

WEEKLY CORPORATE UPDATES

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(Curated & compiled by)

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MCA UPDATES

Guidelines for Funding Research and Studies under CDM

Dated: 29th January, 2025

Ministry of Corporate Affairs has issued guidelines pertaining to funding research and studies, workshops and conferences etc. under the plan scheme "Corporate Data Management" on January 29, 2025. "Funding Research and Studies, Workshops and Conferences etc." is conceived as a component part of a Central Sector Plan Scheme, titled "Corporate Data Management" proposed implemented by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). The major focus is to utilize the wealth of data available with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs by way of sponsoring Research Studies and Surveys etc. in areas related, inter alia, to corporate growth in overall macro-economic perspective.

Related Link: <https://cacult.com/guidelines-for-funding-research-and-studies-under-cdm/>

SEBI UPDATES

Retail Applicants in SME IPOs Surge to 2.3 Lakh

Dated: 27th January, 2025

SEBI along with the two stock exchanges – BSE and NSE – have been trying hard to tighten the norms for the SME IPO segment but that has not stopped a flood of retail investors in the segment with the number of such investors jumping by more than 600 times in the last four years. Data shows that the average number of retail applicants in SME IPOs has crossed the two-lakh mark in the current calendar year – a huge jump since this used to be in thousands till two years back. The average number of retail applicants in SME IPOs is pegged at nearly 2.3 lakh in 2025, significantly higher than 29,755 in 2022. The average number increased to 78,450 in 2023 before crossing the lakh mark in 2024 to touch 1.88 lakh. This assumes significance as the recent past has seen the SME IPO segment grab many headlines and, more often than not, it has been due to regulatory concerns and probes related to the quality of disclosures and governance.

Related Link: <https://www.5paisa.com/news/retail-applicants-in-sme-ipos-surge-to-23-lakh>

SEBI develops web-based portal for reporting glitches by exchanges, MIIs

Dated: 28th January, 2025

SEBI has stipulated the Standard Operating Procedure for handling of technical glitches by Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) and payment of financial disincentive thereof. Presently, the MIIs (i.e. Stock Exchanges, Clearing Corporations and Depositories), are required to report information about technical glitches and submit the Root Cause

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Analysis (RCA) reports to SEBI on the dedicated email ID. In order to streamline the reporting process of technical glitches across MIIs and creation of centralized repository of technical glitches, SEBI has developed a web-based portal, i.e. Integrated SEBI Portal for Technical Glitches (iSPOT), for submission of preliminary and final RCA reports of technical glitches by the MIIs. This would help to improve the data quality, traceability of historical submissions related to technical glitches at the end of SEBI and MIIs, system generated reports for monitoring of various compliance requirements in a more focused manner and automated intimation to MIIs for submission of RCA report within SEBI defined timelines pursuant to submission of preliminary report by concerned MII.

Related Link: https://www.business-standard.com/markets/stock-market-news/sebi-develops-web-based-portal-for-reporting-glitches-by-exchanges-miis-125012801205_1.html

RBI UPDATES

RBI's digital payments index rises to 465.33 as of September 2024

Dated: 29th January, 2025

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been publishing a composite Reserve Bank of India – Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) since January 1, 2021 with March 2018 as base to capture the extent of digitization of payments across the country. The index for September 2024 stands at 465.33 as against 445.5 for March 2024, which was announced on July 26, 2024. The increase in RBI-DPI index was driven by growth in payment infrastructure and payment performance across the country over the period.

Related Link: https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-s-digital-payments-index-rises-to-465-33-as-of-september-2024-125012901401_1.html

RBI aligns HFCs' NCD private placement rules with NBFC regulations

Dated: 29th January, 2025

On a review, it has been decided that the Guidelines on Private Placement of NCDs (with maturity more than one year) by NBFCs, as contained in para 58 of the Master Direction – Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Company – Scale Based Regulation) Directions, 2023 (as amended from time to time) shall be applicable, mutatis-mutandis, to HFCs. Accordingly, the existing guidelines under Chapter XI of Master Direction – Non-Banking Financial Company – Housing Finance Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2021 stand repealed.

Related Link: https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-aligns-hfcs-ncd-private-placement-rules-with-nbfc-regulations-125012901405_1.html

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NCLT UPDATES

NCLT directs disciplinary proceedings against Byjus' resolution professional

Dated: 29th January, 2025

On January 29, 2025, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) ordered disciplinary proceedings against Pankaj Srivastava, the resolution professional for Byju's parent company, Think & Learn, citing concerns over his conduct. The NCLT also annulled his reconstitution of Byju's Committee of Creditors (CoC) from August 31, 2024, restoring the previous CoC, which includes Glas Trust and Aditya Birla Finance as financial creditors. Additionally, the tribunal set aside the reclassification of these creditors as operational creditors and canceled a resolution that appointed Srivastava as the Resolution Professional.

Related Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/nclt-directs-disciplinary-proceedings-against-byjus-resolution-professional/article69156534.ece>

Bankruptcy court approves Helios Photo Voltaic's acquisition by OCL Iron & Steel

Dated: 29th January, 2025

The bankruptcy court has approved the acquisition of Helios Photo Voltaic Ltd (formerly Moser Baer Photo) by OCL Iron & Steel Ltd through the insolvency resolution process. Helios manufactures solar energy equipment, including photovoltaic cells and panels. The resolution plan, approved by the Committee of Creditors (CoC), proposes a payment of Rs 113 crore to acquire the company, which has admitted liabilities of Rs 723 crore. OCL Iron & Steel's plan received 73.38% approval from the CoC in August 2024. Helios entered the insolvency process in January 2024 after defaulting on loans of Rs 859 crore. The acquisition is expected to boost OCL Iron & Steel's capabilities in the solar energy sector, enhancing its product portfolio and market reach.

Related Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/steel/bankruptcy-court-approves-helios-photo-voltaics-acquisition-by-ocl-iron-steel/articleshow/117688045.cms>

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INCOME TAX UPDATES

Bhaktivedanta Hospital & Research Institute notify u/s 35(1)(ii) (Notification No. 11, January 27, 2025)

Dated: 27 January, 2025

The Central Government approves 'Shri Chaitanya Health and Care Trust' (PAN: AABTS6166N) for its unit 'Bhaktivedanta Hospital & Research Institute', Thane, Maharashtra, for 'Scientific Research' under the category of 'University, college or other institution' for the purposes of clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 35 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 read with rules 5C and 5E of the Income-tax Rules, 1962.

Related Link: <https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/notification/notification-11-2025.pdf>

Income Tax (Second) Amendment Rules, 2025 (Notification No. 10, January 27, 2025)

Dated: 27 January, 2025

Ministry of Finance introduced amendments to the Income-Tax Rules, 1962, focusing on regulations for venture capital funds, finance companies, and retail schemes. These changes are aimed at aligning with provisions under Sections 10 and 94B of the Income-Tax Act, 1961. Key amendments include the addition of Rule 2DAA, specifying that venture capital funds under Section 10(23FB) are to be regulated as Category Alternative Investment Funds within International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs). Rule 21ACA outlines permitted activities for finance companies in IFSCs, such as lending, factoring, and treasury management, with the condition that interest payments to non-residents must be in foreign currency. Further, Rule 21AIA introduces conditions for retail schemes and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) under Section 10(4D). Retail schemes must maintain specific diversification limits, while ETFs must be listed on recognized stock exchanges and adhere to IFSC regulations.

Related Link: <https://incometaxindia.gov.in/communications/notification/notification-10-2025.pdf>

OTHERS

DGFT launches enhanced Certificate of Origin 2.0 to simplify export Certification process

Dated: 28th January, 2025

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The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has launched the enhanced Certificate of Origin (eCoO) 2.0 System, a significant upgrade designed to simplify the certification process for exporters and enhance trade efficiency. This upgraded platform offers several user-friendly features, such as multi-user access, which enables exporters to authorize multiple users under a single Importer Exporter Code (IEC). Additionally, the system now supports Aadhaar-based e-signing alongside digital signature tokens, providing greater flexibility. An integrated dashboard offers exporters seamless access to Eco services, Free Trade Agreement (FTA) information, trade events, and other resources. The platform also introduces an in-lieu Certificate of Origin feature, allowing exporters to request corrections to previously issued certificates through an easy online application process.

RelatedLink:<https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/governance/dgft-launches-enhanced-certificate-of-origin-2-0-to-simplify-export-certification-process/117616614>

**Thanking You,
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