

WEEKLY CORPORATE UPDATES

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(Curated & compiled by)

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MCA UPDATES

Extension of Time for filing of 45 company e-Forms and PAS-03 in MCA 21 Version 3.0 without additional fee -reg.

Dated: 07th February, 2023

Due to change in way of filing in Version-3, including fresh process of registration of users on MCA-21 and process of stabilization of 45 forms launched with effect from 23.01.2023, and after considering various representations, in continuation of General Circular 1/2023 dated 09.01.2023, it has been decided to allow further additional time of 15 days for filing of these forms, without additional fees, to the stakeholders.

2. Further, Form PAS-03 which was closed for filing in Version-2 on 20.01.2023 and launched in Version-3 on 23.01.2023, and whose due dates for filing fall between 20.01.2023 and 06.02.2023, can also be filed without payment of additional fees for a period of 15 days.

Related Link:

<https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/ebook/dms/getdocument?doc=MjUwODkxNTAy&docCategory=Circulars&type=open>

SEBI UPDATES

SEBI unveils mechanism to curb market abuse

Dated: 08th February, 2023

Markets regulator SEBI on Tuesday proposed an institutional mechanism that will require stock brokers to put in place systems for detection and prevention of market abuse. Currently, there are no specific regulatory provisions that cast responsibility on brokers to have a system to prevent market abuse.

In a consultation paper, SEBI has proposed a regulatory framework which will require broking firms as well as their senior management to be accountable for detection and prevention of fraud or market abuse, by setting up robust surveillance and control systems.

In addition, the regulator has suggested that brokers should have appropriate escalation and reporting mechanisms.

SEBI has also listed out probable instances of fraud or market abuse which a broker's system should be equipped to monitor. The probable instances can include creation of misleading appearance of trading, price manipulation, front running, insider trading and miss-selling.

Related Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/sebi-unveils-mechanism-to-curb-market-abuse/articleshow/97711761.cms>

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Adani Fallout: SEBI mulls review of norms for cos with high-value debt, related party transactions

Dated: 08th February, 2023

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has floated a consultation paper to review the existing corporate governance norms for 'high-value' debt listed entities.

This comes in the wake of the recent rout in Adani Group companies against whom allegations have been made on corporate misgovernance, stock price manipulation and high leverage by US-based short seller Hindenburg Research.

The capital market regulator introduced corporate governance requirements for listed entities to improve transparency in their functioning and ensure enhanced disclosures to investors.

These include code of conduct, implementing risk management plan for listed entities, vigil mechanism, stipulations related to related party transactions (RPT), among others.

Current norms require companies to seek shareholders' consent for RPTs, but no related party should vote to approve such resolutions.

An analysis of the shareholding pattern of 138 high-value debt listed entities showed that in 93 of them, all the shareholders are related parties. In 11 of them, 90-99% of the shareholders are related parties.

"It is observed that one common factor in major corporate wrongdoings was that they were allegedly carried out by persons with the ability to influence the decisions of the company," SEBI said, while explaining the rationale to review the current norms on the approvals for RPTs.

Shell or unrelated companies, controlled directly or indirectly by such persons were used to siphon off large sums of money through the use of certain innovative structures, thereby circumventing the regulatory framework of RPTs, SEBI said.

Related Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/sebi-mulls-review-of-governance-norms-for-cos-with-high-value-debt-seeks-comments/articleshow/97739052.cms>

SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023

Dated: 08th February, 2023

SEBI, on February 02, 2023, has notified the amendment in the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021. Vide this notification, SEBI has amended the definition of Green debt security which shall now include pollution prevention and control and sectors mentioned under the India Cooling Action Plan, circular economy adapted products, blue bonds (which comprise funds raised for sustainable water management), yellow bonds (which

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comprise funds raised for solar energy generation) and transition bonds (which comprise of funds raised for transitioning to a more sustainable form of operations). Further, Regulation 33A pertaining to Period of subscription has been inserted which provides that a public issue of debt securities or, non-convertible redeemable preference shares shall be kept open for a minimum of 3 working days and a maximum of 10 working days.

Related Link: <https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2023/243370.pdf>

Dos and don'ts relating to green debt securities to avoid occurrences of green washing

Dated: 08th February, 2023

To address the concerns of market participants, regarding green washing, SEBI has prescribed Dos and don'ts relating to green debt securities to avoid occurrences of green washing. The extant framework of 'green debt security' was reviewed recently and consequential changes were brought in the NCS Regulations vide Gazette notification dated February 02, 2023. In the process of consulting the stakeholders, comments/ representations from the market participants, particularly investors, were also received to address the concerns of 'greenwashing'.

Related Link: https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2023/dos-and-donts-relating-to-green-debt-securities-to-avoid-occurrences-ofgreenwashing_67828.html

SEBI statement on Market Stability

Dated: 04th February, 2023

The Indian financial market as represented by Sensex and Nifty has demonstrated ongoing stability and is continuing to function in a transparent, fair and efficient manner. On a longer term basis also, Indian markets have been viewed positively by investors. A cross country comparison of dollar adjusted market returns with both peer and developed countries, during the past 3 years till date, places the Indian Market as a positive outlier. During the past week, unusual price movement in the stocks of a business conglomerate has been observed. As part of its mandate, SEBI seeks to maintain orderly and efficient functioning of the market and has put in place a set of well defined, publicly available surveillance measures (including the ASM framework) to address excessive volatility in specific stocks. This mechanism gets automatically triggered under certain conditions of price volatility in any stock. Further, in all specific entity related matters, if any information comes to SEBI's notice, then, as per extant policies, the same is examined and after due examination, appropriate action is taken. SEBI has consistently followed this approach on entity level issues and would continue to do so in future as well.

Related Link: https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/feb-2023/sebi-statement-on-marketstability_67831.html

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Clarification in respect of the compliance by the first-time issuers of debt securities under SEBI(Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021with Regulation 23(6)

Dated: 09th February, 2023

Circular No.: SEBI/HO/DDHS/DDHS-RACPOD1/P/CIR/2023/028

1.Regulation 23(6) read along with Regulation 2(1)(r) of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021 (“NCS Regulations”) requires the Articles of Association (“AoA”) of an issuer that is a company to include provisions with respect to the requirement for the board of directors to appoint such person nominated by the debenture trustee in terms of clause(e) of sub-regulation(1) of regulation 15 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Debenture Trustees)Regulations, 1993. The regulation also provides a time period up to September 30, 2023 for existing debt listed issuers to amend their AoA.

2. SEBI is in receipt of representations from certain first time issuers who are in the process of preparing for their first listed privately placed Non-Convertible Debentures (“NCDs”)or public issue of NCDs. They have requested that they may also be provided a time frame, as already provided to listed issuers, to amend their AoA to give effect to the above amendments since it requires formalities like approval from shareholders and conducting board and general meetings. The representations also state that due to the imminent financial year end, there is a spree of borrowing/fund raising activities and the above provision will dissuade many issuers from approaching the market.

3. In view of the above and the difficulties posed to first time issuers, the Stock Exchanges are advised to take an undertaking from such first-time issuers that they will ensure that their AOA are amended within a period of six months from the date of the listing of the debt securities. This undertaking may be obtained at the time of granting the in-principle approval. The issuer shall, within such time, comply and report compliance to Stock Exchanges, which shall periodically monitor/ remind such issuers on doing the needful.

4. The circular shall come into force with immediate effect.

5.The Circular is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 11(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 read with Regulations55 (1) and 56 of the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021, to protect the interest of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market.

Related Link: <https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2023/clarification-in-respect-of-the-compliance-by-the-first-time-issuers-of-debt-securities-under-sebi-issue-and-listing-of-non-convertible-securities-regulations-2021-with-regulation-23-6-67936.html>

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Entities allowed using e-KYC Aadhaar Authentication services of UIDAI in Securities Market as sub-KUA

Dated: 08th February, 2023

Circular No.: SEBI/HO/MIRSD/SEC-5/P/CIR/2023/0026

1. SEBI issued circular No. SEBI/HO/MIRSD/DOP/CIR/P/2019/123 dated November 05, 2019 detailing the e-KYC Authentication facility under section 11A of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, by entities in the securities market for Resident Investors.

2. Subsequently, SEBI vide its circular SEBI/HO/MIRSD/DOP/CIR/P/2020/80 dated May 12, 2020 listed the entities who shall undertake Aadhaar Authentication service of UIDAI as KYC user agency (KUA) in securities market. The KUA shall allow SEBI registered intermediaries to undertake Aadhaar Authentication of their clients as sub-KUA for the purpose of KYC.

3. Department of Revenue-Ministry of Finance, Government of India, vide Gazette Notification No. S.O. 3187(E) dated July 13, 2022 has notified 155 reporting entities to use Aadhaar authentication services of UIDAI under section 11A of the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002. The list of notified entities has been annexed to SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/MIRSD/SEC-5/P/CIR/2022/99 dated July 20, 2022.

4. Department of Revenue-Ministry of Finance, Government of India, vide Gazette Notification No. S.O. 446 (E) dated January 30, 2023 has notified another 39 reporting entities to use Aadhaar authentication services of UIDAI under section 11A of the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002. A copy of the notification is attached at Annexure A.

5. The above mentioned entities shall enter into an agreement with a KUA and get themselves registered with UIDAI as sub-KUAs. The agreement in this regard shall be as prescribed by UIDAI. Further, the Sub-KUAs shall follow the process as detailed in SEBI circular dated Nov 05, 2019 and as may be prescribed by UIDAI from time to time. The KUAs shall facilitate the on boarding of these entities as sub-KUAs to provide the services of Aadhaar authentication with respect to KYC.

6. This circular is issued in exercise of powers conferred under Section 11(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities markets.

Related Link: https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2023/entities-allowed-to-use-e-kyc-aadhaar-authentication-services-of-uidai-in-securities-market-as-sub-kua_67897.html

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Clarification w.r.t. issuance and listing of perpetual debt instruments, perpetual non-cumulative preference shares and similar instruments under Chapter V of the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021

Dated: 09th February, 2023

Circular No.: SEBI/HO/DDHS/DDHS-RACPOD1/P/CIR/2023/027

1. SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021 (hereinafter referred to as the 'NCS Regulations') and circulars issued thereunder, provide the framework for issuance and listing of non-convertible securities.

2. In particular, Chapter V of the NCS Regulations, prescribes the conditions for issuance and listing of perpetual debt instruments, perpetual non-cumulative preference shares and similar instruments. "Perpetual debt instrument", is defined under Regulation 2(1)(y) of the NCS Regulations, as, perpetual debt instrument issued in accordance with the guidelines framed by the Reserve Bank of India. "Perpetual non-cumulative preference share", is defined under Regulation 2(1)(z) of the NCS Regulations, as, "a perpetual non-cumulative preference share issued in accordance with the guidelines framed by the Reserve Bank of India".

3. SEBI is in receipt of references from market participants, including issuers and merchant bankers, seeking clarity on the applicability of the provisions of Chapter V of the NCS Regulations, wherein the security is proposed to be issued for a fixed maturity and which shall not have features viz. option of conversion to equity, write-off, etc.

4. It is clarified that only securities which have characteristics as stated below, shall necessarily be required to comply with the provisions for issuance and listing as specified under Chapter V of the NCS Regulations and circulars issued there under:

a. The issuer is permitted by RBI to issue such instruments,

b. The instruments form part of non-equity regulatory capital,

c. The instruments are perpetual debt instruments, perpetual non-cumulative preference shares or instruments of similar nature and

d. The instruments contain discretion with the issuer/RBI for events including but not restricted to all or any of the below events:

- conversion into equity;*
- write off of interest/ principal;*
- skipping/ delaying payment of interest/principal*
- ☒ making an early recall;*
- Changing any terms of issue of the instrument.*

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5. The Stock Exchanges and Depositories are advised to:

A. makes amendments to the relevant bye-laws, rules and regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this circular;

B. disseminates the provisions of this circular on their website;

C. communicate and create awareness amongst stakeholders; and

D. monitors the compliance of such issuances in terms of relevant provisions of the NCS Regulations including circulars issued there under.

6. This circular shall come into force with immediate effect.

7. The Circular is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 11(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 read with Regulation 55 of the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021, to protect the interest of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market.

Related Link: <https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2023/clarification-w-r-t-issuance-and-listing-of-perpetual-debt-instruments-perpetual-non-cumulative-preference-shares-and-similar-instruments-under-chapter-v-of-the-sebi-issue-and-listing-of-non-conver-67913.html>

SEBI proposes bondholders' nod for related party transactions for companies

Dated: 09th February, 2023

India's market regulator proposed that bondholders should have the right to object to related party transactions proposed by companies, which have listed high value debt securities. The regulator has asked for comments till February 22, 2023. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said the proposal will be applicable in cases where more than 90% of the company's shareholding is with entities defined as related parties. If more than 75% of bondholders object to a transaction, then the board will have to withdraw it. The norms will be applicable to only listed non-convertible debt securities, according to SEBI.

Related Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-proposes-bondholders-nod-for-related-party-transactions-for-companies-123020801567_1.html

Manner of achieving minimum public shareholding

Dated: 03rd February, 2023

SEBI, vide circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD/CIR/P/43/2018 dated February 22, 2018 on the captioned subject, had permitted different methods that may be used by listed entities to achieve compliance with the minimum public shareholding (MPS) requirements mandated under Rule 19(2)(b) and 19A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation)

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Rules, 1957 ("SCRR"). To facilitate listed entities achieve MPS compliance, few of the existing methods have been reviewed and rationalized and two additional methods have been introduced. The Stock Exchange(s) shall monitor the methods adopted by listed entities to increase their public holding and comply with MPS requirements in terms of this circular. Non-compliance, if any, observed by the Stock Exchange(s) with respect to the method(s) and / or conditions prescribed herein, shall be reported to SEBI on a quarterly basis.

Related Link: https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2023/manner-of-achieving-minimum-publicshareholding_67801.html

SEBI circular builds up burden of responsibilities and obligations for QSBs

Dated: 07th February, 2023

SEBI has released a circular detailing enhanced responsibilities and obligations that will now be incumbent on select stock brokers, who will be identified as Qualified Stock Brokers (QSBs). A set of criteria has been defined by the market regulator which will determine if a stock broker will be deemed to be QSB or not. These parameters include the total number of active clients of the stockbroker, the available total assets of clients with the stockbroker, the trading volumes of the stockbroker (excluding the proprietary trading volume of the stockbroker) and the end-of-day margin obligations of all clients of a stockbroker (excluding the proprietary margin obligation of the stockbroker in all segments). The circular prescribes a modality for calculating scores of stock brokers based on the said parameters, and any stock broker with a score equal to or greater than 5 will be identified as a QSB.

Related Link: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/markets/sebis-new-circular-adds-heavierresponsibilities-and-obligations-load-for-qsb-10016961.html>

Consultation paper on institutional mechanism for Stock Brokers to ensure prevention and detection of fraud or market abuse

Dated: 07th February, 2023

SEBI has issued Consultation paper on institutional mechanism for Stock Brokers to ensure prevention and detection of fraud or market abuse. This consultation paper solicits comments/ views from market participants on a proposal which requires broking firms and their senior management to be accountable for such detection/ prevention of fraud or market abuse, by setting up robust surveillance and control systems, and ensuring appropriate escalation and reporting mechanisms. This proposal also enumerates some of the common examples of market abuses that brokers must look to detect/ prevent, the entities who should be subject to surveillance, and the accountability that is entailed. Considering the implications of the said matter on the market participants, public comments are invited by SEBI on the above proposals. The comments/ suggestions may be provided as per the prescribed format latest by February 21, 2023.

Related Link: https://www.sebi.gov.in/reports-and-statistics/reports/feb-2023/consultation-paper-oninstitutional-mechanism-for-stock-brokers-to-ensure-prevention-and-detection-of-fraud-or-market-abuse_67879.html

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SEBI gives 3 more weeks to online bond platforms for registration as stock brokers

Dated: 07th February, 2023

Capital markets regulator SEBI extended the timeline by three weeks for entities, operating as online bond platform providers, to make an application for registration as stock brokers. The extension has been given keeping in view the technical difficulties faced by these entities, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said in a circular. Accordingly, the application for registration by online bond platform providers (OBPPs) as stock brokers would be made by March 1, 2023.

Related Link: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/sebi-gives-3-more-weeks-to-online-bondplatforms-for-registration-as-stock-brokers-10026601.html>

Grant of extension of time to entities operating/desirous of operating as Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs) for making an application to obtain certificate of registration as a stock broker under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Stock Brokers) Regulations, 1992

Dated: 07th February, 2023

Circular No.: SEBI/HO/DDHS/DDHS-RACPOD1/P/CIR/2023/025

1. Regulation 51A of SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021, inter-alia, requires that a person acting as an OBPP without the certificate of registration on or prior to November 09, 2022, may continue to do so for a period of three months from November 09, 2022 or such other time period as may be specified by the Board, or if it has made an application for grant of a certificate of registration within the specified period, till the disposal of such application by the Board.
2. Further, para 5.1 of SEBI Circular SEBI/HO/DDHS/DDHS-RACPOD1/P/CIR/2022/154 dated November 14, 2022 on 'Registration and regulatory framework for Online Bond Platform Providers' requires entities desirous of operating as OBPPs to be companies incorporated in India.
3. SEBI is in receipt of representation from the market participants, wherein they have informed that up gradation of the electronic filing portal (Version-3) of MCA for submission of various forms including forms necessary for incorporation of companies is still under the process of stabilization and they continue to face technical difficulties in e-filing of such forms.
4. Further, owing to the stabilization of the process of filing e-forms on account of up gradation of e-filing portal from Version-2 to Version-3, MCA vide General Circular no. 03/2023 dated February 07, 2023 has inter-alia provided additional time of 15 days for filing of various e-forms (including those required in the process of registration of users on MCA-21), without additional fees.
5. Considering the difficulties faced by entities operating/ desirous of operating as OBPPs and taking into account the relaxation by MCA, it has been decided to grant additional time period of three weeks commencing from February 09,

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2023 (i.e. the end of three months from November 09, 2022) for making an application to obtain certificate of registration as a stock broker under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Stock Brokers) Regulations, 1992. Accordingly, the application for registration by OBPPs as stock brokers shall be made by March 01, 2023.

6. The Circular is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 11(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 read with Regulation 55 (1) of the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021, to protect the interest of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market.

Related Link: <https://www.sebi.gov.in/legal/circulars/feb-2023/grant-of-extension-of-time-to-entities-operating-desirous-of-operating-as-online-bond-platform-providers-obpps-for-making-an-application-to-obtain-certificate-of-registration-as-a-stock-broker-unde-67881.html>

RBI UPDATES

RBI statement on the health of Indian banking sector

Dated: 03rd February, 2023

There have been media reports expressing concern about the exposures of Indian banks to a business conglomerate. As the regulator and supervisor, the RBI maintains a constant vigil on the banking sector and on individual banks with a view to maintain financial stability. The RBI has a Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) database system where the banks report their exposure of Rs.5 crore and above which is used for monitoring purposes. As per the RBI's current assessment, the banking sector remains resilient and stable. Various parameters relating to capital adequacy, asset quality, liquidity, provision coverage and profitability are healthy. Banks are also in compliance with the Large Exposure Framework (LEF) guidelines issued by the RBI.

Related Link: https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55166

RBI framework for invoicing and payments for international trade in Indian Rupee

Dated: 06th February, 2023

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed invoicing and payments for international trade in Indian Rupee vide A.P (DIR Series) Circular No. 10 RBI/2022-2023/90 dated 11.07.2022 on "International Trade Settlement in Indian Rupees (INR)". This was stated by the Union Minister of State for Finance, Dr Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad, in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on February 06, 2023. Giving more information, the Minister stated that the Circular lays down that all exports and imports under the arrangement may be denominated and invoiced in Rupee (INR) and the settlement of trade transactions under the arrangement shall take place in INR. RBI has put in place the arrangement

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to promote growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and to support the increasing interest of global trading community in INR.

Related Link: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1896727>

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana generated 1.12 crore net additional employment from 2015 to 2018

Dated: 06th February, 2023

As per the results of a large sample survey conducted at the national level by Ministry of Labor and Employment (MoLE) to assess employment generation under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), the scheme helped in generating 1.12 crore net additional employment during a period of approximately 3 years (i.e. from 2015 to 2018).

Related Link: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1896725>

Block chain Technology (BCT) is one of many promising technologies: RBI

Dated: 07th February, 2023

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that Block chain Technology (BCT) is one of many promising technologies and its usefulness will depend on how it is adopted and adapted to a wide array of uses. This was stated by Union Minister of State for Finance Dr Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on February 07, 2023.

Related link: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1897033>

Monetary Policy Statement, 2022-23 Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) February 6-8, 2023

Dated: 08th February, 2023

On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) at its meeting held on February 08, 2023 decided to Increase the policy repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.50 per cent with immediate effect. Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate stands adjusted to 6.25 per cent and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.75 per cent. The MPC also decided to remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward, while supporting growth.

Related Link: https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55178

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RBI Extends Market Trading Hours

Dated: 08th February, 2023

The trading hours for various markets regulated by the Reserve Bank were amended with effect from April 07, 2020 in view of the operational dislocations and elevated levels of health risks posed by COVID-19. It has now been decided to also restore market hours in respect of government securities from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM to 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Related Link: https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=55180

RBI releases the results of Forward Looking Surveys

Dated: 08th February, 2023

The Reserve Bank of India on February 08, 2023 released on its website the results of the following Surveys : Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) – January 2023; Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH) – January 2023; OBICUS Survey on manufacturing sector – Q2:2022-23; Industrial Outlook Survey of the Manufacturing Sector for Q3:2022-23; Survey of Professional Forecasters on Macroeconomic Indicators– Round 80th; Bank Lending Survey for Q3:2022-23 & Services and Infrastructure Outlook Survey for Q3:2022-23. The Survey results are based on the feedback received from the respondents to the Surveys and do not necessarily reflects the views of the Reserve Bank of India.

Related Link: https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay

Pilot for QR Code-based vending machine coming: RBI

Dated: 08th February, 2023

The Reserve Bank of India on February 08, 2023 said it's preparing a pilot project on QR Code based Coin Vending Machine (QCVM) in collaboration with a few leading banks. The QCVM is a cashless coin dispensation machine which would dispense coins against a debit to the customer's bank account using Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The QCVM would eliminate the need for physical tendering of banknotes and their authentication, the RBI said.

Related Link: <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/pi-lot-for-qr-code-based-vending-machine-coming-rbi8432830/>

Centre moves to block loan apps not white listed by RBI

Dated: 09th February, 2023

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has shared a white list of lending apps with the Government, which has taken action and is taking down those that are not in the list. "The apps that have been removed are not maintained by regulated entities, they are not appointed by any Non-banking Finance Companies (NBFCs)," said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Related Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/centre-moves-to-block-loanapps-not-whitelisted-by-rbi/articleshow/97750972.cms>

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NCLT AND M & A UPDATES

Government decision to convert Vi's interest on dues to equity to keep Telco away from NCLT: Analysts

Dated: 06th February, 2023

Kolkata: The government's decision to convert Vodafone Idea's accrued interest into equity is a lifeline of sorts and sharply reduces the risks of the telecom operator getting dragged to the bankruptcy court anytime soon, said analysts.

Shares of Vi closed 19.88% higher at Rs 8.26 on Monday on the BSE -- jumping over 24% intra-day -- after the government agreed last Friday to convert the telco's Rs 16,133.18 crore accrued interest on deferred adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues into equity at Rs 10 a share. The move had come after the government received an assurance from Vi's promoters that they were committed to the telco and would bring in the necessary funds.

Indus Towers shares too ended nearly 13% higher at Rs 161.95 on BSE amid expectations that the dues conversion would help Vi get some existing bank debt refinanced and enable it to clear 100% of its current dues to the tower company. The health of loss-making Vi is critical for Indus Towers' long-term financial stability since the telco accounts for more than 40% of the tower-co's revenue.

Related Link: <https://telecom.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/news/govt-decision-to-convert-vodafone-ideas-interest-on-dues-to-equity-to-keep-telco-away-from-nclt-analysts/97659300>

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code had big role to play in India's startup culture: Justice SK Kaul

Dated: 04th February, 2023

Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul of the Supreme Court on Saturday said the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has had a big role to play in India's new "startup culture" as it created a conducive environment for budding entrepreneurs. Speaking at the Insolvency Law Academy's inaugural conference on the topic of "Emerging Global Insolvency Horizon: Indian Footprint and Front View", Justice Kaul said India's economy has been growing since the early 1990s, leading to an expansion of the credit market.

"In my opinion, the IBC has also had a big role to play in India's new startup culture by creating a conducive environment for budding entrepreneurs," he said.

Justice Kaul said the expansion of the credit market has resulted in an increase in non-performing loans and assets.

"To solve this problem, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code was enacted in 2016 primarily to serve two purposes — first, to ensure that debtors take sound and practical decisions and second, to give financially-ailing corporate entities a chance to rehabilitate and continue their business.

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"The IBC essentially consolidated laws relating to insolvency resolution of companies, partnerships and individuals. Hence, the implementation of the IBC in India marked the beginning of a new era that completely overhauled India's insolvency regime," he said.

Related Link: <https://theprint.in/india/insolvency-and-bankruptcy-code-had-big-role-to-play-in-indias-new-startup-culture-justice-sk-kaul/1354558/>

Centre sets up committee to prepare draft digital competition law

Dated: 06th February, 2023

Centre notified the appointment of a digital competition law panel to examine the anti-competitive practices and the new regulatory framework which has been adopted globally before submitting a draft of the Digital Competition Act within the next three months. The panel was set up in less than two months after a Parliamentary panel proposed a new digital competition law to curb anti-competitive practices in the digital markets. The panel consists of 16 members and includes the chairperson of CCI, joint secretary of the MCA, Co-founder of NASSCOM and experts from eminent law firms.

Related Link: <https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/governance/bigtech-free-run-to-be-over-soon-as-india-sets-3-month-deadline-for-digital-competition-law-draft/97713537>

Adani Power receives approval from NCLT for merger of six subsidiaries

Dated: 09th February, 2023

The National Company Law Tribunal sanctioned the Scheme of Amalgamation of six wholly owned subsidiaries of Adani Power Limited, a unit of Adani Group. These six companies are: Adani Power Maharashtra Limited, Adani Power Rajasthan Limited, Udipi Power Corporation Limited, Raipur Energen Limited, Raigarh Energy Generation Limited and Adani Power (Mundra) Limited.

Related Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/adani-power-receives-nclt-s-approval-for-merger-of-six-subsidiaries-123020901333_1.htm

OTHER UPDATES

Swiggy announces appointment of three independent directors to its Board

Dated: 06th February, 2023

Swiggy announced it has appointed three independent directors to its Board - Mallika Srinivasan, Padma Shri awardees and Chairman and Managing Director of TAFE; Shailesh Haribhakti, Chairman of Shailesh Haribhakti & Associates; and Sahil Barua, Managing Director and CEO at Delhivery. They are the first independent directors on

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Swiggy's board and join current members: ASriharsha Majety - CEO and Co-founder of Swiggy; Nandan Reddy, Co-founder of Swiggy; Larry Illg, CEO of Prosus Edtech and Food; Ashutosh Sharma, Head of Investments- India, Prosus Ventures; Sumer Juneja, Managing Partner, India and EMEA, SoftBank Investment Advisors; and Anand Daniel, Partner at Accel.

Related Link: https://www.icsi.edu/media/webmodules/infocapsule/Info_Capsule_06-02-23.pdf

Sovereign Green Bonds of Rs.16,000 crore proposed to be issued in the current FY for mobilizing resources for green infrastructure projects

Dated: 06th February, 2023

Sovereign Green Bonds (SGBs) amounting Rs.16,000 crore are proposed to be issued in the current financial year for mobilizing resources for green infrastructure projects. Rs. 8,000 crore has already been raised in the first tranche of the SGBs. This was stated by the Union Minister of State for Finance, Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on February 06, 2023.

Related Link: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1896724>

Goods & Services Tax Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) and the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up of Digital Forensic Laboratories

Dated: 07th February, 2023

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) and the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up of Digital Forensic Laboratories along with exchange of information and knowledge, technological advancement and skill development in the field of digital forensics. DGGI is the apex intelligence organization under Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for collection and dissemination of information and for taking necessary measures to check evasion of GST.

Related Link: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1896968>

Amendment in Circular No. 29/2020-Customs dated 22.06.2020 for allowing transshipment of Bangladesh export cargo to third countries through Delhi Air Cargo -reg.

Dated February 07, 2023

Circular No. 03/2023-Customs, New Delhi

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The Circular allows inter alia transshipment of Bangladesh export cargo through Kolkata Air Cargo. The goods loaded on containers/ closed bodied trucks enter India from LCS Petra pole, move by road to Kolkata Air Cargo, from where they are airlifted and transported to third countries. It has been represented to allow this movement through Delhi Air Cargo also, for better cargo evacuation and improved logistics efficiency.

Related Link: <https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1003145/ENG/Circulars>

Thanking You,
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