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CASE LAWS

ARBITRATION

Supreme Court: Arbitrator cannot award pre-reference or pendente lite interest if contract bars interest claims

M/s Sharma Enterprises Vs. National Building Construction Corporation, *Dated: 15.10.2026, (MANU/SC/1176/2026; 2026 INSC 1135)*

The Supreme Court has observed that **Section 31(7)(a) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 subordinates an arbitrator's discretion to contractual terms,** and the phrase or otherwise operates as a comprehensive bar on pre-award interest.

Supreme Court: Non-signatories may be joined in arbitration if their rights are substantially affected

Hemant D. Shah HUF & Anr. Vs. Chittaranjan D. Shah HUF & Ors., *Dated: 12.10.2026 (MANU/SC/1160/2026; 2026 INSC 1111)*

The Supreme Court has observed that a **non-signatory to an arbitration agreement may be impleaded in arbitration proceedings where the dispute substantially affects their rights**, clarifying that determining whether a person is a *"veritable party"* to the dispute depends on the facts and circumstances of each case.

Supreme Court: Mere mention of arbitration venue does not determine seat

Arcis Clean Energy Pvt. Ltd. Vs. Parshva Innovation, *Dated: 12.10.2026, (MANU/SC/1161/2026; 2026 INSC 1109)*

The Supreme Court has observed that "*mere expression "place of arbitration" cannot be the basis to determine the intention of the parties that they have intended that place as the "seat" of arbitration. The intention of the parties as to the "seat" should be determined from other clauses in the agreement, including the conduct of the parties."*

BANKING

Supreme Court RBI acted as a mere bystander during YES Bank's clandestine business operations

Yes Bank Limited & Anr. Vs. Axis Trustee Services Limited & Ors., *Dated: 15.10.2026, (MANU/SC/1182/2026; 2026 INSC 1132)*

The Supreme Court has observed that it would be *"highly unfair"* **to make investors bear the consequences of administrative lapses,** while examining allegations that the Reserve Bank of India allowed YES Bank's Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio to fall to 0.6% despite earlier irregularities in the bank's functioning.

CAPITAL MARKET

SEBI continues trading ban on Rajesh exports chairman over disclosure irregularities

In the Matter of Rajesh Exports Limited, *Dated: 14.10.2026, (MANU/SB/0739/2026)*

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has confirmed its interim directions restraining **Rajesh Mehta,** Chairman of Rajesh Exports Limited, from **buying, selling or dealing in the company's securities** until further orders, **citing concerns over financial disclosures, discrepancies in consolidated revenues and non-cooperation with the investigation.**

CIVIL

Supreme Court: Conversion to Islam does not automatically confer backward class Muslim status

The Secretary to Government Vs. Sameer Ahamed N. and Others, *Dated: 15.10.2026, (MANU/SC/1179/2026; 2026 INSC 1129)*

A Hindu convert to Islam was denied a community certificate as a Muslim Labbai, and the Madras High Court subsequently struck down a Tamil Nadu government order that allowed backward class Hindu converts to claim Backward Class Muslim status. The Supreme Court observed that **conversion from Hinduism to Islam does not automatically entitle a person to Backward Class Muslim status based on their pre-conversion community's backwardness.**

Delhi High Court: Litigants must track proceedings and cannot blame lawyers for their inaction

Pawan Vs. Amit Gupta, *Dated: 15.10.2026, (MANU/DE/7979/2026; 2026:DHC:9215-DB)*

The Delhi High Court has observed that **litigants cannot entirely blame their lawyers for failing to appear in court and must remain vigilant about the status of their cases,** even where their counsel is allegedly negligent.

Supreme Court: Executing courts must conduct full inquiry into third-party objections to possession

Alladin Charities And Zakat Wakf Vs. Mohammed Saleem Alias Mohd. Wajid Ali And Another, *Dated: 14.10.2026, (MANU/SC/1172/2026; 2026 INSC 1122)*

The Supreme Court has observed that courts cannot dismiss a third party's resistance merely because it cited Order XXI Rule 58 instead of Order XXI Rule 97 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, **but must conduct a full inquiry under Rule 101 to determine property identity and competing rights.**

Supreme Court: Amendment allowed if new relief has direct nexus with existing dispute

Haramani Sahoo And Others Vs. Lalita Nayak and Others, *Dated: 12.10.2026, (MANU/SC/1157/2026; 2026 INSC 1112)*

The Supreme Court has observed that "*The real inquiry is whether the amendment introduces a distinct and independent controversy having no connection with the original cause of action, or whether it merely brings on record additional facts and consequential reliefs having a direct nexus with the existing controversy*".

COMMERCIAL

Supreme Court: Highest bids cannot be rejected merely because they are lower than the bidder's own earlier bids

M/s Dhanlaxmi Merchandise Pvt. Ltd. Vs. State of Madhya Pradesh & Ors., *Dated: 14.10.2026, (MANU/SC/1169/2026; 2026 INSC 1125)*

The Supreme Court has observed that a **public authority may reject even the highest bid, but it cannot do so merely because the bid is lower than what the same bidder had quoted in an earlier, surrendered contract.** Some further material, such as valuation or comparable auctions, is needed to show that the fresh bid is inadequate.

Supreme Court: E-payment of bid security cannot be rejected for non-submission of original receipt

Hardev Construction Private Limited Vs. Union of India & Ors., *Dated: 12.10.2026, (MANU/SC/1159/2026; 2026 INSC 1110)*

The Supreme Court has observed that a **tender bid cannot be rejected for failure to submit an original receipt where the bid security was paid through the prescribed e-payment mode and the digital receipt was uploaded.** The Court set aside the rejection and directed that the contract be awarded to the appellant, subject to compliance with the remaining tender conditions.

CRIMINAL

Delhi High Court: Woman can be charged with gang rape under section 70 BNS, 2023

ANSXXX and Anr. Vs. State of NCT of Delhi and Anr, *Dated: 15.10.2026, (MANU/DE/7978/2026; 2026:DHC:9197)*

The Delhi High Court has **observed that a woman can be prosecuted for gang rape under Section 376D of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Section 70 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 even if she has not personally committed the act of rape.** The Court further observed that the term "persons" used in these provisions cannot be restricted to men, making the offence applicable irrespective of the accused's gender.

Supreme Court: Prolonged custody cannot continue when trial is unlikely to conclude soon

Sanjay Sureka @ Sanjay Kumar Sureka Vs. Directorate of Enforcement, *Dated: 14.10.2026 (MANU/SC/1167/2026; 2026 INSC 1124)*

The Supreme Court has observed that *"the culmination of the trial is a time consuming process, since the trial court will have to go through documents running into thousands of pages and examine around 98 witnesses. The Appellant must not be subjected to the rigours of custody as long as the trial is pending. Hence, Appellant must be released on bail, subject to furnishing of bail bonds to the satisfaction of the trial court and subject to such other terms and conditions as may be imposed by it."*

Calcutta High Court commutes death sentence in wife and infant daughter murder case

State of West Bengal Vs. Lal Singh Oraon, *Dated: 14.10.2026, (MANU/WB/2548/2026)*

The Calcutta High Court has **commuted the death sentence of a man convicted of murdering his wife and 18-month-old daughter to life imprisonment,** holding that the case did not fall within the *"rarest of rare"* category warranting capital punishment.

Allahabad High Court: Dissatisfaction with police probe alone not wilful neglect under SC/ST Act, 1989

Guddo Vs. State of U.P. & Ors., *Dated: 13.10.2025, (MANU/UP/2998/2026)*

The Allahabad High Court has observed that a **complainant's dissatisfaction with a police investigation or the failure to invoke specific provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**, does not by itself amount to wilful neglect of duty by public servants under Section 4 of the Act.

Delhi High Court: Magistrate can summon suspect despite police closure opinion, must record reasons

Zubair Ahmed Vs. State Govt. Of NCT of Delhi and Anr, *Dated: 12.10.2026,(MANU/DE/7862/2026; 2026:DHC:8965)*

The Delhi High Court has observed that a **Magistrate can summon a suspect despite the investigating agency finding insufficient evidence against them,** provided the order identifies the supporting material and records reasons for disagreeing with the police conclusion.

EDUCATION

Supreme Court: Professional course fees cannot be hiked midway except in exceptional cases

Dr. B.C. Roy Engineering College & Anr. Vs. State of West Bengal & Ors., *Dated: 14.10.2026 (MANU/SC/1170/2026; 2026 INSC 1120)*

The Supreme Court has observed that the **fee for professional courses in self-financing colleges must be notified for the entire course before a student takes admission, and can be varied during the course only in exceptional situations such as an unforeseen increase in expenditure.** The Court further observed that fee fixation must balance the students' interest in a reasonable and certain fee with the colleges' need for adequate resources, and that the AICTE Regulations, 1994 and the National Education Policy, 2020 both support certainty and discourage arbitrary mid-course increases.

INSOLVENCY

Supreme Court: Profitable companies can face insolvency proceedings for loan defaults

Deepak Raheja and Anr. Vs. Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd. and Anr., *Dated: 15.10.2026, (MANU/SC/1181/2026; 2026 INSC 1134)*

The Supreme Court has observed that a **company's profitability does not bar the initiation of insolvency proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016,** where the company has defaulted on its loan repayments. The Court clarified that the existence of a default, rather than the company's financial health or profitability, is the key consideration for initiating insolvency proceedings.

Supreme Court: Limitation for Section 62 IBC appeal starts from pronouncement; 60-day limit is absolute

The Assistant Commissioner of Central Tax, CGST Division Vs. Sreenivasa Rao Ravinuthala & Anr., *Dated: 14.10.2026 (MANU/SC/1173/2026; 2026 INSC 1121)*

The Supreme Court has observed that the **limitation for filing an appeal under Section 62 of the IBC begins from the date the NCLAT pronounces its order, and not from the date the party receives a certified copy.** Only the time actually needed to obtain the certified copy can be excluded. It further held that the absolute outer limit is 60 days and the Court has no power to condone delay beyond that.

PROPERTY

Supreme Court limits homebuyer's refund to personal contribution

Madhu Kudapa (formerly known as K. Madhusudhan Rao) Vs. M/s Lodha Healthy Constructions and Developer Private Limited (LHCPL) & Anr., Dated: *15.10.2026, (MANU/SC/1177/2026; 2026 INSC 1131)*

The Supreme Court has limited a homebuyer's refund to Rs. 1.27 crore paid from personal funds, with 12% interest and Rs. 15 lakh compensation, **holding that refunding the entire amount financed through a bank loan would result in unjust enrichment.**

Supreme Court: Gift deed cannot override an earlier family settlement and compromise decree

B. Anasuyamma (Died) per LR and Anr. Vs. B. Madhusudhan Reddy (Died) per LRs and others, *Dated: 14.10.2026, (MANU/SC/1175/2026; 2026 INSC 1126)*

The Supreme Court has observed **that a person who has relinquished his share in a property through a compromise deed cannot subsequently execute a gift deed concerning the same property.** The Court set aside the Telangana High Court's order for overlooking the compromise deed while upholding the gift deed executed by the person who had already relinquished his share.

SERVICE

Supreme Court: Unaided college lecturers cannot claim absorption under State surplus-teacher policy

State of Maharashtra Vs. Sudhir s/o Motiramji Hiwarkar & Ors., *Dated: 13.10.2026 (MANU/SC/1163/2026; 2026 INSC 1118)*

The Supreme Court has observed that a lecturer appointed in a no-grant-in-aid college cannot claim absorption under the State's surplus-teacher policy. It further observed that the **State is a necessary party when relief is sought against it, and mere impleadment of its officer is insufficient.** However, invoking Article 142 of the Constitution, the Court directed the State to pay Rs. 10 lakhs as compensation in the peculiar facts of the case.

MOTOR VEHICLE

Delhi High Court: Homemaker's services count in compensation regardless of age

Ganga Devi Vs. Rajesh Kumar & Ors., *Dated: 13.10.2026, (MANU/DE/8015/2026; 2026:DHC:9013)*

The Delhi High Court has observed that a **homemaker's unpaid household and caregiving services must be considered while determining motor accident compensation, even if she is above 70 years of age.**

TRUST AND SOCIETIES

Madras High Court: Properties acquired by catholic priests after religious vows belong to religious society

The ABVM Society of the Catholic Vs. A. Deiva Nayagam & Ors., *Dated: 13.10.2026, (MANU/TN/3342/2026)*

The **Madras High Court** has observed that properties acquired by Catholic priests after entering a religious order and taking religious vows belong to the religious society, and their legal heirs cannot claim such properties merely on the basis of family ties.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BANKING

14.10.2026 The **Karnataka High Court** has observed that Vijay Mallya's *"flamboyant lifestyle"* appears to be obstructing the resolution of pending bank loan recovery proceedings against Kingfisher Airlines, while granting relief to Diageo Holdings Netherlands BV in a pledged-shares dispute.

CIVIL

14.10.2026 The **Jammu and Kashmir High Court** has imposed an interim ban on fuel-powered motorboats, including motorized shikaras and jet skis, in Dal Lake to prevent pollution and protect its fragile natural ecosystem from environmental damage.

13.10.2026 The **Delhi High Court** has observed that courts cannot interfere with the selection of athletes for international sporting events or alter a finalised contingent unless the authorities' decision is arbitrary.

12.10.2026 The **Allahabad High Court** has observed that the right to religious freedom and performing last rites does not entitle a community to claim a specific plot of local body land for use as a cemetery.

CONTEMPT OF COURT

12.10.2026 The **Allahabad High Court** has observed that misconduct towards an advocate while performing professional duties related to judicial proceedings may constitute contempt of court, emphasizing that lawyers serve as officers of the Court.

CRIMINAL

14.10.2026 The **Supreme Court** has annulled the Uttar Pradesh Police notice demanding journalist Abhishek Upadhyay's digital records from X covering three months before a road-rage case, terming the request an *'overkill'* and barring the use of retrieved data against him.

The **Supreme Court** remarked *"No Understanding of Law"* while criticizing the Chhattisgarh High Court's handling of a murder appeal and highlighting the distinction between culpable homicide under Sections 304 Part I and 304 Part II of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

13.10.2026 The **Bombay High Court** has rejected anticipatory bail for a man accused of assaulting a lawyer and vandalizing his office to obstruct legal representation, emphasizing the pressing need for comprehensive legislation to protect advocates from intimidation and violence.

12.10.2026 The **Allahabad High Court** has directed the Uttar Pradesh DGP to issue a circular warning police officers that misbehavior with government advocates communicating court orders for compliance may amount to contempt of court and invite strict legal action.

The **Jharkhand High Court** has clarified that a Magistrate must first issue a preliminary order under Section 133 CrPC, 1973 to initiate public nuisance removal proceedings and, upon the affected person's appearance and objection, provide an opportunity to produce evidence as mandated by Section 138 CrPC, 1973.

ELECTION

14.10.2026 The **Allahabad High Court** has rejected a belated challenge to the delimitation of Assembly constituencies in Ambedkar Nagar, including Alapur's Scheduled Caste reservation, citing the absence of grounds for judicial intervention and a nearly 20-year delay.

FAMILY

12.10.2026 The **Delhi High Court** has observed that a husband cannot evade his maintenance obligations towards his wife and minor child solely on the ground of his disability.

SERVICE

12.10.2026 The **Supreme Court** has clarified that its earlier ruling granting disability pension with arrears to ex-servicemen already receiving disability pension cannot be mechanically extended to every case. Each claim must be decided on its own merits.

CENTRAL

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Circular No.: A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 27 RBI/2026-2027/293, Dated: 12.10.2026, MANU/APDR/0034/2026

The Reserve Bank of India has **revised guidelines for Authorised Dealers, requiring them to offer non-deliverable derivative contracts (NDDCs) involving INR to non-resident users solely for hedging purposes.** Additionally, dealers must maintain a **Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve (FERR) for such contracts, equal to 20% of the INR equivalent of the notional amount,** to be deposited with the RBI.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA

Circular No.: HO/47/11/11(3)2025-MRD-POD2/I/23843/2026, Dated: 15.10.2026, MANU/SMIS/0076/2026

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reviewed and modified certain aspects of the **Closing Auction Session (CAS), market timings, and settlement methodology for derivatives contracts to enhance price discovery and market efficiency. Changes include adjustments to CAS timings, order types, and settlement price determination, with implementation set for December 2026 and February 2027**. Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations are required to update their procedures and inform market participants accordingly.

Notification No.: SEBI/LAD-DOP/2026/329, Dated: 14.10.2026, MANU/SREG/0040/2026

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has introduced the Third Amendment to the Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements Regulations, 2026. This amendment mandates that **listed entities with non-convertible debt securities must list all such securities issued after the amendment's publication date on stock exchanges. Sub-regulations (2) and (3) of regulation 62A have been omitted**.

Notification No.: SEBI/LAD-DOP/2026/328, Dated: 14.10.2026, MANU/SREG/0041/2026

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has made **amendments to the Real Estate Investment Trusts Regulations, 2014.** Key changes include the **omission of certain clauses, the introduction of depository receipts for REIT units, and revised voting requirements for unitholder resolutions.** Additionally, provisions for **sponsor exits in REITs with multiple sponsors have been updated**.

Notification No.: SEBI/LAD-NRO/GN/2026/326, Dated: 14.10.2026, MANU/SREG/0042/2026

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India has amended the Alternative Investment Funds Regulations, 2012, introducing changes to accreditation criteria and dispute resolution mechanisms**. The amendments specify **new eligibility conditions for accreditation and outline a dispute resolution process involving mediation, conciliation, or arbitration for conflicts between investors and fund managers**.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Trade Notice No.: 30/2026-2027, Dated: 13.10.2026, MANU/DGFT/0186/2026

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has introduced a **simplified procedure for expedited issuance of import authorisations for silver bullion, changing the import policy from 'Free' to 'Restricted'**. This procedure, based on self-declaration and trust, aims to facilitate trade by reducing processing time for genuine applicants, while ensuring compliance with applicable policy provisions. Import authorisations will be valid for six months and must be procured through regulated routes like the India International Bullion Exchange.

Order No.: SO5624(E), Dated: 13.10.2026, MANU/INDP/0048/2026

The Cookware, Utensils and Cans for Foods and Beverages (Quality Control) Second Order, 2026 mandates that **specified goods conform to Indian Standards and bear the Standard Mark under a Bureau of Indian Standards license**. The order exempts goods manufactured for export and provides specific implementation dates for micro and small enterprises. The Bureau is the certifying authority, and **violations are punishable under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016**.

Notification No.: 43/2026-2027, Dated: 12.10.2026, MANU/DGFT/0184/2026

The Central Government has extended the Minimum Import Price (MIP) condition on the import of Glufosinate and its salts under Chapter 38 of ITC (HS) 2022 until April 2027, with all other terms and conditions remaining unchanged.

Notification No.: 44/2026-2027, Dated: 12.10.2026, MANU/DGFT/0185/2026

The export policy for Prepared **Culture Media under ITC(HS) Code 38210000** has been amended to allow free export, with provisions for a **Shipment Clearance Certificate and Health Certificate** if required by the importing country.

Notification No.: 07/04/2026-DGTR, Dated: 12.10.2026, MANU/COMM/0277/2026

The document reports the **final findings of a sunset review investigation on imports** of **Aceto Acetyl Derivatives of Aromatic or Heterocyclic Compounds, known as 'Arylides', from China** .

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Notification No.: 82/2026-Customs (N.T.), Dated: 12.10.2026, MANU/CUSN/0082/2026

The document outlines the rules for determining the origin of goods under the **Free Trade Agreement between India and New Zealand,** as issued by the Ministry of Finance and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.

Notification No.: 135/2026, Dated: 13.10.2026, MANU/CBDT/0141/2026

The protocol amends the **India-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Convention to include an Entitlement to Benefits clause, preventing treaty abuse by ensuring benefits are not granted if the main purpose of an arrangement is to obtain such benefits**. The protocol aims to **eliminate double taxation and prevent fiscal evasion while encouraging mutual trade and investment**.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

Press Information Bureau, Dated: 12.10.2026, MANU/PIBU/1215/2026

The Centre has urged States and Union Territories to ensure that clinical establishments **prominently display healthcare service rates to enhance transparency, empower patients, and prevent billing disputes.** This initiative aims to strengthen trust in healthcare services and includes provisions for international patients visiting India. The Union Health Secretary has called for compliance with regulatory frameworks to make healthcare pricing clear and accessible.

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

Notification No.: SO5575(E), Dated: 12.10.2026, MANU/MSME/0007/2026

The Central Government has brought **specified provisions of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Act, 2026 into force in two phases. Sections 2-7, section 11 and sections 13-17 came into force on 15.10.2026, while section 12 will come into force on 15.12.2026.** MSMEs, manufacturers, industrial enterprises and businesses operating in the MSME sector should review the relevant amendments and assess their implications for registration, statutory compliance and business operations, as applicable, before the respective commencement dates.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

Press Information Bureau, Dated: 13.10.2026, MANU/PIBU/1219/2026

The **Amnesty Scheme 2026 offers a one-time opportunity for Provident Fund Trusts to regularize their exempt status, providing waivers on statutory requirements and operational flexibility**. The EPFO is actively promoting awareness and facilitating submissions before the deadline, with extensive support and training initiatives for eligible establishments across India.

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

Notification No.: GSR880(E), Dated: 13.10.2026, MANU/RDTH/0081/2026

The **proposed amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 introduce Bharat Stage VII (BS-VII) requirements for M1 vehicles, with phased implementation from 01.04.2029** and further requirements through 2035 covering emissions, real-world testing, **battery durability, brake particles, tyre abrasion, onboard monitoring, fuel and energy-consumption data, and vehicle environmental information. Vehicle manufacturers and component suppliers may need substantial product-development, testing, type-approval and supply-chain planning**. Businesses should review the proposed standards and submit any objections or suggestions within 30 days after the Gazette notification is made available to the public.

Notification No.: GSR879(E), Dated: 13.10.2026, MANU/RDTH/0082/2026

The Central Motor Vehicles (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2026 introduce **specific fitness inspection requirements and safety standards for two-wheeled road ambulances. Manufacturers, ambulance operators and vehicle owners must ensure secure patient-unit mounting, functional emergency lights, stretcher restraints, loading mechanisms, suitable fire extinguishers and safe tyres. From 01.10.2027, L2-category ambulances must comply with AIS 209 (Part 1):2026** and may operate only in areas designated by the State Government. Affected entities should align vehicle design, inspection procedures and registration plans with these requirements and applicable deadlines.

Notification No.: GSR881(E), Dated: 13.10.2026, MANU/RDTH/0084/2026

The draft Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 2026 propose the introduction of **Bharat Stage VII (BS-VII) emission standards for N1-category vehicles manufactured from 01.04.2030, with phased requirements through 2035** covering emissions testing, battery durability, brake particles, tyre abrasion, onboard monitoring and fuel-consumption data. Vehicle manufacturers and component suppliers may need to **upgrade vehicle designs, testing capabilities and type-approval processes, increasing development and compliance costs**. Affected entities should assess the proposed standards, plan for phased implementation and submit any objections or suggestions within 30 days of public availability of the Gazette notification.

STATE

HIGHER EDUCATION

Notification No. 1003-135-CC-2026-XXXVIII, Dated: 13.10.2026, MANU/SNMP/0168/2026

Madhya Pradesh's amended **Madhya Pradesh Niji Vishwavidyalaya (Sthapana Avam Sanchalan) Rules, 2008 revise annual regulatory fees to ₹5 lakh, subject to revision, and introduce a monthly penalty for delayed payment**. They also require the return of endowment funds for academic development and update fee-related documentation. **Affected entities should** verify **annual fee obligations, payment deadlines, endowment fund records and prescribed reporting formats** under the amended Rules.

INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION

Notification No. F. IPI/5/0025/20226/A-11, Dated: 14.10.2026, MANU/SNMP/0166/2026

The Madhya Pradesh State Industrial Land and Building Management Rules, 2026, introduce revised allotment, transfer, and sub-lease protocols for industrial parks. These rules impose **stricter project implementation timelines, updated fee structures, and mandatory e-bidding, heightening compliance risks**. Affected entities should immediately review existing lease agreements to ensure adherence.

Notification No.: F.IPI/5/0025/20226/A-11, Dated: 14.10.2026, MANU/SNMP/0167/2026

The **Madhya Pradesh Ease of Doing Business Rules, 2026, mandate processing all regulatory clearances exclusively through a centralized digital Single Window System**. This introduces strict turnaround times with auto-escalation and permits low-risk enterprises to commence operations via self-declaration. Affected entities should immediately migrate clearance applications to the designated digital portal.

AUSTRALIA

Capital Markets

Australian Securities and Investments Commission proposes a 10-year extension of retail contracts for difference protections

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission has proposed extending its existing protections for retail investors trading contracts for difference for another 10 years, potentially keeping the framework in place until 2037. The proposal, published on 12 October 2026 through Consultation Paper CS 64, would also bring certain digital asset-settled derivatives within the framework and strengthen margin requirements. The existing ASIC Corporations (Product Intervention Order - Contracts for Difference) Instrument 2020/986 has reduced quarterly net retail client losses substantially since its introduction.

Finance

Australian data centre financing increasingly depends on electricity access, climate resilience and environmental obligations

Australian data centre transactions face growing scrutiny over environmental, social and governance risks, electricity supply and long-term operating costs. Limited grid capacity, connection delays and electricity curtailment can disrupt project completion and reduce expected cash flows. Electricity price volatility in the National Electricity Market also requires lenders to examine forecasting, hedging and reserve arrangements more closely. Physical risks, including bushfires, floods, extreme heat and water scarcity, can affect insurance availability and the resilience of data centre infrastructure.

Construction

Federal Court of Australia clarifies when professional services exclusions can defeat construction insurance claims

In Rosenlund Constructions Pty Ltd v Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's of London Subscribing to Policy Number 08070017 [2026] FCA 1442, the Federal Court of Australia examined whether a contractor could claim insurance coverage when a separate engineering consultant had prepared the defective demolition design. Hassarati engaged Grasso Consulting Engineers to advise on demolishing the roof of the Sydney Entertainment Centre. A defective version of the demolition methodology was circulated to the demolition team, and the roof later collapsed, damaging Rosenlund's equipment. After Hassarati's deregistration, Rosenlund sought recovery directly from its insurers under section 601AG of the Corporations Act 2001 (Commonwealth).

Employment and Labor

Fair Work Commission finds that continuity payments during industrial action may breach good faith bargaining obligations

The Fair Work Commission made bargaining orders against an employer that offered a special payment to employees who continued working during proposed protected industrial action. The Transport Workers' Union challenged the offer, arguing that the payment could undermine employees' freedom of association and interfere with collective bargaining under section 228(1)(e) of the Fair Work Act 2009 (Commonwealth). The employer argued that the payment was available to union and non-union employees alike and compensated workers for attending during a difficult industrial dispute.

Healthcare and Life Sciences

New South Wales Court of Appeal upholds rejection of material adverse change claims in Mayne Pharma acquisition dispute

In Cosette Pharmaceuticals, Inc v Mayne Pharma Group Limited [2026] NSWCA 215, the New South Wales Court of Appeal dismissed Cosette Pharmaceuticals' appeal against an earlier ruling concerning its proposed acquisition of Mayne Pharma. The dispute arose from a scheme implementation deed dated 20 February 2025, under which Cosette agreed to acquire Mayne Pharma's shares for 7.40 Australian dollars per share. Cosette argued that financial performance issues and other developments justified termination of the transaction, and also challenged the treatment of its misleading or deceptive conduct claim.

CHINA

Competition and Antitrust Law

Chinese courts target repeated bad-faith trademark applications and liability of assisting intellectual property agencies

China's Supreme People's Court selected a dispute involving repeated bad-faith trademark applications among its leading intellectual property cases for 2025. In Guangzhou Gucheng Intellectual Property Agency Co., Ltd. v Blue Girl Beer (Guangzhou) Co., Ltd. and Guangdong Jinhua Kani Trading Co., Ltd., Guangzhou Intellectual Property Court, (2025) Yue 73 Min Zhong 656, the courts considered applications for imitative beer trademarks filed between 2017 and 2022. Jinhua Trading repeatedly sought registrations resembling Blue Girl Beer's established marks, while an intellectual property agency assisted with several applications.

Information Technology And Data Protection

China's Supreme People's Court issues judicial guidance on artificial intelligence disputes and business liability

China's Supreme People's Court issued the Opinions on Lawfully Adjudicating Cases Involving Artificial Intelligence Disputes (Fa Fa [2026] No. 10). The guidance addresses disputes involving artificial intelligence-generated content, personal information, deepfakes, algorithmic discrimination, autonomous vehicles and intellectual property. Rather than creating a separate artificial intelligence statute, the document explains how courts should apply existing laws, including the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China, the Cybersecurity Law, the Data Security Law, the Copyright Law, the Personal Information Protection Law and the Anti-Unfair Competition Law.

Trademarks

Shanghai courts uphold substantial damages for beer branding that infringed Tesla's well-known trademarks

Chinese courts have addressed whether branding used for alcoholic beverages can infringe trademarks associated with an electric vehicle manufacturer. The dispute involved beer and other drinks marketed using names such as TESILA and TESLA, Chinese-language marks and a logo resembling Tesla's distinctive branding. Some promotional material also displayed images of Tesla vehicles, strengthening the alleged association between the products and the established automotive brand. In the first-instance judgment, Tesla, Inc. v the relevant beverage businesses, Shanghai Intellectual Property Court, (2021) Hu 73 Min Chu 551, the Court ordered the defendants to stop the infringement, publish a clarification and pay compensation of 5 million Chinese yuan.

HONG KONG

Family

Pre-marital planning helps families protect inherited wealth and valuable heirlooms across jurisdictions

Families in Hong Kong, Singapore and England and Wales are increasingly considering how to preserve inherited assets before entering marriage. Such assets may include family businesses, paintings, jewellery, vintage watches, classic cars and other valuable collectibles that carry both financial and sentimental importance. Their treatment during divorce may depend on the applicable law, the circumstances of acquisition, the parties' financial arrangements and how the assets were used during the marriage. Individuals can consider pre-marital agreements, careful ownership documentation and appropriate succession planning to record their intentions.

Courts may scrutinise valuable collectibles and hidden assets during cross-border divorce proceedings

Disputes concerning valuable personal assets are becoming an important aspect of financial disclosure in divorce proceedings across Hong Kong, Singapore and England and Wales. Unlike ordinary bank deposits, artworks, luxury watches, jewellery, classic cars and rare collectibles may be difficult to value and can be transferred or stored across multiple jurisdictions. Parties to divorce proceedings generally have disclosure obligations concerning assets held individually or jointly, subject to the applicable rules and any relevant court directions. Depending on the case, the disclosure process may require acquisition records, insurance documents, valuation reports, storage details and information about beneficial ownership. Courts may also scrutinise attempts to sell, gift or transfer assets to third parties after a relationship breaks down.

MALAYSIA

Competition and Antitrust

Malaysia Competition Commission penalises 6 enterprises for coordinating bids in a Sabah food supply tender

The Malaysia Competition Commission imposed a combined financial penalty of approximately 1.18 million Malaysian ringgit on 6 enterprises involved in a coordinated bidding arrangement for a food supply tender in Sabah. The tender, issued in 2022 for the supply of raw, fresh and dry food to a rehabilitation centre operated by the National Anti-Drugs Agency, was valued at approximately 5.71 million Malaysian ringgit. The Commission found that the enterprises coordinated their participation through the exchange of pricing information and the centralised preparation of tender documents. An associated company's director allegedly provided administrative, financial and logistical assistance to facilitate the arrangement.

NEW ZEALAND

Disputes Resolution

Court of Appeal rejects wasted costs imposed for refusing to make a settlement offer during judicial settlement conference

In Birchfield v Birchfield [2026] NZCA 477, the New Zealand Court of Appeal overturned a High Court order requiring a party to pay 22,848.67 New Zealand dollars in wasted costs following an unsuccessful judicial settlement conference. The original order was based on the party's alleged failure to negotiate meaningfully, including his refusal to move away from his existing position. The Court of Appeal held that statements made during the conference were protected by without prejudice privilege under section 57 of the Evidence Act 2006 and rule 7.79 of the High Court Rules 2016. The judge could not rely on privileged negotiations to impose costs in circumstances where the affected party could not properly challenge that evidence.

SINGAPORE

Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution

Singapore High Court refuses enforcement of emergency arbitrator's interim award issued in China-seated arbitration

In Zhejiang Crystal-Optech Co Ltd v Moveon Technologies Pte Ltd [2026] SGHC 186, the Singapore High Court set aside an order permitting enforcement of an interim award issued by an emergency arbitrator under the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission Rules. The arbitration was seated in the People's Republic of China, where the applicable law reserves certain interim preservation measures to the courts. The High Court held that the emergency arbitrator lacked authority to grant the relevant relief under Chinese law and that the parties' agreement to arbitrate under the institutional rules did not, by itself, confer that power. The award therefore exceeded the arbitrator's authority under the parties' submission to arbitration. The Court applied section 31 of the International Arbitration Act 1994, as revised in 2020, in setting aside the enforcement order.

Company and Commercial

Singapore launches EDGE Grant to consolidate business development funding and support overseas expansion

Singapore introduced the Enterprise Development and Growth for Enterprises Grant, known as the EDGE Grant, to support businesses seeking to improve capabilities, increase productivity and expand internationally. The scheme consolidates the previous Enterprise Development Grant, Market Readiness Assistance Grant and Productivity Solutions Grant into a single funding framework. Eligible applicants generally include Singapore-registered businesses with at least 30% ownership by Singapore citizens or permanent residents. Businesses that previously received funding under the earlier schemes may also apply, provided that the new application concerns a different project. Applications must be submitted before the proposed business activity begins or payments are made to the relevant service providers.

THAILAND

Employment and Labour

Thailand postpones mandatory Employee Welfare Fund contributions until 1 January 2027

Thailand's Cabinet has approved a further postponement of mandatory contributions to the Employee Welfare Fund, moving the expected commencement date from 1 October 2026 to 1 January 2027. The change is intended to reduce financial pressure on employers and employees amid continuing economic uncertainty and the effects of recent flooding. The postponement requires the relevant draft regulations to be formally enacted and published in the Government Gazette before it becomes legally effective. During the initial period from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2031, employers and employees are each expected to contribute 0.25% of the employee's wages. The rate is scheduled to rise to 0.5% for each party from 1 January 2032.

Information Technology and Data Protection

Thai regulators clarify lawful grounds for processing personal data in scientific and academic research

On 9 October 2026, Thailand's National Research Council and the Office of the Personal Data Protection Committee presented guidance addressing the use of personal data in research activities. The guidance distinguishes research ethics consent from consent required under the Personal Data Protection Act, B.E. 2562 (2019). A participant's agreement to take part in a study does not automatically establish that the research institution has a valid legal basis to process personal information. Institutions must independently assess whether statutory consent is necessary or whether another lawful basis applies to the relevant processing activity. The guidance also highlights the importance of reducing the risk that individuals can be identified from research datasets.

USA

Banking

Commodity Futures Trading Commission seeks public comments on a proposed framework for leveraged retail crypto asset trading

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking seeking public input on the regulation of retail cryptocurrency transactions offered on a leveraged, margined or financed basis. The initiative considers a possible framework for crypto asset transactions and specialised markets operating under the Commission's oversight. The proposed approach examines how existing retail commodity provisions apply to spot cryptocurrency transactions, including the meaning of actual delivery and the treatment of transactions recorded solely on an exchange's internal systems. It also considers a tailored category of registered exchange for relevant activities, alongside potential safeguards concerning intermediaries, customer assets, margin, clearing and settlement.

Banking And Financial Regulation

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation proposes revised procedures for reviewing bank mergers

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation proposed changes to the framework used to review bank merger transactions under the Bank Merger Act of 1960. The proposed amendments aim to make reviews more predictable by establishing processing timelines and introducing expedited procedures for certain transactions with limited impact. The agency also proposes revising competition assessments to account for thrift deposits, credit union shares and the geographic allocation of deposits recorded centrally. The framework would clarify the statutory factors considered when determining whether a proposed merger should receive approval.

Capital Markets

Securities and Exchange Commission proposes broader fixed-income cross-trading opportunities for registered investment funds

On 9 October 2026, the Securities and Exchange Commission proposed amendments to Rule 17a-7 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 to expand the securities that registered investment funds may trade with certain affiliated funds. The proposal seeks to restore cross-trading opportunities for most fixed-income securities and extend eligibility to certain securities valued using observable market inputs. It would permit two alternative pricing methods based on the value used in the fund's next net asset value calculation or market prices obtained from independent pricing sources. The proposal would also shift several oversight responsibilities from fund boards to investment advisers and chief compliance officers.

Securities and Exchange Commission proposes changes to expand retail investor access to private market investments

The Securities and Exchange Commission proposed amendments intended to broaden retail investors' access to private market investment strategies through regulated fund structures. One proposal would expand the circumstances in which investment advisers can receive performance-based compensation from registered management investment companies and business development companies. Another would modernise the rules governing interval funds and allow certain registered closed-end funds and business development companies to issue multiple classes of shares. The Commission also requested public feedback on potential changes to the criteria individuals must satisfy to qualify as accredited investors under Rule 501(a) of Regulation D.

Securities and Exchange Commission proposes modernized custody rules for digital assets and investment advisers

The Securities and Exchange Commission has proposed a broad revision of custody requirements for registered investment advisers and regulated investment funds, including new provisions for certain cryptocurrency holdings. The proposal would allow limited self-custody of crypto assets where a qualified custodian is unavailable, subject to detailed safeguarding, cybersecurity, reporting and contractual conditions. It would also permit certain state trust companies to act as eligible crypto custodians even when they do not meet the statutory definition of a bank under the relevant investment legislation. Beyond digital assets, the proposal would restructure the investment adviser custody framework, update associated reporting forms and remove the requirement that accountants conducting certain custody examinations register with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

AI IN USE

Asking questions from documents sounds simple... until you need to analyze multiple files and actually compare the information inside them.

Most people end up doing this manually.

❌ Reading long documents again and again

❌ Switching between multiple files to compare points

❌ Missing small but important differences

❌ Spending too much time searching for answers

How Manuworks makes it easier

With **Manuworks' Ask Questions & Compare**, you can run queries across one or multiple documents and instantly understand the insights.

Simply:

Upload Your Document

Choose a file or drag and drop your documents.

Ask Your Question

Type your query and let the AI scan the documents.

Compare Insights

Instantly view answers, highlights, and differences across the documents in one place.

No manual searching.

No jumping between files.

Just quick, clear answers from your documents.

Try it yourself on **manuworks.ai** and see how much time a smart comparison can save.

Try it yourself on and see how much time a smart comparison can save.

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