Directorate guidelines, the Petroleum Act, 1934 and rules, the Explosives Act, 1884 and rules, guidelines issued by the Government or relevant authorities, and any other law in force.

(To view the amendment, click [here](#))

■ **Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax (Second Amendment) Act, 2026**

The Government of Tamil Nadu, on September 15, 2026, enacted the Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax (Second Amendment) Act, 2026. The Act further amends the Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax Act, 2006 and has come into force at once. The key amendments include:

- Increase in Monetary Threshold: Section 50(4)(a)(iii) has been amended to increase the specified monetary threshold from ₹1 lakh to ₹1 crore.
- Delegation of Powers: A new Section 80-A - Delegation of Powers has been inserted, empowering the Government, by notification and subject to specified conditions, to provide that any power exercisable by an authority or officer under the Act may also be exercised by another authority or officer specified in such notification.

(To view the amendment, click [here](#))

Tripura

■ **Unified Central Inspection System (CIS) for Compliance Inspections**

The Factories & Boilers Organisation, Labour Department, Government of Tripura, on September 25, 2026, has notified a Unified Central Inspection System (CIS) for compliance inspections, allocation of Inspectors through computerised risk-based assessment and prohibition of manual/offline inspections. It is stated that, compliance inspections under the applicable labour and related laws are to be conducted through the online Unified CIS, replacing multiple overlapping inspection mechanisms with a single consolidated framework.

Further, initiation, scheduling, allocation, conduct and recording of inspections are to be undertaken exclusively through the CIS, with manual or offline inspections prohibited. The system covers departmental compliance inspections undertaken by the Factories & Boilers Organisation, Labour Directorate, Tripura Pollution Control Board and Legal Metrology, under the respective applicable laws.

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

■ **Exemption of New Businesses from Penalties During Initial Compliance Period**

The Factories & Boilers Organisation, Labour Department, Government of Tripura, on September 25, 2026, notified that a new business shall be exempt from penal provisions arising out of compliance inspections for a period of five years from the date of commencement of its operations, except in cases of wilful default or deliberate violation of applicable statutory provisions.

Where non-compliance is detected during this period without wilful default, the inspecting authority may provide a reasonable opportunity to rectify such non-compliance. The exemption does not extend to the requirement to comply with applicable statutory provisions or corrective measures directed by the competent authority.

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

■ **Risk-Based Inspection Framework for Factories in Tripura**

The Factories & Boilers Organisation, Labour Department, Government of Tripura, on September 25, 2026, has notified a risk-based inspection framework under Rule 25A of the Tripura Factories Rules, 2007, in connection with the inspection procedure under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 and the Rules made thereunder.

The key highlights are, namely:

- Factories are categorised as High, Medium or Low Risk based on specified parameters, including MAH factories, hazardous processes, worker strength and other prescribed risk factors.
- High-Risk factories are subject to inspection every 9 months, Medium-Risk factories every 12 months and Low-Risk factories every 15 months.
- Factories will be selected through computerised risk assessment and random allocation of Inspecting Officers, based on the composite risk profile of each factory, including the nature

of processes, degree of hazardousness, number of workers and other prescribed parameters.

- Low-Risk factories may opt for Self-Certification, Medium-Risk factories are assigned third-party inspection, while High-Risk factories remain subject to departmental inspection.
- Complaint-based, surprise, compliance and renewal inspections are to be undertaken through the Central Inspection System (CIS).

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

▪ **Acceptance of Self-Certification and Third-Party Inspection Reports for Risk-Based Compliance**

The Factories & Boilers Organisation, Labour Department, Government of Tripura, on September 28, 2026, vide Notification established the procedure for electronic submission and acceptance of self-certification by Low-Risk factories and inspection reports submitted by accredited Third-Party Inspectors for Medium-Risk factories through the Central Inspection System (CIS).

The following has been stated:

- The occupier/owner of a Low-Risk factory registered under the Tripura Factories Rules is required to submit the prescribed self-certification electronically through the CIS once every year, on or before January 31, with the applicable compliance period being 15 months.
- The inspection frequency for Medium-Risk factories is once every 12 months, and the inspection report is required to be submitted electronically by the accredited Third-Party Inspector through the CIS within 48 hours of completion of inspection.
- The occupier is responsible for ensuring that the information furnished in the self-certification is true and that applicable statutory requirements have been complied with.
- Submission of self-certification or a Third-Party inspection report does not prevent the Department from undertaking verification or inspection where considered necessary, including surprise or complaint-based inspections.

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

▪ **Standard Operating Procedure for Risk-Based Inspection of Factories in Tripura**

The Factories & Boilers Organisation, Labour Department, Government of Tripura, on September 28, 2026, has notified a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the inspection framework for factories, covering self-certification for Low-Risk factories, third-party inspection for Medium-Risk factories and departmental inspection for High-Risk factories through the CIS.

The key highlights are:

- Factories employing up to 50 workers and not otherwise classified as High or Medium Risk fall under the Low-Risk category, with an inspection cycle of 15 months and the option of self-certification.
- Factories employing more than 50 but up to 200 workers, and specified factories covered under Section 82 of the OSHWC Code employing up to 200 workers, fall under the Medium-Risk category, with an inspection cycle of 12 months and third-party inspection.
- High-Risk factories include MAH factories/units, factories involving hazardous processes, factories employing more than 200 workers, specified factories where there is risk to workers, factories covered under Section 82 of the OSHWC Code employing more than 200 workers, and factories where motive power exceeds 500 HP. The inspection cycle is 9 months, through departmental inspection.
- The CIS will automatically identify factories becoming due for self-certification/inspection and generate the inspection pool.

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

Uttarakhand

▪ **Uttarakhand Industrial Relations Rules, 2026**

The Labour Section, Government of Uttarakhand, vide Notification dated August 25, 2026, issued the Uttarakhand Industrial Relations Rules, 2026. Promulgated under Section 99 of the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Rules extend across the entire State of Uttarakhand and come into force immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette.

The Rules cover the following:

- Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) Operational Standards:
 - Applicable to industrial establishments employing 20 or more workers.
 - Mandates equal representation between employer nominees and elected worker representatives, with committee members serving a 3-year tenure.
 - Workers may submit grievances electronically; applications must be filed within 1 year from the date the cause of action arises.

- Trade Union Membership Subscriptions & External Contributions:
 - o Worker Subscription Rates includes INR 200 per year per worker from Unorganized Sector and INR 300 per year per worker from Organized Sector.
 - o Registered trade unions are permitted to receive annual contributions of up to INR 5 lakh from non-members via digital/electronic payment channels, provided a formal receipt is issued within one week.
- Annual Audit Protocols: Mandates statutory annual financial audits for all registered trade unions. Additionally, it provides for streamlined auditing procedures for smaller trade unions whose total membership does not exceed 2,500 workers during a financial year.

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

▪ **Uttarakhand Code on Wages Rules, 2026**

The Government of Uttarakhand (Labour Section), vide Notification dated August 25, 2026, officially notified the final Uttarakhand Code on Wages Rules, 2026. Promulgated under Section 67 of the Code on Wages, 2019, the Rules extend across the entire State of Uttarakhand and take effect immediately from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

The Rules cover the following:

- Wage Determination & Calculation:
 - o Establishes a standard normal working day of 8 hours for daily-rated workers and a 48-hour week for regular wage periods.
 - o Prescribes standard criteria for minimum wage computation, factoring in food and clothing requirements, housing rent allowance at 10% of food/clothing expenses, fuel and electricity (20%), and educational, medical, and incidental expenses (25%)
- Deduction Caps:
 - o In line with Section 18 of the Code, total authorized deductions (fines, damage/ loss recovery, advances) cannot exceed 50% of an employee's total monthly wages.
 - o Where total authorized deductions exceed the 50% threshold in a given period, the excess amount must be carried forward for recovery in subsequent wage periods.
- Minimum Bonus: Details procedures governing the calculation and payment of minimum annual bonus (8.33% of wages) and maximum statutory bonus (20%) based on allocable surplus.

Maintenance of unified electronic or physical registers and electronic submission of annual unified returns via the official state portal.

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

ABOUT US

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

With more than thirty years' experience in helping clients discharge their compliance obligations, we have developed a repository of significant knowledge and practical experience in advising and assisting businesses on their regulatory compliance, litigation management, notice and contract management and other attendant requirements. We create bespoke products for clients that include, among other things, an audit of the functions of the company, offering technology-enabled platforms that provide solutions for effective control over the compliance and contract management functions. These services are not limited by geography and can be seamlessly extended to all operating sites of the client.



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