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STRENGTHENING CONTROLS ON COMMERCIAL SPAM: A STRONGER FRAMEWORK FOR UNSOLICITED COMMUNICATIONS

Making commercial calls or messages? Commercial calls and messages are getting a closer regulatory look — is your compliance framework ready?

The growing use of telecom networks for commercial communications has increased the need for a structured framework governing such calls and messages. Commercial Communication (CC) broadly refers to communication made to promote or market goods, services or business activities, while Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) refers to commercial communication sent without the recipient's consent or preference. The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018 (TCCCPR, 2018), administered by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), establish the regulatory framework and prescribe responsibilities for Telecom Service Providers, Senders and Telemarketers.

With the increasing use of automated and technology-enabled communications, TRAI has further strengthened this framework through the **Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2026**, notified on 18 September 2026. The amendments introduce a more technology-driven approach to monitoring commercial communications, with greater emphasis on early identification of suspected UCC, stronger complaint-based action and enhanced accountability across stakeholders. The amended framework also specifically regulates Application-to-Person (A2P) calls, including autodialled calls, robocalls and calls using pre-recorded or artificial voice.

A TECHNOLOGY-LED APPROACH TO CURBING UCC

The amendments strengthen the existing framework for identifying and acting against Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC), with greater use of technology and closer coordination between consumer complaints and telecom service provider systems. The key changes include:

- **AI/ML-based detection of suspected UCC:** Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) will use AI/ML-based systems to identify Calling Line Identifiers (CLIs) suspected of being used for UCC and share relevant information with other TSPs. Where five or more CLIs associated with a Sender are flagged within ten days, further investigation and graded action may follow, including KYC re-verification, physical verification, outgoing barring and, in cases of repeated violations, disconnection.
- **Earlier action based on consumer complaints:** The threshold for complaint-based action has been strengthened. Action may now be triggered where three or more unique complaints are received within ten days, provided the Sender's CLI is also flagged by the AI/ML system as suspected UCC.
- **Limited use of customer inquiries:** Commercial communications based on a customer's inquiry may be sent only for seven days from the date of the inquiry. The inquiry must also be made in writing or through digital means and maintained in a verifiable form.
- **Regulation of automated calls:** The amendments specifically bring Application-to-Person (A2P) calls within the regulatory framework. Entities using applications, software or automated platforms to initiate autodialled calls, robocalls or calls using pre-recorded/artificial voice must declare the A2P calling activity and proposed CLIs to the relevant TSP.
  - *Undeclared A2P calls will be treated as UCC and may attract a termination charge of up to INR 0.05 per minute, with specified exemptions for TRAI-designated regulated commercial numbering series and Authority-authorised calls.*
- **Stronger protection for message templates:** Safeguards for Headers and Content Templates have been strengthened. A Header identifies the Sender, while a Content Template specifies the approved message format/content. In case of misuse, the Originating Access Provider must suspend it within 6 hours of becoming aware and notify the Sender. The Sender must take remedial measures and file a complaint with the appropriate law enforcement agency. Where misuse is attributable to a Telemarketer, its telecom resources across TSPs may be disconnected for one year and blacklisted.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR BUSINESSES?

The amended framework calls for businesses engaged in commercial communications to revisit their existing calling, consent and communication practices. Entities using automated calling systems will need to ensure that applicable A2P activity and Calling Line Identifiers are declared to the relevant Telecom Service Provider, while customer inquiries relied upon for commercial communications are maintained in a verifiable form and acted upon only within the prescribed seven-day period. Existing consent records, including eligible legacy consents, should also be reviewed for verification and registration on the relevant TSP's Digital Platform.

Businesses should additionally review the Headers and Content Templates used for commercial communications and their arrangements with TSPs and Telemarketers, particularly in light of the stronger obligations and enforcement measures introduced under the amended framework. A defined process for handling UCC complaints and maintaining supporting records will also assume greater importance, particularly as consumers may now appeal the resolution of such complaints within 15 days.

WAY FORWARD

The amended framework places greater responsibility on businesses and other stakeholders to ensure that commercial communications are supported by valid consent, verifiable customer inquiries and compliant calling practices. With AI/ML-based detection, stronger complaint mechanisms and action against misuse of telecom resources, businesses will need to keep their commercial communication processes under regular review.

The focus will also be on ensuring that Senders and Telemarketers have appropriate arrangements with TSPs and that complaints relating to UCC are addressed within the prescribed framework. The amendments are intended to strengthen consumer protection while allowing legitimate commercial and service-related communications to continue within a more clearly regulated system.

COMPLIANCE UPDATE

November 2026 | Part 1 of 2

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- **Establishment of New and Revised Indian Standards Relating to Earthing, Medical Equipment, Coal Bed Methane Gas Measurement and Electrical Equipment**

  The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on October 16, 2026, published a notification regarding the establishment of 23 new and revised Indian Standards covering medical equipment, earthing, power generation, coal bed methane gas measurement and electrical equipment.

  The Notification provides as follows:
  - Earthing: IS 3043:2026 (Third Revision) has been established, replacing IS 3043:2018.
  - Hospital and Medical Equipment: The following revised standards have been established:
    - IS 3119:2026, IS 3831:2026, IS 5022:2026 and IS 5035:2026 relating to sterilizers;
    - IS 3993:2026, IS 4033:2026, IS 4035:2026, IS 4036:2026, IS 4037:2026, IS 4266:2026 and IS 4267:2026 relating to hospital furniture and patient care equipment; and
    - IS 7345:2026, IS 8890:2026, IS 10540:2026, IS 10541:2026 and IS 11043:2026 relating to surgical instruments and epidural needles.
  - Power Generation: IS 13364:2026 has been established for a.c. generators driven by reciprocating internal combustion engines, replacing IS 13364 (Part 1):1992 and IS 13364 (Part 2):1992.
  - Coal Bed Methane Gas Measurement: IS 19817 (Part 1):2026 and IS 19817 (Part 2):2026 have been established for cone meter and turbine meter-based gas flow measurement, respectively.
  - Electrical Equipment: IS 19820:2026 has been established for socket-outlets incorporating USB power supply.
  - Thermistors: IS/IEC 60738-1:2022 has been established for directly heated positive temperature coefficient thermistors, replacing IS 11534 (Part 1):1985 and IS QC 440000:1994 / IEC QC 440000:1982.
  - Solar Photovoltaic Modules: IS/IEC 62759-1:2022 has been established for transportation and shipping testing of photovoltaic module package units.

  The new standards came into effect on October 05, 2026, while the existing standards will remain in force until their withdrawal on April 05, 2027.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Establishment of New and Revised Indian Standards Relating to Transport Equipment, Information Technology, Surgical Instruments and Electronic Equipment**

  The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on October 16, 2026, published a notification regarding the establishment of 12 new and revised Indian Standards covering transport equipment, freight containers, information technology, surgical instruments, electronic components and audiometric equipment.

  The Notification provides as follows:
  - Transport Equipment: IS 5008:2026, IS 6180:2026 and IS 7774 (Part 1):2026 have been established relating to industrial towing trucks, safety glasses for ships and transport tractors and trailers, respectively.
  - Freight Containers: IS 6569:2026 has been established for freight container vocabulary.
  - Information Technology: IS 13792:2026, IS 19909:2026 and IS/ISO/IEC 19752:2025 have been established relating to Ada programming languages, quantum computing vocabulary and toner cartridge yield determination, respectively.
  - Surgical Instruments: IS 19902 (Part 1):2026 and IS 19902 (Part 2):2026 have been established covering vocabulary and general requirements for surgical staplers.
  - Print Cartridges: IS/ISO/IEC 29142-1:2021 has been established for print cartridge characterization.
  - Electronic Components: IS/IEC 60115-2-10:2023 has been established for low-power film resistors used in electronic equipment.
  - Audiometric Equipment: IS/IEC 60645-7:2025 has been established for instruments used in the measurement of auditory evoked potentials.

  The new standards came into effect on October 05, 2026, while the corresponding existing standards will remain in force until their withdrawal on April 05, 2027.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Extension of Withdrawal Date of an Existing Indian Standard for Masonry Cement**

  The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on October 16, 2026, published a corrigendum amending its notification dated March 23, 2026, by extending the withdrawal date of an existing Indian Standard from September 20, 2026, to March 20, 2027.

  The Corrigendum provides as follows:

  - The withdrawal date of IS 3466:1988 - Specification for Masonry Cement (Second Revision), corresponding to the newly established IS 3466:2026 - Masonry Cement - Specification (Third Revision), has been extended from September 20, 2026, to March 20, 2027.

  Accordingly, both standards will remain in force concurrently until March 20, 2027.

  (To view the Corrigendum, please click here)

- **Extension of Withdrawal Date of an Existing Indian Standard Relating to Cement Testing Equipment**

  The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on October 06, 2026, published a corrigendum amending its notification dated March 23, 2026 (published on March 27, 2026), concerning the withdrawal date of an existing Indian Standard relating to cement testing equipment.

  The Corrigendum provides as follows:

  - The withdrawal date of IS 10080:1982 - Specification for Vibration Machine has been extended from September 20, 2026, to February 27, 2028, pursuant to the establishment of IS 10080:2026 - Vibration Machine for Casting Standard Cement Mortar Cubes - Specification.

  Accordingly, both standards will remain in force concurrently until February 27, 2028.

  (To view the Corrigendum, please click here)

- **Amendments to Various Indian Standards Relating to Petroleum Products, Cosmetics, Textiles and Other Products**

  The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on October 27, 2026, published a notification regarding amendments to 19 existing Indian Standards covering petroleum products, cosmetics, sanitary products, textiles, medical products, irrigation equipment and other products.

  The Notification provides as follows:

  - Petroleum Products: IS 1448 (Part 61):2023 (Amendment 1) relating to the test for leakage tendency of automotive wheel bearing grease has been amended.
  - Cosmetics and Sanitary Products: The following standards have been amended:
    - IS 4707 (Part 2):2025 (Amendment 1) relating to the list of generally recognised as non-hazardous and restricted cosmetic ingredients;
    - IS 5405:2025 (Amendment 1) relating to disposable sanitary napkins, panty liners, maternity pads and period panties; and
    - IS 17514:2025 (Amendment 1) relating to reusable sanitary pads, sanitary napkins and period panties.
  - Textiles and Woven Products: The following standards have been amended:
    - IS 6192:2023 (Amendment 1) relating to HDPE and PP monoaxially oriented tapes;
    - IS 7903:2017 (Amendment 3) relating to HDPE woven tarpaulins;
    - IS 16008 (Part 1):2016 and IS 16008 (Part 2):2016 (Amendment 2) relating to agro-textile shade nets made from tape yarns and monofilament yarns, respectively;
    - IS 16725:2018 (Amendment 2) relating to tactical three-point universal slings; and
    - IS 17399:2020 (Amendment 2) relating to PP/HDPE laminated woven sacks used for mail sorting, storage, transportation and distribution.
  - Medical and Hygiene Products: IS 17334:2025 (Amendment 1), IS 17508:2020 (Amendment 2) and IS 17509:2021 (Amendment 4) relating to medical and surgical gowns and drapes, disposable adult incontinence diapers and disposable baby diapers, respectively, have been amended.
  - Other Products: The following standards have been amended:
    - IS 4329:1967 (Amendment 3) relating to measuring microscopes;
    - IS 5960 (Part 11):2013 (Amendment 1) relating to the determination of glucono-delta-lactone content in meat and meat products;
    - IS 12786:2024 (Amendment 1) relating to polyethylene pipes for irrigation laterals;
    - IS 13193:2025 (Amendment 1) relating to PET/PBT thermoplastic polyesters;
    - IS 15068:2001 (Amendment 1) relating to cardamom oil; and
    - IS 17658:2021 (Amendment 1) relating to PVC homopolymers.

  The amendments were established on October 26, 2026. The corresponding existing standards without amendments will remain in force until April 25, 2027.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Amendments to Indian Standards Relating to Electrical Equipment, Mobile Phone Safety, Lifts and Consumer Storage Products**

  The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on October 27, 2026, notified amendments to seven Indian Standards covering electrical appliances, mobile phone safety, lift energy performance and storage products.

  The Notification provides as follows:
  - IS 996:2025 – Single Phase A.C. Induction Motors for General Purpose (Amendment No. 1).
  - IS 16333 (Part 1):2015 – Mobile Phone Handsets: Safety Requirements (Amendment No. 1).
  - IS 17515 (Part 2):2021 – Energy Performance of Lifts: Energy Calculation and Classification (Amendment No. 1).
  - IS 17569:2021 – Insulated Containers for Food Storage (Amendment No. 3).
  - IS 17790:2022 – Insulated Flask for Domestic Use (Amendment No. 4).
  - IS 17803:2022 – Potable Water Bottles (Metallic) (Amendment No. 3).
  - IS/IEC 60143-1:2015 – Series Capacitors for Power Systems: General (Amendment No. 1).

  All amendments were established on October 26, 2026. The corresponding standards without amendments shall remain in force until April 25, 2027.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

- **Introduction of Form No. 173A for Claiming Tax Exemption on Government Securities**

  The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on October,19 2026, issued a notification regarding the Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2026, introducing a new reporting requirement for claiming tax exemptions on specified Government securities.

  The Notification provides as follows:
  - A new Rule 281A has been inserted, requiring eligible taxpayers to furnish prescribed information for claiming exemption on interest and capital gains from specified Government securities.
  - Form No. 173A has been introduced to capture details such as taxpayer information, Government securities held, interest earned and capital gains claimed for exemption.

  The amendment came into effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Conditions for Merger of Registered Non-Profit Organisations**

  The Central Board of Direct Taxes, on October 30, 2026, notified the Income-tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2026, prescribing conditions and procedures for the merger of registered non-profit organisations having the same or similar objects.

  The Notification provides as follows:
  - Conditions for merger have been prescribed, including restrictions on merger between provisionally registered and registered non-profit organisations, transfer of assets and liabilities, settlement of outstanding tax demands and continuation of specified tax obligations.
  - The merged organisation is required to retain its objects for five years from the end of the financial year in which the merger takes place.
  - A new Form No. 112A has been introduced for intimating the jurisdictional Principal Commissioner or Commissioner within one month from the end of the month in which the merger takes effect. The form must be filed electronically with a digital signature or electronic verification code.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)

- **Introduction of e-Invoicing Facility for Self-Invoices under Reverse Charge Mechanism**

  The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) on October 16, 2026, issued an advisory, regarding the introduction of an e-invoicing facility for recipient-generated self-invoices for specified domestic supplies from unregistered persons and import of services under the Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM).

  The advisory provides as follows:
  - Two new supply types, RCMDOM and RCMIMP, have been introduced for reporting self-invoices relating to domestic supplies from unregistered persons and import of services, respectively, where tax is payable under RCM.

- The facility is intended for registered taxpayers having an Aggregate Annual Turnover (AATO) of ?5 crore or above, subject to applicable GST notifications and statutory provisions.
- The functionality is available for sandbox testing across all six authorised Invoice Registration Portals (IRPs). The production rollout date and commencement of reporting requirements will be communicated separately.

(To view the Advisory, please click here)

- **Clarification on Input Service Distributor Registration and Distribution of Input Tax Credit under GST**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), on October 26, 2026, issued a Circular clarifying requirements relating to Input Service Distributor (ISD) registration, distribution of Input Tax Credit (ITC) and its treatment for turnover and refund calculations under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework.

The Circular provides as follows:

- Businesses distributing common input service credit among their registered units must obtain separate ISD registration for each eligible business vertical or place of business. ISDs must distribute eligible and ineligible credit separately, while recipient units remain responsible for credit eligibility and reversals.
- Credit must be distributed in the month in which the ISD determines its eligibility. Incorrect distribution may result in penalties or recovery of excess credit from recipient units.
- Invoices and credit or debit notes issued for transferring credit to an ISD will be excluded from turnover and Net Input Tax Credit calculations for distribution and refund purposes. The transferring unit need not reverse the credit; the recipient unit is responsible for any required reversal.

(To view the Circular, please click here)

- **Guidelines for GST Registration Applications**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), on October 26, 2026, issued a Circular prescribing guidelines to simplify GST registration applications and reduce delays and unnecessary document requests.

The Circular provides as follows:

- It specifies document requirements for different business structures and premises, including owned, rented, shared and consent-based premises, along with prescribed formats for consent letters and undertakings.
- Applicants must ensure that PAN, business constitution, authorised signatory and principal place of business details are accurate and supported by appropriate documents. Bank details may be furnished within 30 days of registration.
- It also prescribes registration processing timelines and restricts tax officers from seeking unnecessary documents or raising unrelated queries, helping genuine applicants obtain registration without undue delays.

(To view the Circular, please click here)

- **Clarification on Input Tax Credit for Banks and Financial Institutions**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), on October 26, 2026, issued a Circular clarifying the availment and reversal of Input Tax Credit (ITC) by banks, financial institutions and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

The Circular clarifies as follows:

- The option to claim 50% of eligible ITC is available only to registrations engaged in accepting deposits or providing loans and advances. If one eligible registration opts for this method, all other eligible registrations of the same entity must follow it.
- The relaxation for supplies between registrations having the same Permanent Account Number (PAN) applies only where both the supplying and receiving registrations have opted for the 50% ITC method.
- It prescribes the procedure for reporting ITC availment, reversal and reclaiming in FORM GSTR-3B, including where the Invoice Management System (IMS) is used.

(To view the Circular, please click here)

- **Clarification on Retrospective Omission of GST Refund Restrictions**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), on October 26, 2026, issued a circular clarifying the retrospective applicability of the omission of Rule 96(10) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017, following a Supreme Court judgment.

The Circular clarifies that:

- The omission of Rule 96(10), which restricted certain exporters from claiming Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) refunds when they had availed specified import or procurement benefits, will apply retrospectively from October 23, 2017.

(To view the Circular, please click here)

- **Clarification on Input Tax Credit for Motor Vehicle Demo Vehicles**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), on October 26, 2026, issued a circular clarifying the availability of Input Tax Credit (ITC) on demonstration vehicles purchased by authorised agents appointed by vehicle manufacturers.

The Circular clarifies that:

- ITC on demo vehicles is available to authorised agents under the dealer-agency model, where vehicles are purchased for customer test drives and demonstrations, even though the manufacturer directly sells the vehicles to customers.
- The earlier restriction denying ITC to such agents has been withdrawn. The clarification ensures uniform ITC treatment under both dealer-agency and traditional dealership models.

(To view the Circular, please click here)

- **Implementation of GST Amendments Relating to Discounts and Refunds**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), on October 26, 2026, issued a Notification, bringing amendments relating to post-sale discounts, credit notes and GST refunds into effect from November 1, 2026.

The amendments provide as follows:

- Businesses can reduce the taxable value of a supply for discounts offered after the sale, provided they issue a credit note and the recipient reverses the corresponding Input Tax Credit (ITC).
- Suppliers can now issue credit notes specifically for such post-sale discounts, enabling the necessary adjustment in the GST payable.
- Eligible businesses can receive provisional refunds of accumulated ITC arising from an inverted tax structure. Further, the minimum INR 1,000 threshold for GST refunds will not apply to goods exported outside India with payment of tax.

(To view the Circular, please click here)

- **Clarification on Receipt of Export Payments**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), on October 26, 2026, issued a circular clarifying the modes of receiving export payments and the recovery of GST refunds where export proceeds are not realised.

The Circular clarifies as follows:

- Payments for export of services received in convertible foreign exchange or through eligible repatriable Indian Rupee accounts, including Special Non-Resident Rupee (SNRR) and Non-Resident External (NRE) accounts, will qualify as receipt of export proceeds.
- Set-off of export receivables against import payables, in compliance with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directions, and commission received by reinsurance brokers through the net retention mechanism will also qualify.
- For export of goods, the RBI-prescribed realisation period, including extensions, will apply. GST refund will not be recovered where an Authorised Dealer Bank has written off the unrealised export proceeds.

(To view the Circular, please click here)

- **Clarification on GST Appeal Pre-Deposits**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), on October 26, 2026, issued a circular clarifying the pre-deposit requirements for GST appeals and the related refund process.

The Circular clarifies as follows:

- Taxpayers must pay the full admitted liability and 10% of the disputed tax amount to file an appeal. For appeals before the Appellate Tribunal, the pre-deposit is calculated on the disputed tax liability confirmed by the Appellate Authority.
- Pre-deposit refunds cannot be denied merely because the Department intends to appeal against a favourable order, unless the order is stayed. Refund applications must be filed in Form GST RFD-01.
- Where a matter is remanded, the pre-deposit is refundable after adjusting any tax demand upheld in favour of the Revenue. Interest is calculated from the respective dates of payment.

(To view the Circular, please click here)

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)

- **Revision of Funeral Expenses Payable under the Code on Social Security, 2020**

  The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) on October 7, 2026, issued a notification, regarding the amount payable as funeral expenses under the Code on Social Security, 2020. The amount of funeral expenses has been fixed at INR 20,000, with effect from May 8, 2026.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Intensification of Aadhaar Seeding for Insured Persons and Beneficiaries**

  The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) issued a notification on October 21, 2026, directing its Regional and Sub-Regional Offices to intensify Aadhaar seeding of Insured Persons (IPs) and their beneficiaries to facilitate access to medical and cash benefits.

  The instructions provide as follows:
  - Regional and Sub-Regional Offices shall strengthen existing Aadhaar-seeding kiosks, organise targeted camps in industrial clusters and establishments, and resolve pending cases arising from demographic mismatches or technical issues.
  - A one-month, cluster-based intensive drive shall be conducted, with progress reports submitted to Headquarters. Zonal Insurance Commissioners shall monitor progress fortnightly and submit reports by the 7th of every month.

  (To view the Circular, please click here)

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

- **Proposed Revision of Pesticide Residue Limits in Tea**

  The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on October 15, 2026, published a notification, proposing draft amendments to the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011, to revise pesticide residue limits in tea.

  The draft amendments provide as follows:
  - The proposed Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) for Acetamiprid in tea is 20 mg/kg.
  - The proposed MRL for Imidacloprid in tea is 50 mg/kg.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Proposed Restriction on Addition of Sucrose and Fructose in Infant Food**

  The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on October 15, 2026, published a notification, proposing draft amendments to the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020, to restrict the addition of sucrose and fructose in products intended for infants up to 6 months of age.

  The draft amendments provide as follows:
  - Sucrose and fructose shall not be added to products intended for infants up to the age of 6 months.
  - Stakeholders may submit objections or suggestions within 60 days from the date the copies of the Official Gazette are made available to the public.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

- **Strengthening Real Estate Project-Specific Requirements Under the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process**

  The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), on October 30, 2026, notified the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, introducing project-specific measures for the resolution of corporate debtors having real estate projects.

  The Notification provides as follows:
  - The requirement to maintain separate bank accounts and project-wise financial reporting for each real estate project has been introduced, along with compliance with fund utilisation requirements under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.
  - A mechanism has been introduced for excluding individual real estate projects from the corporate insolvency resolution process, subject to the prescribed CoC recommendation and approval of the Adjudicating Authority.
  - Mandatory independent technical and cost-to-complete assessments of real estate projects have been introduced, along with enhanced project-wise disclosures in the Information Memorandum.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Introduction of Revised Form CA for Claims by Real Estate Allottees**

  The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), on October 30, 2026, issued a circular revising Form CA under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016, to simplify claim submission by financial creditors, particularly real estate allottees.

  The Circular provides as follows:
  - Form CA has been divided into two parts: Part I for financial creditors other than real estate allottees and Part II specifically for real estate allottees.
  - Financial creditors in a class must submit claims using the revised Form CA from October 30, 2026. Claims submitted using the earlier form need not be resubmitted.

  (To view the Circular, please click here)

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

- **Migration of Health Regulatory Returns and Health Product UIN Generation to Business Analytics Platform**

  The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) on October 30, 2026, issued a circular migrating the submission of Health Regulatory Returns and generation of Unique Identification Numbers (UINs) for Health Insurance Products to its Business Analytics Platform (BAP).

  The circular provides as follows:
  - All concerned insurers are required to submit Health Regulatory Returns for FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26, as well as RET 197 for Q1 and Q2 of FY 2026-27 (excluding life insurers), through the Health module of the BAP portal. Subsequent returns shall also be submitted through the portal at the prescribed frequency.
  - With effect from November 2, 2026, insurers shall exclusively use the Health Product module of the BAP portal to generate UINs for new Health Insurance Products and modifications to existing products, and submit updates relating to product withdrawals. The earlier Health Department email communication dated June 10, 2024, regarding UIN generation shall cease to apply.

  (To view the circular, please click here)

Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)

- **Extension of Due Date for Filing Cost Audit Reports in CRA-4**

  The Ministry of Corporate Affairs on October 27, 2026 issued a General Circular, providing relaxation from additional fees for filing Cost Audit Reports in Form CRA-4 for the financial year 2025-26.

  The circular provides as follows:
  - Companies may file Form CRA-4 (Cost Audit Report in XBRL format) for the financial year 2025-26 up to December 31, 2026, without payment of additional fees.
  - Filings made after December 31, 2026, shall attract applicable filing fees and additional fees calculated from the original due date under Rule 6(6) of the Companies (Cost Records and Audit) Rules, 2014.

  (To view the Circular, please click here)

- **Extension of Due Dates for Filing Financial Statements and Annual Returns**

  The Ministry of Corporate Affairs on October 24, 2026 issued a General Circular, extending the timelines for filing annual statutory forms under the Companies Act, 2013, for the financial year 2025-26, without payment of additional fees.

  The circular provides as follows:
  - Companies may file financial statements in Forms AOC-4, AOC-4 (CFS), AOC-4 (XBRL) and applicable NBFC forms by December 31, 2026, without additional fees.
  - Annual returns in Forms MGT-7 and MGT-7A may be filed by January 31, 2027, without additional fees.
  - The relaxation does not extend the statutory timeline for holding Annual General Meetings (AGMs). Filings made after the extended deadlines shall attract applicable additional fees calculated from the original statutory due dates.

  (To view the Circular, please click here)

Ministry of Finance (MoF)

- **Customs Duty Concessions on Imports of New Zealand-Origin Goods under the India–New Zealand Trade Agreement**

  The Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), on October 16, 2026, issued a notification, granting customs duty concessions on specified goods imported into India from New Zealand.

  The Notification provides as follows:
  - Specified goods listed in Tables I, II and III are eligible for concessional Basic Customs Duty (BCD) and Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC), with certain entries also providing concessions on Health Cess. The concessions under Table III are subject to the conditions specified in the Annexure to the Notification.
  - Specified goods listed in Table IV are eligible for concessional BCD and AIDC rates up to the prescribed annual import quantities, subject to the applicable conditions.
  - Importers claiming the exemption must establish to the satisfaction of the Deputy Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner of Customs, as applicable.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Extension of Customs Duty Exemption on Raw Sugar Imports under TRQ**

  The Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), on October 22, 2026, issued a Notification, to extend the validity of the customs duty exemption on imports of raw sugar.

  The Notification provides as follows:
  - The exemption from the whole of customs duty on imports of 10 lakh metric tonnes of raw sugar falling under Tariff Heading 1701, under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) scheme, has been extended from October 31, 2026, to December 31, 2026.
  - The existing conditions remain unchanged, including allocation of the TRQ by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), issuance of electronic TRQ authorisation and electronic debiting of the authorised quantity in the Indian Customs EDI System (ICES).

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Opium Poppy Cultivation and Licensing Policy for the 2026–27 Crop Year**

  The Ministry of Finance, on October 23, 2026, issued notifications specifying the eligibility and licensing conditions for cultivation of opium poppy for production of un-lanced poppy straw and opium gum during the 2026-27 crop year.

  The Notifications provide as follows:
  - Cultivators must meet the prescribed eligibility criteria, including a minimum average yield of 800 kg per hectare for un-lanced poppy straw and 4.4 kg of morphine per hectare for opium gum during the 2025-26 crop year.
  - The maximum licensed area is 0.05 hectares for un-lanced poppy straw and 0.10 hectares for opium gum, each in one plot. Land belonging to others may be taken on lease.
  - Eligible cultivators must apply through the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) Online Portal within the stipulated timeline and provide the prescribed land and plot details.

  (To view the Notifications, please click here and here)

- **Amendment to the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017**

  The Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), on October 26, 2026, notified the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2026, introducing changes to GST registration, input tax credit and refund procedures.

  The Notification provides as follows:
  - A new mechanism has been introduced under Rule 14B for eligible suppliers selling through e-commerce operators to obtain GST registration in States where they have no physical presence.
  - Revised procedures have been introduced for system-based suspension, cancellation and revocation of GST registration.
  - A formal procedure has been prescribed for restricting input tax credit under Rule 86A, including electronic communication and taxpayer objections.

  The amendments come into force in phases from November 1, 2026, with certain provisions effective from December 1, 2026, and April 1, 2027.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Introduction of Reverse Charge and TDS Requirements for Specified Scrap Supplies and Amendments to GST and Customs Duty Provisions**

  The Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), on October 27, 2026, issued a series of notifications amending the GST rate, reverse charge, registration, tax deduction at source (TDS) and customs duty exemption provisions.

The Notifications provide as follows:

- Registered seaweed-extract-based bio-stimulants have been included under the specified fertiliser entry. Retreaded tractor tyres have been separately classified under the 5% GST rate, while other specified retreaded or used rubber tyres remain covered under the 18% rate. Psyllium seeds (Isabgol) have been specifically included in the relevant GST rate schedules.
- Reverse charge has been extended to supplies of used cooking oil, plastic waste and scrap, tyre waste and scrap, and electrical and electronic waste and scrap made by unregistered persons to registered persons.
- The definition of "Nominated Agency" under the specified GST exemption notifications has been aligned with the entities listed in Appendix 4B of the Handbook of Procedures, as amended by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

The above amendments come into force from November 1, 2026.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Amendments to GST Rates and Input Tax Credit Provisions for Hospitality, Electric Vehicle and Delivery Services**

The Ministry of Finance, on October 27, 2026, issued a Notification amending the GST rate and input tax credit provisions applicable to hospitality, electric vehicle transportation and renting, and delivery services.

The Notification provides as follows:

- The Input Tax Credit (ITC) conditions for specified hotel accommodation, restaurant, catering and food supply services have been revised, including restrictions on credit for certain same-line input services.
- The tax rates and ITC conditions for passenger transportation and renting of electrically operated vehicles, where battery charging costs are included in the consideration, have been revised.
- A 2.5% central tax rate has been prescribed for specified delivery services supplied through electronic commerce operators, subject to non-availment of ITC on related inputs and input services.
- The definition of "goods transport agency" has been revised, and a definition of "electrically operated vehicle" has been introduced.

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

(To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Regulatory Classification and Quantity Limits for Specified Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances**

The Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), on October 28, 2026, issued three notifications under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, introducing regulatory changes for three specified substances.

The Notifications provide as follows:

- N-Pyrrolidino Isotonitazene and N-Desethyl Etonitazene have been declared as manufactured drugs, including their salts and preparations.
- MDMB-FUBINACA has been added to the Schedule of the Act as a psychotropic substance.
- Small and commercial quantity limits have been prescribed for all three substances, ranging from 0.0005 gm to 0.0025 gm and 0.025 gm to 0.125 gm, respectively.

The amendments came into force on October 28, 2026.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

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

The Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), on October 30, 2026, issued a Notification, revising the tariff values of specified imported goods under the Customs Act, 1962.

The Notification provides as follows:

- Revised tariff values have been prescribed for crude and refined palm oil, palmolein, crude soya bean oil and brass scrap under Table 1.
- Tariff values for gold and silver in specified forms have been fixed at USD 1,295 per 10 grams for gold and USD 1,711 per kilogram for silver under Table 2.
- The tariff value for areca nuts remains unchanged at USD 10,433

(To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Extension of Customs Duty Exemption on Cotton Imports**

The Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), on October 30, 2026, issued a Notification, extending the existing exemption from Basic Customs Duty and Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on imports of cotton under Customs Tariff Heading 5201.

The Notification provides as follows:

- The exemption from the whole of customs duty and AIDC on cotton imports, originally granted has been extended from October 31, 2026, to December 31, 2026.

The extension ensures continued duty relief on eligible cotton imports until December 31, 2026.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Revision of Special Additional Excise Duty on Export of Petrol, Diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel**

The Ministry of Finance on October 31, 2026, issued Notifications, revising the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) rates applicable to petrol, high-speed diesel oil and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) cleared for export.

The notifications provide as follows:

- Petrol and High-Speed Diesel: The SAED on petrol has been reduced from INR 2.50 to Nil per litre, while the rate on high-speed diesel has been increased from INR 8.50 to INR 11.50 per litre.
- Aviation Turbine Fuel: The SAED on ATF has been increased from INR 10.50 to INR 11 per litre.

Both notifications have come into effect from October 31, 2026, the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

(To view the notification, please click here)

Ministry of Textile

- **Extension of Validity of Exemption under the Jute Packaging Materials Order**

The Ministry of Textiles on October 27, 2026, issued an Order, amending the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Order, 2025, to extend the validity of the specified exemption. The validity of the exemption period, previously ending on June 30, 2025, has been extended until January 31, 2027, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

(To view the Order, please click here)

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- **Amendments to the Infrastructure Investment Trusts Regulatory Framework**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on October 12, 2026, published a notification, regarding the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026, further amending the regulatory framework governing Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs).

The amendments provide as follows:

- InvITs have been permitted to issue **Depository Receipts** against their units, subject to compliance with the applicable regulations and conditions specified by SEBI.
- The approval threshold for specified unitholder resolutions has been revised from 75% of unitholders by value to at least **75% of the total votes cast in favour**. For specified transactions involving related parties, votes cast by such parties are excluded from the calculation.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Margin Waiver on Subsequent Buy/Sell Transactions Following Early Pay-In**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on October 22, 2026, issued a circular, regarding the waiver of margin requirements on subsequent buy/sell transactions undertaken by clients following Early Pay-In (EPI) of securities in the cash segment.

The circular provides as follows:

- Clearing Corporations shall waive margin collection on clients' subsequent buy/sell positions up to the value of successfully accepted EPI, where the client has a net sell obligation.
- The available EPI value shall be the lower of the EPI value and the value of securities sold. If the client squares off the sale position, the EPI benefit shall be withdrawn and any resulting margin shortfall blocked from the Trading Member/Clearing Member's proprietary collateral. This excludes Trade-for-Trade securities.

(To view the Circular, please click here)

- **Relaxation in Maintenance of Call Recordings by Research Analysts**

  The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on October 23, 2026, issued a circular, relaxing the requirement for Research Analysts (RAs) and Research Entities (REs) to maintain call recordings of interactions with institutional investor clients.

  The circular provides as follows:

  - RAs/REs are no longer mandatorily required to maintain call recordings of interactions with institutional investors. However, records of all client interactions, including those with prospective clients, must continue to be maintained through legally verifiable means such as signed physical records, emails and Short Message Service (SMS) records.

  (To view the Circular, please click here)

- **Extension of Compliance Timeline for Debenture Trustees**

  The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on October 27, 2026, issued a circular, extending the timeline for Debenture Trustees (DTs) to comply with requirements for transferring activities outside SEBI's regulatory purview to separate business units.

  The circular provides as follows:

  - DTs have been granted an additional six months, extending the compliance deadline from October 27, 2026, to April 27, 2027, to implement the Separate Business Unit (SBU) framework.
  - The extension has been granted considering the ongoing review of the regulatory framework by SEBI's Expert Working Group and implementation challenges raised by DT associations.

  All other provisions of SEBI's circular dated November 25, 2025, remain unchanged.

  (To view the Circular, please click here)

- **Rationalisation of KYC Review Periodicity for Foreign Portfolio Investors**

  The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on October 30, 2026, issued a circular rationalising the periodicity of Know Your Client (KYC) reviews for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) and simplifying the requirements for continuation of their registration.

  The circular provides as follows:

  - The KYC review period has been extended to 8 years for Category I FPIs in non-high-risk jurisdictions and regulated Category II FPIs in non-high-risk jurisdictions. For high-risk jurisdictions, the review period is 8 years for Category I FPIs, and 2 years for Category I and all Category II FPIs.
  - The requirement to intimate changes in previously furnished information or submit a no-change declaration at the time of continuation of registration has been removed. FPIs must pay the applicable continuation fee to their DDP at least 15 days before expiry of their registration.
  - Depositories, Custodians and DDPs shall update their systems and processes and notify the concerned FPIs.

  The revised requirements shall come into effect from December 1, 2026.

  (To view the circular, please click here)

- **Extension of Timeline for Compliance with Digital Accessibility Requirements**

  The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on October 30, 2026, issued a circular extending the timeline for compliance with its earlier circulars concerning the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the rules made thereunder by Regulated Entities (REs).

  The circular provides as follows:

  - REs have been granted an extension until January 31, 2027 to appoint an International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP) Auditor, conduct accessibility audits of their digital platforms and remediate the findings identified during such audits.
  - All other requirements under the earlier circulars shall remain unchanged and must continue to be complied with by REs.

  (To view the circular, please click here)

Industry-wise updates

Agriculture & Other Rural Sectors

- **Revision of Notified Seed Varieties and Their Geographical Areas of Production**

  The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, on October 27, 2026, issued a series of notifications under the Seeds Act, 1966, amending earlier notifications relating to specified seed varieties and their areas of production.

  The Notifications provide as follows:
  - The States specified for certain seed varieties have been revised, including changes to the notified areas of production for varieties covered under earlier notifications.
  - Entries relating to specified varieties of paddy, maize, sugarcane and other crops have been updated, including the addition or substitution of notified variety names and hybrid designations.
  - The amendments cover notifications issued between 2005 and 2025, updating the applicable crop varieties and their respective geographical areas.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

Basic Metal Production

- **Amendment to the Domestically Manufactured Iron & Steel Products Policy**

  The Ministry of Steel on October 15, 2026 published a notification, further amending the Domestically Manufactured Iron & Steel Products (DMI&SP) Policy, 2025, to revise domestic sourcing conditions for specified steel products and capital goods.

  The amendments provide as follows:
  - For products covered under Harmonised System (HS) Codes 7304, 7305, 7306 and 7307, the condition of "50% Domestic Value Addition" has been replaced with "Melt & Pour".
  - Steelmaking Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are required to procure all capital goods listed in Appendix-B from domestic sources. Where the required specifications are not available domestically, the Ministry of Steel's Standing Committee may consider requests for import permission on a case-to-case basis.
  - All other provisions of the DMI&SP Policy, as amended, remain unchanged.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

Chemical Industries

- **Introduction of Tariff Rate Quotas under the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement**

  The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), on October 17, 2026, notified the procedure for allocating Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) for specified imports from New Zealand under the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, effective October 20, 2026.

  The Public Notice provides as follows:
  - TRQs have been introduced for apples, kiwifruit, albumins and M?nuka honey, with specified annual quantity limits, import windows and applicable customs duties.
  - New Zealand exporters or producers will receive export certificates specifying the product, quantity and Indian importer. Indian importers must apply for TRQ Authorisation through the DGFT website, referencing the relevant export certificate.
  - DGFT will issue electronic authorisations linked to the Indian Customs system. Imports will be permitted within the specified quota limits and applicable import windows, and unused quota will lapse upon expiry of the authorisation.

  (To view the Public Notice, please click here)

- **Extension of Duty-Free Import Period for Raw Sugar**

  The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, on October 19, 2026, extended the period for duty-free import of raw sugar under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ).

  The Notification provides as follows:
  - The deadline for importing 10 lakh metric tonnes of raw sugar under the duty-free TRQ has been extended from October 31, 2026, to December 31, 2026.
  - All other conditions specified in the earlier Notification dated August 20, 2026, remain unchanged.

  (To view the Notification, 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 October 19, 2026, extended the deadline for surrender of unutilised Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) allocated for importing raw sugar.

  The Public Notice provides as follows:
  - TRQ holders may surrender unutilised raw sugar quota up to November 15, 2026, upon payment of 0.5% of the Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) value of the surrendered quantity.

  (To view the Public Notice, please click here)

- **Relaxation of Pre-Shipment Inspection Requirements for Metallic Scrap Imports**

  The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), on October 21, 2026, amended the import requirements for metallic waste and scrap originating from designated safe countries/regions.

  The Public Notice provides as follows:
  - Imports of metallic waste and scrap from the USA, UK, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the European Union are exempt from the Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate (PSIC), subject to a supplier certificate confirming the absence of radioactive materials and explosives.
  - The exemption applies to consignments entering through 11 designated seaports, subject to mandatory radiation and explosive checks. Trans-shipped consignments are not eligible.

  The exemption also covers eligible consignments cleared through an Inland Container Depot (ICD), provided the prescribed conditions are met at the port of entry and supporting proof is furnished at the ICD.

  (To view the Public Notice, please click here)

- **Notification of Four New Standard Input-Output Norms**

  The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, on October 23, 2026, notified four new Standard Input-Output Norms (SIONs) under the Chemical and Allied Products category.

  The Public Notice provides as follows:
  - Four new SIONs, numbered A-3715 to A-3718, have been introduced for three variants of Doxycycline Tablets and Clobetasol Propionate.

  The norms specify the permitted quantity of inputs required for the respective export products to facilitate faster issuance of Advance Authorisations and ensure uniformity in their application.

  (To view the Public Notice, please click here)

- **Capping of Trade Margins on 137 Non-Scheduled Anti-Cancer Drugs**

  The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals), on October 17, 2026, issued an order, imposing a maximum trade margin of 30% on 137 specified non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs to regulate their prices and improve affordability.

  The Order provides as follows:
  - The MRP of formulations containing any of the 137 specified drugs, individually or in combination and irrespective of dosage strength, dosage form or route of administration, shall be calculated using the prescribed formula, with a maximum trade margin of 30% and PTS/PTD for March 2026 as the reference price.
  - The cap applies to branded, generic and patented formulations. Formulations supplied directly to hospitals and medical institutions shall be subject to the same pricing requirements, with such institutions treated as stockists/distributors.
  - Manufacturers charging an MRP above the prescribed limit shall reduce it accordingly, while those already charging a lower MRP may retain it. Products launched after March 31, 2026, shall be priced using current PTS/PTD.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

Electronics and Information Technology

- **Extension of Implementation Timeline for Standalone Hard Disk Drives**

  The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on October 16, 2026, extended the implementation timeline for Standalone Hard Disk Drives under the Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirement of Compulsory Registration) Order, 2021, from November 5, 2026, to May 1, 2027.

  The extension applies to the requirement for Standalone Hard Disk Drives to comply with IS 13252 (Part 1): 2010.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

Health

- **Revision of Residual Shelf-Life Requirements for Imported Drugs**

  The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on October 16, 2026, notified the Drugs (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2026, amending Rule 31 of the Drugs Rules, 1945, to revise the minimum residual shelf-life requirements for imported drugs.

  The amendments provide as follows:
  - The licensing authority shall not permit the import of any drug having less than one year of residual shelf life on the date of import.
  - For biological drugs and radiopharmaceuticals, a residual shelf life of 60% of the labelled shelf life may be permitted.

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

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

Labour & Employment

- **Revision of Wage Ceiling under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 2026**

  The Ministry of Labour and Employment on October 15, 2026, notified amendments to the Employees' Pension Scheme, 2026, revising the wage limit specified under Paragraph 4(2) of the Scheme.

  The amendments provide as follows:
  - The contribution-related wage limit under Paragraph 4(2) has been specified as wages up to INR 15,000 per month, replacing the earlier provision referring to such sum as may be specified by the Central Government.
  - The words "and the Central Government" have been omitted from the first proviso to Paragraph 4(2).

  The amendments have come into force retrospectively from September 17, 2026.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

Coal & Mining

- **Amendments to the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015**

  The Ministry of Mines on October 16, 2026, notified the Mineral (Auction) Third Amendment Rules, 2026, amending the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015, to revise bidder qualification requirements for auctions of specified minerals under Part D of the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

  The amendments provide as follows:
  - For auctions of minerals specified in Part D, where two to five bidders are technically qualified, all such bidders will be considered qualified. If at least two bidders are technically qualified, the auction will proceed to the second round. Where fewer than two bidders qualify, the first attempt of auction will be annulled.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

Shipping, Ports, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

- **Introduction of Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Collisions at Sea) Rules, 2026**

  The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on October 15, 2026, notified the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Collisions at Sea) Rules, 2026, under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, replacing the 1975 Regulations. The Rules came into force on the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

  The Rules provide as follows:
  - The Rules apply to Indian-registered vessels and foreign vessels operating within India, including coastal waters. Vessels must comply with applicable traffic separation schemes and routeing measures.
  - Vessels must maintain compliant lights, shapes and sound-signalling appliances and hold a valid certificate of compliance before proceeding to sea. Violations may result in investigation, detention or suspension/cancellation of certificates, while contraventions attract penalties under Section 281 of the Act.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Licensing Requirements for Foreign-Flag Vessels under the Coastal Shipping Rules, 2026**

  The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on October 15, 2026, published the notification introducing the Coastal Shipping (Licencing of Foreign Flag Vessels) Rules, 2026, under the Coastal

Shipping Act, 2025, prescribing licensing requirements for foreign-flag vessels engaged in coasting trade and specified chartered operations. The Rules came into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

The Rules provide as follows:

- Foreign-flag vessels participating in coasting trade or chartered by entities specified under Section 11(1) of the Act must obtain a licence from the Director-General. Applications must be submitted at least 72 hours before the laycan date, specifying the charter type (voyage charter, time charter or Contract of Affreightment) and licence category (export, import, coastal, worldwide or offshore).
- A valid licence must be produced by the vessel's licensee or agent to the proper officer for port clearance. The Rules also prescribe procedures for licence extension or modification.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Introduction of Merchant Shipping (Ships and Port Facility Security) Rules, 2026**

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on October 23, 2026, notified the Merchant Shipping (Ships and Port Facility Security) Rules, 2026, under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, replacing the 2024 Rules and prescribing security requirements for ships and port facilities. The Rules came into force on October 26, 2026.

The Rules provide as follows:

- The Rules apply to specified Indian ships, foreign ships calling at Indian ports or offshore facilities, Indian port facilities, and companies owning or managing such ships or facilities.
- Port facilities must conduct security assessments, prepare and implement approved Port Facility Security Plans, appoint qualified Port Facility Security Officers and implement security measures corresponding to the applicable security levels. Security audits and certification requirements also apply.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Introduction of Merchant Shipping (Wreck and Salvage) Rules, 2026**

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on October 23, 2026, notified the Merchant Shipping (Wreck and Salvage) Rules, 2026, under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, superseding the Merchant Shipping (Wrecks and Salvage) Rules, 1974

The Rules provide as follows:

- The master, shipowner or operator must report wreck incidents with details including the wreck's location, condition, cargo, hazardous substances and potential risks to navigation or the marine environment. The Director-General may issue navigational warnings and direct the owner or operator to mark the wreck.
- The registered owner or operator is primarily responsible for wreck removal and must appoint a retained salvor or marine pollution response operator when directed by the authority. The Rules also provide for the authority to undertake or assume control of salvage operations in specified circumstances, with the costs recoverable from the responsible owner or other relevant parties.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Introduction of Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Rules, 2026**

The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, on October 27, 2026, notified the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Rules, 2026, under the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009, replacing the 2010 Rules.

The Notification provides as follows:

- Directors must report vaccination details and vaccinated animals, while authorised Veterinarians must issue vaccination certificates for animals other than poultry and poultry, respectively, through the portal.
- Carcasses of animals infected or suspected to be infected with scheduled diseases must be disposed of by burial, incineration or rendering under veterinary supervision, subject to prescribed disposal and site-safety requirements. Rendered products cannot be used in animal feed.
- Veterinarians must follow prescribed procedures for post-mortem examinations and submit reports in Form 6 through the Bharat Pashudhan portal within 12 hours. No post-mortem examination shall be conducted where anthrax is suspected.

The Rules came into force on October 27, 2026, and supersede the 2010 Rules, subject to savings for actions already taken

(To view the Notification, please click here)

Telecommunication

- **Revision of Standards for Telecommunication Equipment**

  The Ministry of Communications, through the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), issued a notification on October 15, 2026, regarding the revision of standards for specified telecommunication equipment, effective from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

  The revised standards include:
  - TEC 58111:2026: Test Guide for Fraud Management and Control Centre (FMCC).
  - TEC 61020:2025: Generic Requirements for Monitoring Equipment for Lawful Interception of Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), Next Generation Network (NGN) and Internet Protocol Multimedia Subsystem (IMS).
  - TEC 85030:2026 and TEC 85140:2026: Generic Requirements for metal-free ribbon optical fibre cables and metal-free optical fibre cables with nylon outer sheath for underground duct applications.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Proposed Authorisation Framework for Application-Based Television Distribution Services**

  Telecom Regulatory Authority of India on October 26, 2026, issued a notification releasing recommendations, proposing a separate authorisation framework for Application-based Linear Television Distribution (ALTD) services.

  The recommendations provide as follows:
  - ALTD service providers shall obtain authorisation, subject to a proposed application fee of ?10,000 and a one-time entry fee of ?1 lakh, without recurring fees or bank guarantees.
  - Application providers shall be responsible for regulatory compliance, while Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and Operating System (OS) providers shall ensure that only authorised ALTD applications are available on their platforms.
  - The framework also proposes grievance redressal mechanisms and permits distribution of television channels holding valid government permission or registration.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Introduction of Regulatory Sandbox Framework for Telecommunications**

  The Ministry of Communications, on October 21, 2026, notified the Telecommunications (Regulatory Sandbox) Rules, 2026, to facilitate innovation and technological development in the telecommunications sector.

  The Rules provide as follows:
  - Eligible entities, companies, research institutions and individuals may apply to test new telecommunications technologies, products and business models, subject to a non-refundable processing fee of ?10,000.
  - Regulatory sandboxes may operate for up to 24 months, extendable by 12 months at a time. Approved applicants must ensure data protection, obtain prior consent from test users, maintain testing records for at least one year after expiry and submit testing reports to the Government.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

Transport including aviation, railways, road, inland waterways

- **Delegation of Powers to Directorate General of Civil Aviation Officers under the Aircraft (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) Rules, 2026**

  The Ministry of Civil Aviation, on October 15, 2026, published a notification delegating specified powers of the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) under the Aircraft (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) Rules, 2026, to designated officers of the DGCA.

  The Notification provides as follows:
  - Joint Director General of Civil Aviation: Powers under Serial Nos. 1 to 10 of the Second Schedule.
  - Deputy Director General of Civil Aviation: Powers under Serial Nos. 4, 5, 9 and 10.
  - Director and Deputy Director (Regulations & Information), Dangerous Goods Division, and Senior Dangerous Goods Inspector: Specified powers relating to dangerous goods approvals, cargo restrictions and training records.
  - The delegated powers include certification and approval of operators for carriage of dangerous goods, approval of transportation of specified dangerous goods, restriction on cargo acceptance, approval of training programmes and training organisations, and acceptance of training manuals.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Proposed Amendments to Driving Licence Requirements and Procedures**

  The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on October 16, 2026, published a notification, proposing amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, to revise documentation requirements, application procedures, medical declarations and services relating to driving licences.

  The draft amendments provide as follows:
  - The proposed amendments revise the documents accepted as proof of address, age and identity for driving licence applications, including Aadhaar, passport, voter identity card, educational certificates and other specified documents. Separate driving licence formats are also proposed for Indian and foreign nationals.
  - The amendments propose changes to the learner's licence process, including extending the period for completing the safe driving tutorial from 7 to 15 days, prescribing a minimum tutorial duration of 30 minutes and increasing the qualifying test score from 60% to 75%.
  - The draft introduces an online process for recording changes in driving licence particulars, with a 15-day approval timeline and deemed approval for address-change applications not accepted or rejected within 30 days. It also proposes waiving specified fees for online Aadhaar-authenticated services and changes to medical fitness declarations and related application requirements.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Proposed Introduction of Advanced Vehicle Safety Requirements**

  The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on October 19, 2026, published a notification, proposing amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, to introduce enhanced vehicle safety requirements relating to emergency braking, steering control, lane keeping and driver alertness.

  The draft amendments provide as follows:
  - The proposed amendments require specified M1 and N1 category vehicles to comply with Advanced Emergency Braking System (AEBS) standards, with phased implementation from October 1, 2028. AEBS will be mandatory for M1 category vehicles from October 2030 for new models and October 2032 for all models.
  - The amendments propose requirements for steering effort, Automatic Command Steering Functionalities (ACSF) and Emergency Lane Keeping System (ELKS), with phased implementation beginning October 1, 2027. ACSF and ELKS will be mandatory for M1 category vehicles registered as transport vehicles from October 1, 2029.
  - The draft also proposes requirements for luggage retention, child restraint anchorage systems and Driver Drowsiness and Attention Warning Systems, with implementation timelines ranging from October 2027 to October 2029, depending on the vehicle category and model.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Amendment to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989**

  The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on October 23, 2026, issued a notification amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, to revise technical specifications and references relating to vehicle emission standards and alternative fuels.

  The amendments provide as follows:
  - The vehicle category covered under Table 2 of Rule 115 has been expanded from vehicles with a gross weight not exceeding 3,000 kg to 3,500 kg. The amendments also update references to fuel specifications, including E20, E100 and B100.
  - The amendments permit the use of E100 fuel in specified vehicle categories, with E85 or E100 to be used in vehicles designed by Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) as flex-fuel vehicles.
  - Various technical references, emission measurement parameters, units and cross-references under Rule 115 and Rule 115E have been corrected or updated, including the reference to Annexure SA for E100 vehicles.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Amendment to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989**

  The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on October 26, 2026, issued a notification amending the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, to introduce a Concessional Local Pass for eligible vehicle owners residing within 20 kilometres of a fee plaza, with effect from November 1, 2026.

  The amendments provide as follows:
  - Vehicle owners with valid and functional FASTags registered for non-commercial use may opt for either the existing monthly pass or a Concessional Local Pass applicable to the specific fee plaza.

- The annual fee for the Concessional Local Pass is ?1,500 for fee plazas located outside municipal or local town limits and ?3,000 for those within such limits. The rates may be revised annually with effect from April 1.
- The pass will not be available for highways or expressways using a closed user fee collection system or where a service road or alternative road is available.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Introduction of Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026 for Regulation of Civil Aviation**

The Ministry of Civil Aviation, on October 26, 2026, notified the Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026, under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024, introducing a revised regulatory framework for civil aviation in India covering aircraft registration, airworthiness, licensing, aircraft operations, aviation safety and air transport services.

The Notification provides as follows:

- The Rules prescribe requirements for aircraft registration, issuance of certificates of airworthiness, type certification of aeronautical products and aircraft maintenance.
- Aircraft owners and operators are required to comply with operational and safety requirements relating to flight operations, aircraft maintenance, crew responsibilities, carriage of passengers and cargo, and fatigue management of flight and cabin crew.
- Operators of scheduled and non-scheduled air transport services must obtain the prescribed permits and authorisations and comply with the conditions specified by the Director General of Civil Aviation.

(To view the notification, please click here)

Textiles, clothing, leather

- **Modification of Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Textiles to Facilitate Round 4 Participation**

The Ministry of Textiles, on October 28, 2026, issued a notification partially modifying the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles, introducing revised investment and turnover thresholds, incentive rates and migration provisions for applicants under Round 4.

The Notification provides as follows:

- Revised investment and turnover thresholds for Round 4 have been set at INR 150 crore and INR 600 crore under Part I, and INR 50 crore and INR 100 crore under Part II, respectively.
- First-year incentives of 15% (Part I) and 11% (Part II) have been prescribed, with annual reductions of 1% and minimum 10% incremental turnover requirements.
- Existing participants under Rounds 1-3 who have not received incentives may migrate to Round 4, subject to withdrawal of existing applications.
- Round 4 has been extended up to FY 2033-34, with FY 2032-33 as the final performance year.

The amendments came into force on October 28, 2026. Detailed operational guidelines incorporating the changes will be issued separately.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

Utilities (water, gas, electricity)

- **Assessment of Industry Readiness for Transmission Technology Innovations**

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on October 28, 2026, publishing a notification inviting interested and established manufacturers to furnish details regarding the development status, manufacturing capacity, commercial readiness and indicative costs of technological innovations proposed to address Right of Way (RoW) constraints in transmission infrastructure.

The request provides as follows:

- Manufacturers are required to furnish details in the prescribed format for technological innovations, including pole structures, multi-circuit configurations and insulated cross arms at 400 kV and 765 kV voltage levels.
- The information is being sought to assess industry readiness, as the Government is considering stipulating the use of these technologies in suitable corridors for upcoming Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) projects.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

State-wise updates

Andhra Pradesh

- **General Holiday declared on Maha Navami**

  The General Administration Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, vide Order dated October 16, 2026, partially modified its earlier orders dated December 4, 2025, notifying general and optional holidays for 2026.

  The following has been notified:
  - October 19, 2026 (Monday), has been declared a general holiday on the occasion of Maha Navami, in partial modification of the earlier holiday schedule.
  - November 14, 2026 (Saturday), being the second Saturday of the month, will instead be a working day in lieu of the holiday declared on October 19, 2026.

  All personnel engaged in election processes and election-related activities must continue to attend to their assigned duties notwithstanding the declaration of the holiday.

  (To view the Order, please click here)

- **Prohibition on Non-Standardised Dairy Analogues in Food Service Establishments**

  The Commissioner of Food Safety, Andhra Pradesh, on October 27, 2026, issued an order under Section 30(2)(a) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, prohibiting specified activities involving non-standardised dairy analogues.

  The following has been prohibited:
  - The manufacture, processing, packing, storage, transportation, distribution and sale of non-standardised analogue Paneer, non-dairy or artificial Paneer, in any form, which imitates or is represented as genuine Paneer.
  - The manufacture, processing, packing, storage, transportation, distribution and sale of other non-standardised dairy analogues which imitate Paneer, cream, butter or other dairy products, or which, through their labelling, packaging, presentation, advertising, description or method of sale, create the impression that they are genuine dairy products.
  - The use, supply or serving of such non-standardised dairy analogues in hotels, restaurants, caterers, cloud kitchens, institutions, eateries and other food service establishments in a manner that represents or serves them to consumers as corresponding genuine dairy products.
  - The prohibition does not extend to standardised products such as Frozen Desserts, Processed Cheese and Mixed Fat Spreads. Food Business Operators must ensure that products represented, sold or served as Paneer conform to the applicable FSSAI standards and are not misrepresented as genuine dairy products.

  The prohibition applies throughout Andhra Pradesh for one year from September 21, 2026, unless modified, revoked or superseded earlier by the competent authority or applicable regulatory standards.

  (To view the Order, please click here)

Arunachal Pradesh

- **Mandatory Authorisation for Hazardous and Other Waste Handling Facilities**

  The Arunachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, vide Notice dated October 5, 2026, directed occupiers of facilities engaged in handling hazardous and other wastes to obtain authorisation under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.

  The following has been directed:
  - Attention has been drawn to Rule 6(1) of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, which requires every occupier of a facility engaged in the handling, generation, collection, storage, packaging, transportation, use, treatment, processing, recycling, recovery, pre-processing, co-processing, utilisation, offering for sale, transfer or disposal of hazardous and other wastes to apply in Form 1 to the State Pollution Control Board and obtain authorisation.
  - Facilities operating in Arunachal Pradesh, including healthcare facilities, automobile workshops, battery and used-oil dealers, metal scrap and waste tyre dealers, e-waste dismantlers, printing presses, tea industries, veneer mills, stone crushers, catechu, steel and coke industries and hot-mix plants, as well as other units generating hazardous waste under Schedules I, II and III of the Rules, have been directed to apply for authorisation in Form 1 within 30 days from publication of the notice.

  Failure to obtain the required authorisation may attract penal action under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

  (To view the Notice, please click here)

Bihar

- **Notification regarding General, Optional and Public Holidays for 2027**

  The General Administration Department, Government of Bihar, on October 15, 2026, vide Notification, notified the list of general, optional and public holidays applicable during the calendar year 2027 for State Government offices and other specified establishments.

  The following has been notified:
  - General holidays have been declared for all offices under the State Government and all Revenue Sub-Divisional Officer Courts in Bihar, as specified in Schedule I of the notification.
  - State Government employees may avail themselves of a maximum of three optional/restricted holidays during 2027 from the list specified in Schedule II, subject to prior approval of the competent authority. Such leave may be granted keeping government work requirements in consideration.
  - In addition to the general holidays, public holidays under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, have been declared for the occasions specified in Schedule III.

  April 1, 2027, has been declared an annual bank account-closing holiday under Schedule IV.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Environment Management Cess and Management Fee for Mineral Concession Holders**

  The Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Bihar, on October 23, 2026, vide notification amended the Bihar Minerals (Concession, Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage Prevention) (Amendment) Rules, 2026, introduced provisions for Environment Management Cess and Management Fee under Rule 51(1)(g).

  The following has been prescribed:
  - Every mining lease holder, prospecting licence-cum-mining lease holder, permit holder or other mineral concession holder is required to pay Environment Management Cess and Management Fee, in addition to royalty and other applicable taxes, at 1% of the annual auction/settlement amount, consolidated royalty or royalty.
  - In the case of leases, the cess and fee will be calculated with reference to the annual auction/lease amount.
  - The amounts collected will be utilised by the Department for maintenance and strengthening of existing software and applications, prevention of illegal mining, transportation and storage, environmental protection and other purposes notified by the State Government.
  - Failure to pay the prescribed amount by the due date will attract simple interest at 24% per annum from the mineral concession holder.

  The amendment comes into effect from October 23, 2026.

  (To view the Amendment, please click here)

- **Interest Rate on General Provident Fund and Similar Funds for October–December 2026**

  The Finance Department, Government of Bihar, on October 22, 2026, vide Resolution notified an interest rate of 7.1% per annum on accumulations in the General Provident Fund (GPF) and other similar funds for the period from October 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026, in line with the rate prescribed by the Central Government.

  The interest rate of 7.1% per annum will apply to the accumulated balances of subscribers to the General Provident Fund and other similar funds maintained by the State Government for the second quarter of the financial year 2026–27, i.e., October 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026. The rate is aligned with the rate prescribed by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, vide Resolution dated October 5, 2026, for the same period.
  (To view the Resolution, please click here)

Chhattisgarh

- **Declaration of Public Holiday on November 9, 2026**

  The General Administration Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, vide Notification dated October 26, 2026, partially modified its earlier Notification No. 1001/86/2025-GAD-5 dated November 6, 2025, concerning the list of holidays for the year 2026.
  The following has been notified:
  - The optional holiday earlier specified at Serial No. 50 of the holiday list for 2026, for November 9, 2026, on account of the second day of Diwali (Govardhan Puja), has been declared a public/general holiday.

- The declaration has been made in exercise of the powers under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, read with the Central Government notification dated June 8, 1957.

Accordingly, November 9, 2026, will be observed as a public holiday in Chhattisgarh in place of its earlier classification as an optional holiday.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu

- **Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Adopt Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025**

The Transport Department, Union Territory Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, vide Notification dated October 21, 2026, adopted the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025, issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India.

The key provisions include:

- The Secretary (Transport), UT Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, has been designated as the Competent Authority under Section 93 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and the 2025 Guidelines.
- State Transport Authority: The State Transport Authority has been authorised to perform functions assigned to it by the Competent Authority for effective implementation of the Guidelines.

The licensing, regulation and operation of motor vehicle aggregators in the Union Territory will accordingly be governed by the adopted Guidelines, subject to the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

Goa

- **Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Act, 2026**

The Department of Law, Legal Affairs Division, Government of Goa, vide notification dated October 15, 2026, published the Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Act, 2026, further amending the Goa Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1974.

The following has been notified, namely:

- 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 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, giving the registered owner an option where only the one-time basis applied earlier.
- 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 Amendment, please click here)

- **Goa Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 2025**

The Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Goa, vide notification dated October 22, 2026, notified the Goa Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 2025, repealing the corresponding Rules of 2021.

The following has been notified, namely:

- Consent applications are to be filed online on the Board's portal at www.goapocmms.nic.in in compliance with the CPCB Guidelines, 2025, with an application for Consent to Operate made at least four months before the scheduled date of commencing operation.
- Consent to Establish is valid for five years, while Consent to Operate now carries lifetime validity against payment of annual fees, which a Red Category establishment may pay for five years, an Orange Category for ten years and a Green Category for fifteen years.
- A delayed renewal application attracts a one-time late fee of 25% of the fee between 120 and 45 days of the validity period, 50% within the last 45 days, and 100% after expiry.

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

(To view the Rules, please click here)

- **Goa Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 2026**

The Department of Transport, Government of Goa, vide notification dated October 15, 2026, notified the Goa Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 2026, further amending the Goa Motor Vehicles Rules, 1991, no objections having been received on the draft pre-published on September 10, 2026.

The following has been notified, namely:

- The proviso to rule 42 has been omitted.
- Rule 310(A) has been omitted.

The Rules came into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette i.e. October 15, 2026.

(To view the Rules, please click here)

- **Draft Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2026**

The Labour Department, Government of Goa, vide notification dated October 19, 2026, pre-published the draft Goa Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2026 under the Act of 2025, in supersession of the Goa Shops and Establishments Rules, 1975.

The following has been proposed:

- An establishment engaging fewer than ten employees files an online intimation of commencement of business in Form-A and of permanent closure in Form-D, and every employer uploads an annual return in Form-G on the designated portal by the end of February following each calendar year.
- A normal working day is eight hours for an employee on a daily wage period and, for others, is fixed so that weekly hours do not exceed forty-eight, with the hours of work, rest interval and weekly holiday displayed in Form-E. The premises are to be kept clean, lit and ventilated, with a stocked first-aid box and clean, water-supplied latrines and urinals, separately for men and women wherever possible.
- The employer maintains the registers specified under the Goa Code on Wages Rules, 2026, issues each employee a Leave Book in Form-F, authenticates every entry digitally or manually, and preserves the records for five years from the last entry.

Objections and suggestions may be submitted to the Secretary, Labour Department, within fifteen days from the date of publication in the Official Gazette i.e. October 19, 2026.

(To view Draft Rules, please click here)

Govt of NCT of Delhi

- **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:
  - 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.
- Dust Pollution Control & Construction Restrictions:
  - 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.
- Overriding Authority & Legal Penalties:

- 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)

- **CAQM Invokes Stage I of GRAP across Delhi-NCR**

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM), vide Order dated October 21, 2026, invoked Stage I of the extant Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), applicable to the entire National Capital Region (NCR), in view of the deterioration in air quality.

The following has been directed:

- Stage I ('Poor' Air Quality, AQI 201-300) of the revised GRAP schedule dated September 29, 2026, has been invoked with immediate effect across the entire NCR.
- The decision was taken after Delhi's AQI increased from 179 ('Moderate') on October 20, 2026, to 244 ('Poor') at 2:00 PM on October 21, 2026, with the IMD/IITM forecast indicating that air quality was likely to remain in the 'Poor' category.
- All concerned implementing agencies across NCR have been directed to implement, monitor and review Stage I measures, maintain strict vigilance and intensify the prescribed actions to prevent further deterioration in air quality.
- Citizens have been requested to strictly adhere to the citizen charter prescribed under Stage I of GRAP. The Sub-Committee will continue monitoring air quality and review the situation for further action.

(To view the Order, please click here)

- **SOP for Rectification of Contractor Licence Applications**

The Labour Department, Government of NCT of Delhi, vide Circular dated October 7, 2026, circulated a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for processing correction and rectification requests relating to applications for renewal or amendment of contractor licences under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, submitted through the e-District portal.

The following procedure has been prescribed:

- Applicants seeking correction of inadvertent clerical, typographical or data-entry errors must submit a written hard-copy request, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the concerned District In-charge (Joint Labour Commissioner/Deputy Labour Commissioner), clearly identifying the existing information and the proposed corrected information.
- The rectification mechanism is restricted to genuine errors supported by documentary evidence and cannot be used to introduce a new contract, change the identity of the contractor or principal employer, alter the nature of the contract or make any other unauthorised substantive change. Only the specific field approved for correction may be modified.
- The request will be processed through the following stages:
  - The concerned District In-charge shall scrutinise and verify the request and supporting documents within 2 working days.
  - The complete case, along with a specific recommendation, shall be forwarded to the Additional Labour Commissioner/Competent Authority through e-office within 2 working days.
  - The Additional Labour Commissioner/Designated Officer shall examine the case, seek further clarification or documents, direct additional verification, and approve or reject the proposed correction within 5 working days.
  - Following approval, the IT Branch shall authorise the application for rectification within 3 working days.

The concerned District In-charge shall carry out the approved correction in the e-District portal, ensuring that only the approved field is modified, within 2 working days.

(To view the SOP, please click here)

Gujarat

- **Amendment to Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Rules, 2014**

The Urban Development and Urban Housing Department, Government of Gujarat, on October 23, 2026, notified the Gujarat Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures (Amendment) Rules, 2026, under Section 57 of the Gujarat Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act, 2013, further amending the Gujarat Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Rules, 2014.
The following amendments have been made:

- Rule 2(2) has been substituted to clarify that terms and expressions not defined under the Rules but defined under the Act, General Development Control Regulations (GDCR), regulations made under Section 58 of the Act, or relevant Indian Standards/specifications published by the Bureau of Indian Standards, shall have the meanings assigned to them under the respective instruments.
- Rule 22 has been substituted to prescribe minimum standards for fire prevention, life safety and fire protection in buildings and premises.
- Where the applicable building bye-laws or regulations do not prescribe fire prevention and life safety measures for a particular occupancy or building, the Director may require the owner or occupier to provide such measures in accordance with international standards specified by the Fire Prevention Wing.
- Rule 27 has been substituted to prescribe minimum fire prevention and life safety standards for temporary structures, including mandaps, shamianas, tents and pandals, in accordance with IS 8758:1993 and the regulations made under Section 58 of the Act. The promoter, organiser, owner or occupier is responsible for providing and maintaining these measures.
- The Third Schedule, specifying buildings requiring a certificate of compliance with fire prevention, life safety and fire protection measures, has been substituted. The revised categories include:
    - All high-rise buildings having a height of 15 metres or more, except specifically excluded occupancies/buildings.
    - Hotels, educational, institutional, business, mercantile, storage, hazardous and mixed-occupancy buildings having a built-up area exceeding 500 sq. metres on one or more floors cumulatively.
    - Educational and institutional buildings having a height of 9 metres or more, all assembly buildings, multilevel car parking facilities, buildings having incidental assembly occupancy exceeding 300 sq. metres on any floor, buildings with two or more basements or one basement exceeding 500 sq. metres, and all fuelling stations.
    - Industrial buildings with built-up areas exceeding 500 sq. metres for low-hazard and moderate-hazard categories, and exceeding 50 sq. metres for high-hazard categories.

The provisions relating to industrial buildings under the revised Third Schedule will come into force on April 1, 2027. The remaining Amendment Rules came into force on the date of publication in the Official Gazette, i.e., October 23, 2026.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Framework for Grid-Interactive Battery Energy Storage Systems**

The Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (GERC) on October 16, 2026, vide Notification, notified the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Battery Energy Storage System) Regulations, 2026, under Sections 181(2), 61, 66 and 86 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

The following has been prescribed:

- The Regulations apply to generating companies, transmission and distribution licensees, standalone BESS developers, captive generating plants, consumers/prosumers with storage arrangements and aggregators. BESS projects connected to the intra-State transmission or distribution network are required to be registered with the Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA).
- The minimum individual BESS project size is prescribed as above 1 MW, with an energy storage rating of at least two hours and grid connectivity at 11 kV or above.
- Licensees are required to primarily procure BESS through competitive bidding under Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003. Procurement under Section 62 is permitted only in exceptional circumstances, with prior approval of the Commission and supporting techno-commercial justification.
- Consumers and prosumers installing BESS are required to register with GEDA and obtain prior permission from the concerned Distribution Licensee/Transmission Licensee before commissioning.

BESS installations must also comply with applicable technical, connectivity, safety, cybersecurity and environmental requirements, including the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Draft Gujarat Legal Metrology (Enforcement) (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2026**

The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Government of Gujarat, on October 22, 2026, vide Notification published the draft Gujarat Legal Metrology (Enforcement) (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2026, under Section 53(1) of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

The following amendment has been proposed:

- Rule 9(3) of the Gujarat Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2011 is proposed to be substituted to restrict the weighing instruments that may be used in transactions covered under Rule 9(1) and (2) to:
- Beam scales of Class A or Class B; or
- Non-automatic weighing instruments of Special Accuracy Class (Class I) or High Accuracy Class (Class II), having an e value of 1 milligram or less.

Objections and suggestions may be submitted to the Principal Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Government of Gujarat, within 30 days from the date of publication of the draft in the Official Gazette.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Gujarat Legal Metrology (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules, 2026**

The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Government of Gujarat, on October 27, 2026, notified the Gujarat Legal Metrology (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules, 2026, further amending the Gujarat Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2011, under Section 53(1) of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

The following has been amended:

- Rule 11 has been substituted to provide that registration certificates for manufacturers, repairers and dealers in weights and measures will be issued on the basis of self-declaration, without prior inspection. Applicants are required to submit applications in the prescribed forms, and the registration certificate must be displayed conspicuously at the business premises.
- The amended Rule 12 permits the Controller or an authorised officer to suspend a registration certificate where there is reasonable cause to believe that material information furnished in the application is false or that the Act or Rules have been contravened.
- A new Rule 24A provides for issuance of an Improvement Notice under Section 15(6) of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, where non-compliance with the Act or Rules is identified. The notice requires the concerned person to rectify the deficiencies within 30 days and submit a compliance report with supporting documents.
- Schedule I has been expanded to include Auto Liquid Petroleum Gas, Compressed Natural Gas, Liquid Nitrogen, Liquefied Natural Gas, savouries, steel, iron and metal goods, and textile items, with the applicable basis of declaration specified in terms of weight, volume or length.
- Schedule VII has been substituted to prescribe separate quarterly returns for manufacturers, repairers and dealers.
- Schedule XI has been substituted to prescribe compounding fees for specified contraventions under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.
- Schedule IX has been amended to prescribe verification fees of INR 2,000 per nozzle for dispensing pumps and INR 1,000 per unit for totalising counters.

The Amendment Rules came into force on October 27, 2026, i.e., the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

Himachal Pradesh

- **Himachal Pradesh Value Added Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2026**

The Department of State Taxes and Excise, Government of Himachal Pradesh, vide notification dated October 16, 2026, notified the Himachal Pradesh Value Added Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2026, substituting rule 37-A of the Himachal Pradesh Value Added Tax Rules, 2005.

The following has been notified, namely:

- Every dealer registered under the Himachal Pradesh Value Added Tax Act, 2005 is now required to pay tax electronically through the web portal of the State Taxes and Excise Department, with payment of tax, demand or any other sum to be made electronically from the date and by the class of dealers the State Government decides.
- The date of payment is the date of deposit generated on the e-challan in Form VAT-II-A.

The Rules came into force on the date of their publication in the Rajpatra, Himachal Pradesh.

(To view the Amendment, please click here)

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (Jammu and Kashmir) Rules, 2026**

  The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, on October 16, 2026, notified the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and the UT of Ladakh (Standard of Performance for the Distribution Licensee) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2026, amending the 2023 Principal Regulations under the Electricity Act, 2003.

  The key amendments include:
  - Revised computation of interruption indices: Regulation 19 of Schedule II has been substituted to prescribe the methodology for calculating the System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI), System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) and Momentary Average Interruption Frequency Index (MAIFI). The indices are to be computed for the distribution licensee as a whole by aggregating interruptions across all 11 kV feeders in its supply area, excluding agricultural feeders.
  - Monthly and annual reliability reporting: New Regulation 20 requires distribution licensees to calculate and submit SAIDI and SAIFI to the Commission on both a monthly and cumulative annual (year-to-date) basis.
  - Minimum outage duration: For calculating SAIDI and SAIFI, only interruptions lasting five minutes or more are to be considered, unless the Commission specifies another minimum outage duration by order.

  Outage monitoring and restoration: Under new Regulation 21, distribution licensees are required to establish, within 12 months from the date of notification, a mechanism for monitoring and restoring outages, preferably using automated tools to the extent possible.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Universal Supply Obligation Introduced under the Electricity Supply Code Regulations, 2023**

  The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, vide notification dated September 29, 2026, published in the Official Gazette on October 16, 2026, notified the Electricity Supply Code (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026, amending the Electricity Supply Code Regulations, 2023 in compliance with rule 10 of the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020.

  The following has been notified, namely:
  - A new regulation 4.1A casts a universal supply obligation on the distribution licensee to ensure 24x7 power supply to consumers of all categories, with the Commission able to specify lower hours of supply for certain categories, including agriculture, having regard to system availability and public interest.

  The Regulations came into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette i.e. October 16, 2026.

  (To view the Regulations, please click here)

Jharkhand

- **Revision of Minimum Wages and Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA)**

  The Labour, Employment, Training and Skill Development Department, Government of Jharkhand, vide Notification dated October 15, 2026, revised the minimum wages, inclusive of Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA), payable to employees across different categories of employments in the State, with effect from October 1, 2026, under the Code on Wages, 2019.

  The following revision has been notified:
  - The State has classified geographical areas into three categories for determining minimum wages:
    - **Category A**: Specified municipal areas, including Ranchi, Chas, Dhanbad, Deoghar and Hazaribagh Municipal Corporations, Jamshedpur Notified Area, Mango, Jugsalai and Adityapur.
    - **Category B**: All other civic body/municipal areas and notified areas not covered under Category A.
    - **Category C:** Areas other than those covered under Categories A and B.
  - The revised daily minimum wages, inclusive of VDA, with effect from October 1, 2026, are:
    - **Category A:** INR 523 for unskilled, INR 548 for semi-skilled, INR 722 for skilled and INR 833 for highly skilled employees.
    - **Category B:** INR 498 for unskilled, INR 523 for semi-skilled, INR 689 for skilled and INR 795 for highly skilled employees.

- **Category C:** INR 475 for unskilled, INR 498 for semi-skilled, INR 657 for skilled and INR 757 for highly skilled employees.
- The VDA has been calculated based on the average All India Consumer Price Index for January to June 2026.

The revised rates will be subject to revision every six months based on the CPI-linked VDA. The notification further provides that employees working on a weekly day of rest are entitled to overtime wages at twice the prescribed rate.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Draft Reciprocal Transport Agreement with Odisha and Bihar**

The Transport Department, Government of Jharkhand, vide Notification dated October 23, 2026, published the draft tripartite reciprocal transport agreement between the States of Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar, under Section 88(5) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

The draft agreement sets out proposed inter-State transport routes passing through Jharkhand, along with details of route distances across the three States, permits proposed to be issued by Odisha and Bihar, number of trips, total kilometres covered and the nature of services. The route schedules cover express services connecting destinations across the three States, including routes between Bhubaneswar, Patna, Gaya, Ranchi, Rourkela and other locations.

Stakeholders may submit their objections or suggestions to the Secretary, Transport Department, Government of Jharkhand, within 30 days from the date of publication of the draft notification in the Official Gazette.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

Karnataka

- **Textile and Apparel Policy (4.0) 2026-31 Notified, Introduces Zone-Linked Capital Subsidy**

The Department of Commerce and Industries, Government of Karnataka, vide government order dated October 28, 2026, announced the Textile and Apparel Policy (4.0) 2026-31, superseding the New Textiles and Garments Policy 2019-24.

The following has been ordered:
- A new or existing unit undertaking expansion, modernisation or diversification, with at least 50% term loan funding from a bank or financial institution, is eligible for a credit linked capital subsidy on eligible fixed capital investment, graded by zone, with an additional 5% for units in the 34 focused talukas and in the PM-MITRA Park at Kalaburagi.
- Silk yarn production, including reeling and spinning, is covered by the Policy for the first time.
- A unit claiming incentives under this Policy cannot claim under the Karnataka Industrial Policy, and vice versa. Where State and Central scheme support is dovetailed, the industry's own contribution cannot be less than 15% of the project cost.

The Policy remains in force for five years from the date of issue of the official notification, or until a subsequent policy takes effect.

(To view the Order, please click here)

Kerala

- **Public Holidays Notified for 2027**

The General Administration (Co-ordination) Department, Government of Kerala, vide G.O.(P) No. 22/2026/GAD published on October 18, 2026, notified the public holidays for Government offices in Kerala for 2027.

The notification provides for the following:
- All Sundays and second Saturdays of each month shall be observed as closed holidays.
- 21 public holidays have been notified, covering national holidays, religious festivals and regional occasions, including Republic Day, Maha Sivarathri, Id-ul-Fitr, Good Friday, Vishu, May Day, Muharram, Onam, Gandhi Jayanthi, Deepavali and Christmas.
- The dates of Id-ul-Fitr, Id-ul-Ad'ha and Muharram are subject to change depending on the appearance of the Moon.
- Easter, Milad-i-Sherif, Independence Day, First Onam, Thiruvonam, Mahanavami and Vijayadasami are not separately listed as they fall on Sundays or second Saturdays.
- Restricted holidays have been provided for Ayya Vaikunda Swami Jayanthi (March 4), Avani Avittam (August 17) and Vishwakarma Day (September 17), for specified categories of community employees and teachers.

- March 23, 2027 (Holi) shall be a holiday for State Government offices and public sector undertakings functioning in New Delhi.

The notification applies to Government of Kerala public offices. Private establishments should separately verify holiday requirements under applicable labour laws and their internal policies.

(To view the notification, please click here)

- **One-Time Settlement Scheme for Motor Vehicle Tax Arrears**

The Government of Kerala, vide Notification published on October 27, 2026, reintroduced the One-Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for motor vehicle tax arrears accumulated up to March 31, 2026.

The notification provides for the following:

- Vehicle owners may settle arrears for the last four years by paying 40% for non-transport vehicles and 30% for transport vehicles, including additional tax and interest.
- The scheme remains open until March 31, 2027, with specified exemptions from Green Tax, RC production and Welfare Fund contribution.
- Owners of stolen, dismantled, destroyed or unusable vehicles may seek exemption from further tax liability, subject to verification.
- Vehicles under revenue recovery proceedings are also eligible, subject to payment of collection charges.

Subsequent defaults in tax payment will permanently disqualify beneficiaries from similar settlement schemes.

(To view the notification, please click here)

- **Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission Revises Tariff Regulations for 2026**

The Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (KSERC), vide Notification, published on October 16, 2026, notified the Multi Year Tariff Regulations, 2026, replacing the 2021 Regulations. These apply to KSEB Ltd., generating companies, energy storage developers, captive users, licensees and the State Load Despatch Centre for the period April 1, 2027, to March 31, 2032.

Key provisions include:

- Filing deadlines: ARR and tariff petitions, along with the FY 2025-26 true-up petition, must be filed by November 30, 2026. Annual true-up and mid-term review filings are also prescribed.
- Power procurement: Prior Commission approval is required for long- and medium-term PPAs. Existing PPAs must be submitted within three months.
- FPPAS: Monthly fuel and power purchase cost adjustment, with prescribed recovery limits and exemptions for eligible domestic consumers.
- Regulatory assets: Existing regulatory assets must be liquidated by March 31, 2031, through a surcharge.
- Reporting and performance: Monthly and quarterly reporting obligations and performance-linked tariff adjustments have been introduced.
- Other changes: Tariff provisions for energy storage systems, Time of Day tariffs, kVAh billing, demand-based charges and green tariffs.

The Regulations take effect upon Gazette publication, except FPPAS provisions, effective April 1, 2027. Affected entities must prepare their tariff petitions for filing by November 30, 2026.

(To view the notification, please click here)

- **Pollution Control Board Updates Industry Classification Categories**

The Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), vide its revised list published on October 8, 2026, has revised the classification of industries and commercial establishments under the Red, Orange, Green, White and Blue categories. This classification determines the pollution control consent or authorisation requirements applicable to an establishment, based on the nature and scale of its operations.

The key changes include:

- Hotels, motels and resorts are classified based on the number of rooms: establishments with more than 300 rooms fall under the Red category, those with 21 to 300 rooms under Orange, and those with up to 20 rooms under White or Green. Hotels using cleaner fuels may qualify for a lower category, subject to prescribed conditions, including CPCB IV+ gensets, kitchen grease traps and standalone sewage treatment plants (STPs).
- Banquet halls are classified as Orange if their area exceeds 2,500 sqm, Green if between 1,000 and 2,500 sqm, and White if up to 1,000 sqm. Restaurants are classified based on seating capacity, with those having more than 200 seats falling under Orange, 101 to 200 seats under Green and up to 100 seats under White.

- Parks generating 5 kLD or more of wastewater fall under the Orange category, while smaller parks do not require consent.
- Zoological parks, large places of worship, spice fumigation units, latex pre-vulcanisation units and hazardous waste transit storage facilities have been newly included in the Orange category.
- Non-bedded healthcare facilities have been placed under the Green category and require one-time authorisation.

Establishments operating in Kerala should review their revised classification to determine whether their existing pollution control consent or authorisation requirements have changed.

(To view the notification, please click here)

- **RERA Revises Agent Registration Requirements**

The Kerala Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA), vide Order published on October 26, 2026, has prescribed mandatory documentation and annual reporting requirements for real estate agents under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.

The Order requires agents to:
- Submit prescribed registration/renewal documents, including PAN, three years' income tax returns, business address proof, a notarised affidavit-cum-undertaking and Police Clearance Certificate (PCC).
- File an Annual Compliance Reporting Statement by May 31 every year, disclosing details of real estate transactions facilitated during the preceding financial year.
- Ensure existing registered agents submit the affidavit, PCC and Annual Compliance Statement within 30 days of the Order.
- Comply with RERA and applicable AML requirements, maintain prescribed records and facilitate transactions only in projects registered with K-RERA wherever registration is mandatory.

Non-compliance may invite action under the RERA Act and Rules. The Order is effective immediately.

(To view the notification, please click here)

- **RERA Mandates System-Generated Sale Agreement Template**

The following requirements have been prescribed for promoters:
- Promoters must generate the AFS through the K-RERA portal, enter the required details, verify its accuracy and upload the completed document with the project registration application.

Incomplete or inaccurate documents may be returned for correction, potentially delaying project registration.

(To view the notice, please click here)

Ladakh

- **Distribution Licensees to Ensure 24x7 Power Supply to All Consumer Categories**

The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, vide Notification published on October 16, 2026, notified the Second Amendment to the Electricity Supply Code Regulations, 2023.

The following has been stated, namely:
- Distribution Licensees must ensure 24x7 electricity supply to all categories of consumers.
- The Commission may prescribe reduced supply hours for certain categories, including agricultural consumers, considering system availability and public interest.
- The amendment reinforces the reliability of electricity supply requirements under Rule 10 of the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020.

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

(To view the notification, please click here)

- **New Standards Set for Power Supply Reliability**

The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, vide Notification published on October 16, 2026, has notified the First Amendment to the Standard of Performance for the Distribution Licensee Regulations, 2023.

The amendment introduces the following requirements for distribution licensees:
- Distribution Licensees are required to calculate and report the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI), which measures the average duration of power interruptions, and

the System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI), which measures the average number of interruptions experienced by consumers.
- These reliability indicators are to be reported monthly and on a cumulative annual basis, covering interruptions lasting five minutes or more, or such other minimum duration as specified by the Commission.
- The indicators are to be calculated separately for Other Towns Area, including Class-I cities, and rural areas. Agricultural feeders are also to be assessed separately.
- Distribution Licensees are required to establish a mechanism, preferably through automated tools, to monitor and restore power supply during outages within 12 months from the date of notification.
- Licensees are also required to submit the reliability parameters and proposed minimum outage duration to the Commission for consideration and further directions.

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

(To view the notification, please click here)

Lakshadweep

- **Draft Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2026**

The Department of Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs, Union Territory Administration of Lakshadweep, vide Public Notice dated October 27, 2026, invited comments and suggestions on the Draft Lakshadweep Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2026, proposed to be framed under Section 22 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. Stakeholders may submit their comments in writing or by email to the Department within 30 days from the date of publication of the draft notification.

The key provisions proposed under the Draft Rules include:
- Certificate of identity: Applications are to be submitted to the District Magistrate, initially in person or by post until online facilities are developed.
- Change of gender in official documents: A certificate of identity issued under Section 6 is proposed to form the basis for updating the applicant's name, gender and photograph in official documents listed in Annexure I, including Aadhaar, PAN, voter identity cards, educational certificates, driving licences and service records. The relevant issuing authority is required to make such changes within 45 days of the application.
- Rejection and appeal: In case of rejection, the District Magistrate is required to communicate the reasons within 45 days. The applicant may seek review within 60 days of rejection and may appeal to the designated Appellate Authority within 90 days of receiving the rejection intimation.

Obligations of establishments: Every establishment is required to provide a safe working environment and adopt and display an Equal Opportunity Policy for transgender persons. Establishments are also required to designate a Complaints Officer.

(To view the Public Notice, please click here)

- **Draft Lakshadweep Excise Rules, 2026**

The Department of Revenue, Union Territory Administration of Lakshadweep, vide Public Notice dated October 14, 2026, invited comments and suggestions on the Draft Lakshadweep Excise Rules, 2026, proposed to be framed under Section 99 of the Lakshadweep Excise Regulation, 2026.

The key provisions include:
- Import, export and transport permits: The Draft Rules prescribe separate application and permit procedures for the import and export of Indian-made foreign liquor, foreign liquor, country liquor, denatured spirit and other excisable articles. They also provide for permits for transport within the Union Territory and between the Union Territory and other States, subject to applicable duty or fee requirements.
- Licensing of warehouses: Provisions are made for bonded warehouses and private warehouses, including requirements relating to applications, security, maintenance of warehouse registers, inspection and verification of liquor stocks, and removal of liquor upon payment of applicable duty or for permitted purposes.
- Licences for sale: The Draft Rules provide for separate licences for wholesale and retail sale of liquor, including sale for consumption on premises and sale in sealed bottles. They prescribe eligibility conditions for applicants, licence periods, renewal requirements, licence fees and conditions governing licensed premises.
- Industrial and medical use: Separate provisions govern the import, possession, transport and use of denatured spirit and other excisable articles for industrial, medicinal and toilet preparations, including requirements relating to permits and compliance with prescribed standards.

Stakeholders may submit their comments, suggestions or objections within 30 days from the date of the notice, either in writing or by email to the Additional District Magistrate (Excise).

(To view the Public Notice, please click here)

- **Tourism Trade (Registration, Safety and Facilitation) Regulation, 2026**

The Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department), Government of India, on October 27, 2026 published the Lakshadweep Tourism Trade (Registration, Safety and Facilitation) Regulation, 2026.

The key provisions include:

- Mandatory registration: Persons engaged in tourism trade for monetary consideration, including accommodation providers, travel agents, tour operators, guides, adventure tourism operators, scuba diving centres, tourism vessel operators, beach amenity operators and wellness tourism service providers, are required to obtain registration or an applicable exemption.
- Validity and renewal: Registration certificates may be granted for up to five years for low-risk categories and three years for high-risk categories, unless otherwise notified. Renewal applications are required to be submitted at least 30 days before expiry.
- Transparency and consumer protection: Tourism service providers are required to display registration details, tariffs, cancellation and refund terms, safety warnings and grievance contacts. They must issue bills, receipts or digital invoices for payments and immediately report accidents, missing tourists, serious illnesses and safety or environmental incidents to the designated authority.
- Digital platform obligations: Digital platforms listing or facilitating tourism services are required to display the registration number, category, validity status and grievance contact details of the relevant service provider. The designated authority may direct removal or disabling of listings of unregistered, suspended, cancelled, expired or blacklisted providers.

Penalties and enforcement: Operating without registration may attract penalties of up to INR 50,000 for low-risk activities and INR 2 lakh for high-risk activities, increasing to INR 5 lakh where the unregistered operation results in serious risk to life, injury, rescue operations or environmental damage.

(To view the Regulation, please click here)

Madhya Pradesh

- **Corrigendum to Madhya Pradesh Tax Notification**

The Commercial Tax Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, vide Corrigendum published on October 15, 2026, amended the table attached to Draft Form A-1 by substituting "14 percent" in place of "1 percent cess" at Serial Nos. 8, 9 and 13.

The corrigendum relates to the Department's earlier Notification dated September 8, 2026, which introduced a deemed assessment facility for eligible registered dealers, including petrol pump dealers dealing in petrol, diesel and CNG, in respect of pending assessments for FY 2024–25 under specified State and Central tax laws.

(To view the Corrigendum, please click here)

- **Madhya Pradesh Fire and Emergency Services General Rules, 2026**

The Government of Madhya Pradesh, on 12 October 2026, notified the Madhya Pradesh Fire and Emergency Services General Rules, 2026 under the Madhya Pradesh Fire and Emergency Services Act, 2026. The Rules set out the fire safety duties of owners, occupiers, event organisers and qualified agencies.

The Rules prescribe the following requirements:

- Fire Safety Approval and Certification: Larger buildings are required to obtain fire plan approval, valid for three years, and a Fire Safety Certificate, valid for five years. Renewal applications are to be submitted at least 60 days before expiry. The thresholds include residential buildings above 24 m in height or 750 m^2 per floor, and most other occupancies above 15 m.
- Annual Fire Audit: The fire audit report is to be submitted by June 30 of each financial year, along with an online declaration confirming that fire safety systems are functional.
- Correction of Deficiencies: Any deficiencies identified during an inspection are to be rectified within 30 days of receiving notice.
- Display of Certificates: The fire plan approval and Fire Safety Certificate are to be prominently displayed on the premises.

- Appointment of Fire Safety Supervisor: Specified large buildings, including high-rise buildings, hotels with 50 or more rooms and hospitals with more than 100 beds, are required to appoint a fire safety supervisor.
- Temporary Structures: A fire safety declaration accompanied by a layout plan is to be submitted at least 48 hours before the event. Any deficiencies identified are to be rectified within eight hours of receiving notice.
- Licensing of Agencies: Agencies engaged in installing or maintaining fire safety systems are required to obtain a licence, valid for five years, upon payment of a fee of ₹10,000.

Owners and occupiers should assess whether their premises meet the prescribed thresholds for certification and ensure timely completion of annual fire audits and certificate renewals.

(To view the notification, please click here)

Maharashtra

- **Maharashtra Legal Metrology (Enforcement) (First Amendment) Rules, 2026**

  The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department, Government of Maharashtra, vide notification dated October 13, 2026, notified the Maharashtra Legal Metrology (Enforcement) (First Amendment) Rules, 2026, substituting sub-rule (3) of rule 4 of the Maharashtra Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2011. Only a beam scale of class A or class B category, or a non-automatic weighing instrument of special accuracy (class I) or high accuracy (class II) with a verification scale interval of 1 mg, may be used in the retail transactions covered by sub-rules (1) and (2) of rule 4.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

- **Operational Guidelines Notified under the Logistics Policy, 2024**

  The Industries, Investment, Services and Mining Department, Government of Maharashtra, vide government resolution dated October 15, 2026, approved the operational guidelines and modalities for implementation of the Maharashtra Logistics Policy, 2024, laying down the eligibility criteria, application procedure and incentive administration for logistics parks, integrated truck terminals and logistics units.

  The following has been resolved:
  - Every logistics park, integrated truck terminal and unit is required to obtain a Letter of Intent from the Competent Authority before commencing operations. Its validity equals the development period - two to five years by category of park, one year for an integrated truck terminal and three years for a unit - extendable by one year on the basis of progress, which is not claimable as of right.
  - A Registration cum Incentive Eligibility Certificate, issued only after commissioning or commencement of operations, is a mandatory pre-qualification for availing any incentive except stamp duty exemption. A Letter of Intent by itself confers no right to claim incentives.
  - The applicant is required to submit six-monthly reports to the Department until the project is completed and commercial operations commence. For fiscal incentives, an MSME logistics unit qualifies only where its fixed capital investment, excluding land cost, is up to INR 50 crore.

  (To view the Guidelines, please click here)

- **Lifts, Escalators and Moving Walks Act, 2017 Brought into Force from November 1, 2026**

  The Energy Department, Government of Maharashtra, vide notification dated October 22, 2026, appointed November 1, 2026, as the date on which the provisions of the Maharashtra Lifts, Escalators and Moving Walks Act, 2017 come into force.
  On commencement, the following applies:
  - An owner installing a lift, escalator or moving walk is required to obtain prior permission to erect from the Chief Electrical Inspector, and after completion a licence for working, valid for twenty years and renewable for up to five years at a time.
  - An owner of an escalator or moving walk installed before commencement is required to apply for a licence within six months of November 1, 2026.
  - Every installation is to be inspected annually, maintained under a contract with an approved contractor, and covered by third party insurance for passengers.

  (To view the Act, please click here)

- **Standard Operating Procedure for Air Pollution Control at Warehouses and Logistics Facilities**

  The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, vide circular dated October 22, 2026, notified the Standard Operating Procedure for prevention and control of air pollution from warehouse and logistics activities across the State, applicable to all existing and proposed warehouses, logistics

parks, distribution centres, e-commerce fulfilment centres and allied storage facilities, irrespective of the area of the premises.

The following has been notified:

- Every operator is required to furnish two bank guarantees of INR 10,00,000 each, one towards compliance and one towards operation and maintenance, within fifteen days from the date of issuance and valid for five years.
- An existing facility is required to carry out a gap assessment and submit a time-bound compliance plan, with housekeeping, track-out prevention and dust suppression complied with forthwith, and paving, automatic tyre washing, drainage and continuous PM monitoring completed within two months of publication.
- Where a road-cleaning, tyre-washing or dust suppression system fails, the corresponding activity or vehicle movement is to be restricted until it is restored, and deliberate bypass is treated as serious non-compliance.

(To view the Guidelines, please click here)

- **Maharashtra Lifts, Escalators and Moving Walks Rules, 2026**

The Energy Department, Government of Maharashtra, vide notification dated October 28, 2026, notified the Maharashtra Lifts, Escalators and Moving Walks Rules, 2026, framed under section 37 of the Maharashtra Lifts, Escalators and Moving Walks Act, 2017.

The following has been notified, namely:

- An owner installing a lift, escalator or moving walk, or altering one, applies to the Electrical Inspector in Form A or Form B before any work starts, with erection plans and the architect's, structural engineer's and approved contractor's certificates. The permission is valid for one year, extendable against a structural stability certificate.
- Within one month of erection, the owner gives notice in Form N and applies for the licence for working. The licence is valid for twenty years, with renewal to be applied for at least thirty days before expiry.
- The installation is to be maintained and examined by the approved contractor at least once a month and entered in the log book, with a periodic audit and testing certified annually and reported to the Electrical Inspector.
- An accident is to be reported in Form ZK, with a detailed report in Form ZL within twenty-four hours, to the Electrical Inspector and the local police station.

(To view the Rules, please click here)

- **Remits Stamp Duty on Instruments of Eligible Logistics Units and Logistics Parks**

The Revenue Department, Government of Maharashtra, vide order dated October 28, 2026, remitted stamp duty on instruments executed by eligible standalone logistics units and logistics parks under the Maharashtra State Logistics Policy-2024, in exercise of the powers under clause (a) of section 9 of the Maharashtra Stamp Act, 1958.

The following has been ordered:

- A standalone logistics unit in the MSME category gets remission of 75% where it is inside an approved park and 50% where it is outside, on purchase or a long-term lease of at least fifteen years, while a logistics park gets 100% in Zone I or II and 75% in Zone III. The remission covers conveyance, lease, mortgage deed, certificate of sale, further charge on mortgaged property, transfer of lease by assignment and the term loan agreement relating to deposit of title deed.
- The benefit is available only on a stamp duty remission certificate issued by the implementing agency and only during the development period specified in it. It cannot be combined with remission for the same transaction under any other order or policy and does not extend to a transfer between one eligible unit or park and the next.
- No refund is available where stamp duty was paid before publication of the order, and a unit or park failing to fulfil its objectives or breaching any condition becomes liable to pay the whole duty with penalty as if no remission had been granted.

The remission is available till the Policy remains in force.

(To view the Order, please click here)

- **Retrofitting of Emission Control Devices Mandated for Diesel Gensets of 61 kW and above**

The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, vide circular dated October 21, 2026, mandated emission control measures for in-use diesel generator sets of 61 kW and above at industries, establishments, projects, buildings, utilities, airports, data centres, railway stations and other locations across the State, amending its earlier circular dated June 2, 2023, and giving effect to the directions of the Central Pollution Control Board.

The following has been stated:

- For a set of 61 kW to 800 kW older than five years from manufacture, the options are a certified Retrofit Emission Control Device from an approved manufacturer, a dual fuel system, a shift to gensets meeting the norms under GSR 804(E), a new gas-based generator, or retrofitting the existing set for a diesel and gas mixture, in each case up to its useful life, being fifteen years from manufacture or 50,000 hours of operation, whichever is earlier.
- For a set of 800 kW and above, the options are a suitable Air Pollution Control Device meeting the emission standards under GSR 489(E), a retrofit device tested by a CPCB-approved laboratory over the ISO 8175-5 mode D2 cycle achieving more than 70% reduction in particulate matter, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon, a new gas-based generator, or retrofitting for a diesel and gas mixture.

Compliance is required within ninety days from the date of issuance of the circular, failing which the bank guarantee stipulated in the Consent towards such compliance is liable to forfeiture.

(To view the Circular, please click here)

- **Draft Land Revenue (Extraction and Removal of Minor Minerals) (Amendment) Rules, 2026**

The Revenue Department, Government of Maharashtra, vide notification dated October 30, 2026, published the draft Maharashtra Land Revenue (Extraction and Removal of Minor Minerals) (Amendment) Rules, 2026, proposing to amend rule 4A of the Maharashtra Land Revenue (Extraction and Removal of Minor Minerals) Rules, 1968.

The following has been proposed:

- The limit of 200 brass in rule 4A, brass being the unit of volume equal to 100 cubic feet in which minor minerals are measured, has been raised to 500 brass at both places where it occurs.
- A Vadar Educated Unemployed Co-operative Society formed by ten to eleven educated unemployed persons of the Vadar Community, which purchases private land and holds a valid quarry lease under the Maharashtra Minor Mineral Extraction (Development and Regulation) Rules, 2013, is exempt from royalty on extraction up to 5,500 brass per annum. Only one unemployed person from a single Vadar family is eligible as a member for this benefit.
- Objections and suggestions may be submitted to the Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue Department, on or before November 30, 2026.

(To view the Draft Amendment, please click here)

Manipur

- **Manipur Declares General, Restricted and Public Holidays for 2027**

The General Administration Department, Government of Manipur, vide Notification dated October 22, 2026, notified the lists of general, restricted and public holidays applicable to Government offices in Manipur for the calendar year 2027.

The following has been notified:

- A total of 29 general holidays have been declared for 2027 for Government offices in Manipur, as specified in Annexure I. Government employees may additionally avail themselves of a maximum of two restricted holidays from the list of 35 holidays specified in Annexure II.
- The festival specified at Serial No. 16 of Annexure I may be replaced, in respect of the Hill Districts and the Manipur Bhawans in Kolkata, Delhi and Guwahati, by a locally significant holiday, subject to prior approval of the Government by January 31, 2027. The replaced festival may, however, be included as a restricted holiday for those locations.
- 22 public holidays have also been declared under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, as specified in Annexure III. These holidays will apply to Government offices in Manipur.

The notification also provides for the observance of holidays falling on Saturdays and Sundays, as indicated in the respective annexures. Certain festival dates may be subject to change depending on the appearance of the moon.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

- **GST Rate Notification for Specified Beverage Categories**

The Finance Department (Expenditure Section), Government of Manipur, on October 27, 2026, vide Notification amended Notification No. 09/2025-State Tax (Rate) dated September 17, 2025, under Sections 9(1) and 15(5) of the Manipur Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.

The following amendments have been notified:

- Under Schedule I - 2.5%, the HSN classifications specified against:
- Serial No. 150 have been substituted with 2202 99 21 and 2202 99 29.

- Serial No. 151 have been substituted with 2202 99 31 and 2202 99 39.
- Under Schedule III - 20%, the HSN classifications specified against:
- Serial No. 2 have been substituted with 2202 91 00, 2202 99 91 and 2202 99 99.
- Serial No. 3 have been substituted with 2202 99 91 and 2202 99 99.

The amendments are deemed to have come into force retrospectively from May 1, 2026.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

Meghalaya

- **Meghalaya Electric Vehicle Policy, 2026**

The Government of Meghalaya, through a Press Release dated October 22, 2026, notified the Meghalaya Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2026. The Policy seeks to promote electric mobility across private and commercial transport, public transport, tourism and shared mobility. It will remain in force for three years from the date of notification in the Official Gazette and supersedes the Meghalaya Electric Vehicle Policy, 2021.

The key provisions of the Policy include:

- Purchase incentives: Incentives are provided for eligible electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers and four-wheelers, subject to prescribed eligibility conditions, availability of funds and category-wise vehicle limits. The policy prescribes an ex-factory price ceiling of INR 1.75 lakh for electric two-wheelers and INR 35 lakh for electric four-wheelers. Private and commercial electric four-wheelers are eligible for incentives of INR 25,000 and INR 50,000, respectively.
- Eligible private and commercial electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, four-wheelers and electric buses registered in Meghalaya during the policy period are entitled to exemptions from motor vehicle tax and registration fees.
- Additional incentives are provided to eligible beneficiaries purchasing new electric vehicles after scrapping qualifying BS-IV or earlier vehicles registered in Meghalaya through an authorised Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility.
- Applications for charging stations, battery-swapping facilities and other eligible EV projects may be facilitated through the Meghalaya Single Window System on the Invest Meghalaya Portal. Eligible enterprises may also avail benefits under applicable schemes, including UNNATI, 2024 and the Meghalaya Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy, 2024, subject to the prescribed eligibility criteria.

The Commissioner of Transport has been designated as the Nodal Agency for implementation and monitoring. A State Level Committee will examine incentive and subsidy claims, consider infrastructure proposals and monitor implementation.

(To view the Press Release, please click here)

Odisha

- **Odisha Jan Vishwas Act, 2026**

The Law Department, Government of Odisha, on October 21, 2026, vide Notification, published the Odisha Jan Vishwas Act, 2026, which received the Governor's assent on October 15, 2026. The Act seeks to decriminalise and rationalise specified offences, reduce regulatory burdens and simplify licensing and compliance requirements under various State enactments.

The key amendments include:

- The First Schedule amends 11 State enactments, including the Odisha Warehouse Act, 1956, Odisha Homoeopathic Act, 1956, Odisha Irrigation Act, 1959, Odisha Grama Panchayat Act, 1964 and Odisha Electricity Reforms Act, 1995.
- The Second Schedule amends five enactments, including the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950, Odisha Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1956, Odisha Grama Panchayat Act, 1964 and Odisha Municipal Corporation Act, 2003. The amendments provide, for deemed permission upon submission of online intimation for specified road works, exemption from separate slaughterhouse permission where a valid trade licence is held, and exemption from obtaining a separate municipal licence for factories or establishments already registered under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, subject to prescribed conditions.
- The amendments also provide for a single-window electronic system for specified licences under the Odisha Urban Police Act, 2003, remove certain licensing requirements and extend the validity of licences under the Odisha Grama Panchayat Act from annual renewal to renewal every three years.

Unpaid penalties are recoverable as arrears of land revenue. Further, fines and penalties under the First Schedule enactments are subject to a 10% increase in the minimum prescribed amount after every three years from commencement of the Act.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

Punjab

- **Adoption of Revised MSME Classification Criteria and Extends Auto Renewal of Consent to Micro Units**

  The Punjab Pollution Control Board, vide office order dated October 7, 2026, adopted the revised criteria notified by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises for classifying enterprises, following the approval accorded by the Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Government of Punjab.

  The following has been ordered:
  - The criteria notified vide S.O. 2119(E) dated June 26, 2020, as amended vide S.O. 1364(E) dated March 21, 2025, are adopted for evaluating the scale of an industry or project on the basis of investment in plant and machinery, the thresholds being INR 2.5 crore for a micro enterprise, INR 25 crore for a small enterprise and INR 125 crore for a medium enterprise.
  - The auto renewal facility for Consent to Establish, Consent to Operate and Authorisation, so far available to small scale units, has been extended to micro scale units on the same conditions as office order no. 329 dated September 14, 2023.

  (To view the Order, please click here)

Sikkim

- **One-Time Regularisation Window for Hotels and Restaurants Operating Without Statutory Consent**

  The State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim, Department of Forest and Environment, Government of Sikkim, vide Public Notice dated October 26, 2026, announced a special one-time window for regularisation of hotels, restaurants, guest houses, lodges and similar establishments operating without the requisite statutory consent or permission from the Board.

  The following has been notified:
  - Establishments currently operating without the requisite consent of the Board have been directed to complete the process of obtaining Consent to Establish/Consent to Operate on or before March 31, 2027.
  - During the regularisation window, eligible establishments may submit the prescribed applications, requisite documents and applicable fees/charges, along with payment of past dues limited to the preceding three years or two years, as applicable to the relevant category or case, as determined by the Board.
  - Establishments that comply within the stipulated period will not be required to discharge dues for the entire period since their establishment or commencement of operations. However, the applicable past dues will remain subject to verification and determination by the Board.
  - The concession is a one-time regulatory opportunity and does not amount to condonation of unauthorised operations, waiver of environmental standards or regulatory requirements, or permission for future establishments to operate without prior statutory approval.
  - Establishments seeking regularisation must continue to comply with applicable environmental norms, conditions and safeguards and furnish such information, documents, records and undertakings as may be required by the Board.

  Submission of an application for regularisation does not, by itself, confer any right to continue operations where such operations are otherwise prohibited under law or where the establishment fails to satisfy applicable environmental and regulatory requirements.

  (To view the Notice, please click here)

Tamil Nadu

- **VAT Registration Exemption Granted to Petrol and Diesel Retail Dealers**

  The Government of Tamil Nadu, Commercial Taxes and Registration Department, vide G.O. Ms. No. 156 published on October 15, 2026, has exempted certain petrol and diesel retail outlet dealers from registration under the Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax Act, 2006.

  The exemption applies to petrol and diesel retail outlets that:
  - Are not owned by any Oil Marketing Company (OMC).
  - Purchase petrol and High-Speed Diesel Oil from the Oil Marketing Companies specified in Explanation III of the Second Schedule to the Act.
  - Undertake subsequent sales of petrol, with or without additives, and High-Speed Diesel Oil within Tamil Nadu.
  - The exemption is subject to the condition that the retail outlet dealers must be registered under the Tamil Nadu Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (TNGST Act).

Accordingly, eligible retail outlet dealers are exempt from obtaining separate registration under Section 38(1) of the Tamil Nadu VAT Act, 2006, provided they comply with the above condition.

(To view the notification, please click here)

- **VAT Rate on Aviation Turbine Fuel Reduced**

The Government of Tamil Nadu, Commercial Taxes and Registration Department, vide G.O. Ms. No. 160 published on October 23, 2026, has reduced the rate of tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), including jet fuel, sold to aircraft of Scheduled Airlines refuelling at Chennai Airport.

- The VAT rate payable by Oil Companies on such sales has been reduced from 29% to 16% under the Second Schedule of the Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax Act, 2006.
- Dealers must submit a declaration, duly completed and signed by the purchaser, along with their monthly return to the concerned Assessing Officer.

The revised tax rate will come into effect from November 1, 2026, and remain applicable until October 31, 2027.

(To view the notification, please click here)

- **Declaration of Public and Government Holidays for 2027**

The Government of Tamil Nadu, Public (Miscellaneous) Department, vide Order published on October 6, 2026, has issued directions regarding the observance of public and government holidays in the State for the year 2027 under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

- The notified public holidays will apply to all State Government Offices and commercial banks, including co-operative banks, in Tamil Nadu.
- All offices under the control of the State Government will remain closed on:
  - The dates specified in the appended holiday notification, except April 1, 2027, which is the annual closing day for bank accounts.
  - All Saturdays and Sundays during 2027.
- The notified public holidays will also apply to State Government Undertakings, Corporations and Boards.

The list of public holidays will be published in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette.

(To view the order, please click here)

- **Local Holiday Declared for Government Offices on November 9, 2026**

The Public (Miscellaneous) Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, vide Government Order dated October 28, 2026, declared a local holiday on Monday, November 9, 2026, for all government offices, public sector undertakings, schools, colleges and educational institutions across the State, Diwali this year falling on Sunday, November 8, 2026.

The following has been ordered:

- To compensate for the holiday, Saturday, November 28, 2026, has been declared a working day.

The holiday has not been declared under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, and District Collectors are to arrange for treasuries and sub-treasuries to function with specified staff for urgent work.

(To view the Order, please click here)

Tripura

- **Removal of Affidavit and Notarisation Requirements for Self-Certification-Based Fire NOCs**

The Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services, Government of Tripura, vide Notification dated October 27, 2026, clarified the documentation requirements for obtaining Fire Safety Certificates (Fire NOCs) through self-certification, pursuant to Section 26(A) of the Tripura Fire and Emergency Services Act, 2022, as amended by the Tripura Janvishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2025.

The following has been notified:

- Fire Safety Certificates based on self-certification may be issued upon receipt of the self-certification submitted by the owner or occupier of the building or premises.
- The mandatory requirement for an affidavit or notarisation, previously indicated in the headings of the earlier Self-Certification Forms, has been removed. Accordingly, the revised Forms D, J, N and R under the Tripura Fire Safety Rules, 2026, no longer contain any requirement for submission of an affidavit or notarised document.

Applicants seeking Fire NOCs are now required to submit only self-attested documents, wherever applicable, instead of affidavits or notarised documents, for obtaining clearances or fulfilling compliance requirements.

(To view the Notification, please click here)

Uttarakhand

- **Variable Dearness Allowance for Engineering Industries Employing 50 or More Workers**

  The Office of the Labour Commissioner, Government of Uttarakhand, vide Notification dated October 15, 2026, issued revised rates of Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) for engineering industries employing 50 or more workers, for the period October 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.

  - The revised monthly minimum wage rates, inclusive of VDA, are as follows:
    - Unskilled Workers: INR 13,995
    - Semi-skilled Workers: INR 15,313
    - Skilled Workers: INR 17,139
  - The revision is based on the average All-India Consumer Price Index of 431 for January to June 2026, against the base index of 425 (2016 = 100), resulting in an increase of INR 195 in the VDA.

  The revised rates are applicable for the specified six-month period, from October 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.

  (To view the Notification, please click here)

Uttar Pradesh

- **Revision of Minimum Wages and Variable Dearness Allowance**

  The Government of Uttar Pradesh, Labour Department, vide Order published on October 21, 2026, has revised the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) payable to employees engaged in 74 scheduled employments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

  - The revised monthly VDA and total minimum wages (including VDA) are prescribed across three geographical categories:
    - Category-I: Gautam Buddh Nagar and Ghaziabad - VDA ranges from INR 998.59 to INR 1,230.39, and total monthly minimum wages range from INR 13,883.59 to INR 17,106.39.
    - Category-II: Municipal Corporation areas of Uttar Pradesh, excluding Gautam Buddh Nagar and Ghaziabad - VDA ranges from INR 948.68 to INR 1,168.86, and total monthly minimum wages range from INR 13,189.68 to INR 16,250.86.
    - Category-III: Remaining areas of Uttar Pradesh - VDA ranges from INR 901.25 to INR 1,110.42, and total monthly minimum wages range from INR 12,530.25 to INR 15,438.42.
  - The applicable rates vary according to the skill category (unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled). The daily minimum wage shall not be less than 1/26th of the applicable monthly minimum wage.
  - Employers engaging contract labour, whether through licensed or unlicensed contractors, must ensure payment of minimum wages and VDA at the prescribed rates. Such workers are treated as directly employed by the employer for the purpose of wage entitlement.
  - Where existing wages are higher than the revised minimum wage rates, the higher wages must continue to be paid. For piece-rate work, the guaranteed wage rate must not be lower than the applicable time-rate wage.

  The revised rates are applicable from October 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027. The revision is based on the average All India Consumer Price Index (Base Year 2001=100) of 431 points for January to June 2026.

  (To view the order, please click here)

- **Online Disclosure Requirements Introduced for Retail Pharmacies**

  The Food Safety and Drug Administration Department, Uttar Pradesh (UPFSDA), has introduced new requirements effective November 1, 2026, mandating all retail pharmacies in the State, including hospital pharmacies, to maintain a public website displaying key pharmacy and medicine-related information.

  - Pharmacies must publicly display the following information on their websites:
    - Pharmacy licence and pharmacist details.
    - Details of the pharmacy premises and weekly stock.
    - Purchase and selling prices of medicines.
  - The restriction on issuing new wholesale sale licences will be lifted from October 11, 2026, in view of the Navratri season.
  - Drug Inspectors will monitor compliance with the new website disclosure requirements to ensure transparency in medicine sales and protect consumer interests.

  (To view the notificationr, 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.

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