

MANUPATRA WEEKLY WRAP

27th April - 2nd May 2026



Case Laws

CIVIL

Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay vs. Union of India & Ors., Dated: 29.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0419/2026)

The Supreme Court, while declining to issue specific directions on **curbing hate speech as it fell outside the judicial domain**, made a strong appeal to citizens to uphold fraternity and cautioned against the spread of communally divisive remarks. The Court emphasised that safeguarding constitutional order is not the exclusive responsibility of the State but also requires individuals and public figures to act responsibly in a diverse society. The Court further noted that although legal mechanisms exist to address threats to public order and communal harmony, the more enduring protection lies in the collective constitutional conscience of society and the faithful commitment of citizens to constitutional values.

CONSTITUTION

Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises Ltd. & Anr. vs. B. Gurappa Naidu & Ors., Dated: 30.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0424/2026; 2026 INSC 434)

The Supreme Court has reiterated that while exercising supervisory jurisdiction under Article 227 of the Constitution, **High Courts cannot reappreciate evidence or substitute their own findings for those of subordinate courts or tribunals**. The Court clarified that Article 227 is not an appellate power and its scope is limited to examining whether the lower court has acted without or in excess of jurisdiction, or whether its findings are so perverse that no reasonable person could have reached such a conclusion.

Supreme Court: Public figures must exercise caution in their speech, noting that words carry serious consequences in diverse society while dealing with hate speech cases.

Supreme Court: While exercising supervisory jurisdiction under Article 227, High Courts cannot re-appreciate evidence or substitute their own view for that of subordinate courts or tribunals.

CRIMINAL

Delhi High Court: Co-convicts can be granted parole or furlough together in appropriate cases, and there is no absolute legal bar on such simultaneous release.

Sikkim High Court: Testimony of differently-abled rape survivor cannot be discarded merely because she is unable to identify or name accused.

Bombay High Court: Denial of Police Clearance Certificate on ground of national security concerns amounts to reasonable restriction on right to livelihood.

Supreme Court: In cases where death penalty is possible sentence, trial courts must consider comprehensive reports on mitigating and aggravating factors before pronouncing punishment.

Supreme Court: Information supplied by multiple accused can be relied upon under Section 27 only if it results in separate and identifiable discoveries attributable to each accused.

Sandeep Alias Sandy vs. State (Govt. of NCT of Delhi) & Anr., Dated: 29.04.2026 (MANU/DE/3163/2026; 2026:DHC:3601-DB)

The Delhi High Court has held that there is **no absolute bar on granting parole or furlough simultaneously to co-convicts**, and such relief may be allowed in appropriate cases subject to stricter scrutiny by the competent authority. A Division Bench was hearing petitions challenging provisions of the Delhi Prison Rules, 2018, which state that simultaneous parole or furlough to co-accused is “ordinarily not permissible.” The Court clarified that the rule is **not an absolute prohibition but only a guiding principle**. It further observed that each case must be examined on its facts, and co-convict status alone cannot automatically justify denial of temporary release.

Rinzing Sherpa vs. State of Sikkim, Dated: 29.04.2026 (MANU/SI/0019/2026)

The Sikkim High Court has held that the testimony of a differently-abled victim in a sexual offence case cannot be discarded merely **because of her inability to clearly communicate or identify the accused**. The Court emphasised that judicial assessment must focus on the substance of the victim’s evidence rather than the manner in which it is expressed. It observed that a victim with intellectual disability not naming the perpetrator explicitly cannot outweigh supporting medical and forensic evidence. The Court further cautioned that giving undue importance to such “silences” may lead to miscarriage of justice.

Fahim Arshad Mohammed Yusuf Ansari vs. State of Maharashtra & Ors., Dated: 29.04.2026 (MANU/MH/4187/2026; 2026:BHC-AS:20585-DB)

The Bombay High Court has upheld the Maharashtra Government’s decision to deny a Police Clearance Certificate (PCC) to Fahim Ansari, the lone acquitted accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks case. A division bench held that **the refusal does not violate his right to livelihood and instead amounts to a reasonable restriction in the interest of national security**. The Court noted that the decision was taken considering allegations that Ansari had provided logistical support in the 26/11 attacks, allegedly attacked CRPF personnel with a grenade, and was linked to the banned organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

Aman Singh & Anr. vs. State of Bihar, Dated: 27.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0413/2026; 2026 INSC 424)

The Supreme Court has ruled that in all cases where the death penalty is a possible sentence, **trial courts must routinely call for reports on both aggravating and mitigating circumstances immediately after conviction and before deciding the punishment**. The Court stressed that without such material, the sentencing process cannot be fair or balanced.

Anand Jakkappa Pujari @ Gaddadar vs. The State of Karnataka, Dated: 27.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0411/2026; 2026 INSC 417)

The Supreme Court has held that under Section 27 of the Indian Evidence Act, joint or simultaneous disclosure **statements made by multiple accused persons are admissible only if they lead to the discovery of distinct and relevant facts connected with the crime**.

A bench delivered the ruling while hearing appeals arising from a Karnataka murder case, in which the appellants were ultimately acquitted. The Court clarified that such disclosure statements cannot be treated as independent substantive evidence unless they result in identifiable recoveries attributable to the accused.

Jagdish Singh vs. State of Rajasthan & Anr., Dated: 27.04.2026 (MANU/RH/0367/2026; 2026:RJ-JP:2110)

The Rajasthan High Court has held that under the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018, **it is not necessary for a public servant to actually have the authority to perform the official act to attract criminal liability.** The Court observed that the offence is made out if the public servant accepts illegal gratification by inducing a belief that he or she would influence or assist another public servant in getting the work done. The Court clarified that demand and acceptance of bribe under such induced belief is sufficient to constitute the offence, irrespective of the public servant's actual power or capacity to do the promised act.

EDUCATION

Lucknow Public School, Eldico & Anr. vs. The State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors., Dated: 28.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0417/2026; 2026 INSC 422)

The Supreme Court has held that private neighbourhood schools must grant immediate admission to students allotted under the Right to Education Act, 2009, and **cannot refuse or delay admission on the grounds of any pending dispute regarding eligibility.** The Court clarified that even if a school has objections to the government's selection, it may approach the concerned authority for clarification, but admission cannot be withheld in the meantime. The Court emphasised that such immediacy is essential to give full effect to Article 21A of the Constitution and ensure the effective implementation of the Right to Education Act.

FAMILY

Kapil Agarwal vs. CPIO, Income Tax Officer, Moradabad & Anr., Dated: 28.04.2026 (MANU/DE/3244/2026; 2026:DHC:3705)

The Delhi High Court has held that a **husband's income tax details cannot be disclosed under the Right to Information Act, 2005 in matrimonial disputes with his wife.** The Court observed that such financial information is personal in nature and does not fall within the "larger public interest" exception under the RTI Act. The Court set aside a Central Information Commission (CIC) order that had directed disclosure of the husband's net taxable income for maintenance proceedings.

Rajasthan High Court:

Demand and acceptance of bribe is sufficient to constitute offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act, even if public servant has no authority to grant promised favour.

Supreme Court: School cannot delay admission of students allotted under Right to Education Act merely by raising dispute over eligibility.

Delhi High Court: Wife cannot seek her husband's income tax details under Right to Information Act to support maintenance claim.

Supreme Court: During Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP), admission of claim by Resolution Professional does not amount to acknowledgment of debt.

Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court: Once status of property becomes triable issue, plaint cannot be rejected under Order VII Rule 11 of CPC.

Supreme Court : State must act as model employer; censures Union for failing to regularise ISRO daily wage workers despite prior directions.

Supreme Court: Where appointment is expressly subject to “until further orders,” no entitlement to serve entire term arises.

INSOLVENCY

Shankar Khandelwal vs. Omkara Asset Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd. & Anr., Dated: 29.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0421/2026; 2026 INSC 429)

The Supreme Court held that a **Resolution Professional’s admission of a creditor’s claim amounts to acknowledgment of debt and extends the limitation period for initiating CIRP under Section 7 of the IBC.** A bench clarified that the Resolution Professional’s role is purely administrative, limited to collation and verification of claims without any adjudicatory power. The Court held that such admission is merely a procedural act and cannot be treated as acknowledgment of liability under Section 18 of the Limitation Act, 1963.

PROPERTY

Nazir Ahmad Mir & Ors. vs. Ishfaq Ahmad Mir & Ors., Dated: 30.04.2026 (MANU/JK/0231/2026)

The Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court held that where the status of a suit property whether it is joint or already partitioned raises a triable issue, **the plaint cannot be rejected under Order VII Rule 11 of the Code of Civil Procedure.** The Court made this observation while setting aside a trial court order that had dismissed a suit for declaration and injunction based on adverse possession. It noted that the trial court committed a serious error by ignoring the pleadings relating to private partition. The Court clarified that such disputed questions of fact must be decided at trial and not at the threshold stage.

SERVICE

R. Iyyappan & Ors. vs. Union of India & Ors., Dated: 29.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0420/2026; 2026 INSC 431)

The Supreme Court has criticised the Union Government for failing to regularise daily wage workers in an ISRO subsidiary despite earlier binding directions to frame a scheme for their permanent absorption. Setting aside the Madras High Court ruling, the Court struck down parts of the 2012 scheme, noting that it provided only temporary engagement instead of regularisation as mandated. A bench held that final judicial directions must be implemented in their true spirit and cannot be diluted through incomplete schemes. **Emphasising the State’s duty as a model employer under Article 14,** the Court also condemned the prolonged litigation caused by non-compliance.

Sadachari Singh Tomar vs. Union of India & Ors., Dated: 28.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0415/2026; 2026 INSC 427)

The Supreme Court observed that **when an appointment is made “until further orders,” it does not create an enforceable right for the employee to serve the entire stipulated term.** A bench upheld the Delhi High Court’s decision affirming the curtailment of the appellant’s five-year term, which was expressly subject to the condition “or until further orders, whichever is earlier.”

Bombay High Court:

Completion of probation does not automatically result in deemed confirmation, and a written order is mandatory under Model Standing Orders.

Dhanraj R. Mahale & Ors. vs. Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd. & Ors., Dated: 27.04.2026 (MANU/MH/4015/2026; 2026:BHC-AS:20034-DB)

The Bombay High Court has held that mere completion of the probation period under the Model Standing Orders **does not automatically lead to deemed confirmation of an employee**. A Division Bench clarified that confirmation requires a specific written order, and in its absence, no right to permanency arises. The Court made the observation while hearing a Letters Patent Appeal filed by employees challenging their termination after probation.



News

29.04.2026

BANKING

The **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court** has observed that claims of cheques being issued under coercion while in police custody cannot be proven through forensic examination alone, and must be substantiated by witness evidence.

CIVIL

The **Supreme Court** has decided to skip the Advocates-on-Record examination for 2026, with the next exam now scheduled to be announced in 2027.

The **Supreme Court** took *Suo motu* cognizance of the brutal assault on a woman advocate, allegedly stabbed multiple times by her husband, and ordered an inquiry into claims that three hospitals denied her emergency medical treatment.

Arvind Kejriwal has written to Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma stating that he will not participate in further proceedings in the **CBI liquor policy case before her Bench**, citing loss of confidence in the fairness of the proceedings and invoking Gandhian principles of satyagraha.

CRIMINAL

The **Supreme Court** has set aside a preventive detention order under the National Security Act, stressing that a detenu's representation must be considered at the earliest.

The **Supreme Court** has issued pan-India guidelines on the handling of death penalty cases while hearing an appeal against a Patna High Court judgment that had upheld the death sentence of a convict in a murder case.

30.04.2026

27.04.2026

27.04.2026

In a money laundering case linked to a housing project, the **Supreme Court** asked former MLA Dharam Singh Chhoker to show cause why his bail plea should be considered without first ensuring protection of homebuyers allegedly duped in the project, stressing their interests must be secured.

The **Supreme Court** has questioned whether a charge of sexual assault on the pretext of a false promise of marriage can arise from a long-term live-in relationship where the couple cohabited and had a child.

The **Bombay High Court** has refused anticipatory bail to the Managing Director, CEO, and three Directors of SBL Energy Limited in connection with an FIR registered by Nagpur Police after a massive factory explosion that killed 17 workers.

ELECTION

The **Madras High Court** has dismissed a plea seeking directions to the Election Commission of India to mandate affidavits from candidates contesting multiple constituencies, undertaking to bear election expenses if they resign from any seat after winning.

FAMILY

The **Punjab and Haryana High Court** has declined custody of a minor child to a working mother living as a paying guest, observing that she lacked adequate time and a support system, while reiterating that shared parenting arrangements best serve the child's welfare.

INSOLVENCY

The **Supreme Court** took *suo motu* cognizance of systemic delays in approving resolution plans by the National Company Law Tribunal, especially at its Principal Bench in New Delhi, and noted the shortage of judicial and technical members across its benches.

LAW OF MEDICINE

The **Supreme Court** has declined to entertain a curative petition filed by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi against a two-judge bench order permitting termination of a 30-week pregnancy of a 15-year-old minor.

The **Supreme Court** has directed the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences to constitute a committee of medical experts to examine and report on a doctor's suggestions concerning scientific methods for determining brain death.

A PIL has been filed before the **Supreme Court** seeking directions for the rescue and rehabilitation of missing and trafficked children, including a plea for mandatory DNA verification of children proposed for adoption to curb illegal adoptions and trafficking.

28.04.2026

29.04.2026

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30.04.2026

29.04.2026

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30.04.2026

SERVICE

The **Supreme Court** has directed the Allahabad High Court to grant an out-of-turn hearing to a 77-year-old cancer patient whose plea for pension and post-retiral benefits has been pending for nine years.

TENANCY

The **Supreme Court** dismissed a plea by Larsen & Toubro Limited against its eviction from a bungalow in Bandra West which previously served as a residence for its former chairman, bringing to an end a tenancy dispute spanning over 65 years.

27.04.2026



Notification Updates

Reserve Bank of India

The Reserve Bank of India has outlined **guidelines for Agency Banks to improve pension services**, including appointing Nodal Officers for grievance redressal, ensuring timely pension disbursement, and compensating for delays. Banks are also instructed to maintain joint accounts for family pensions, record PPO numbers in passbooks, and issue pension slips. Additionally, repealed directions are replaced with new ones, ensuring compliance with existing laws and facilitating better customer service for pensioners.

The Reserve Bank of India has **amended its regulations for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to introduce a framework for scale-based regulation**. The amendments define new categories of NBFCs, such as 'Type I NBFCs', which do not avail public funds or have customer interfaces, and outline the conditions and procedures for their registration and deregistration. These changes aim to streamline regulatory requirements and ensure NBFCs operate with a clear business model without public funds or customer interaction.

The Reserve Bank of India issued an **amendment to the Credit Risk Management Directions**, introducing Chapter II-A on Credit Risk Evaluation. This amendment requires All India Financial Institutions to consider the impact of calamities on borrowers in their credit assessments, effective from July 1, 2026.

The **Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks-Asset Liability Management) Amendment Directions, 2026** form part of RBI's broader 2026 prudential reforms aimed at strengthening banks' risk management and financial stability framework. The amendments primarily **enhance the Asset-Liability Management framework** by refining liquidity risk monitoring, maturity mismatch reporting, and stress-testing requirements, ensuring better alignment with evolving market conditions and global standards.

Circular No. :
CO.DGBA.GBD.No.S43/3
1.02.007/2026-2027,
Dated: 30.04.2026,
MANU/RMIC/0180/2026

Notification No.
DOR.FIN.REC.No.67/03.1
0.001/2026-2027, Dated
29.04.2026,
MANU/RMIC/0152/2026

Notification No. :
DOR.STR.REC.64/21-04-
048/2026-2027, Dated:
29.04.2026,
MANU/RMIC/0166/2026

Notification No.:
DOR.STR.REC.12/13-10-
001/2026-2027,
Dated: 27.04.2026,
MANU/RMIC/0121/2026

Notification No.:
FMRD.MIOD.No.1/11.0
1.051/2026-2027,
Dated: 27.04.2026,
MANU/RMIC/0140/2026

Circular No.
HO/38/14/(4)2026-
MIRSD-
POD/I/10557/2026,
Dated 29.04.2026,
MANU/SMIS/0039/2026

Circular No.:
HO/(201)2026-DDHS-
POD1 I/10421/2026,
Dated: 28.04.2026,
MANU/SSMD/0004/2026

Press Release No. :
57/2026,
Dated: 30.04.2026,
MANU/TRAI/0057/2026

Press Release No.:
54/2026, Dated:
27.04.2026,
MANU/TRAI/0054/2026

Notification No.:
13/2026-2027,
Dated: 27.04.2026,
MANU/DGFT/0081/2026

The **Master-Direction Reserve Bank of India (Access Criteria for NDS-OM) Directions, 2025**, consolidates and revises the framework for access to the RBI's electronic trading platform (NDS-OM) for government securities, replacing the 2024 Directions.

Securities and Exchange Board of India

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has **operationalized the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA)** with Care Ratings Limited recognized as PaRRVA and the National Stock Exchange as the PaRRVA Data Centre. Investment Advisers and Research Analysts must enroll with PaRRVA to communicate certified past performance data to clients, with specific deadlines and conditions outlined. Additionally, the composition of the oversight committee for PaRRVA has been revised to include representatives from various sectors and an eminent individual as Chairperson.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has extended the timeline for **debenture trustees to comply with conditions governing activities that fall outside SEBI's regulatory purview**, providing additional time to align with the prescribed framework. This extension aims to **ease operational challenges and ensure a smoother transition**, allowing trustees to put in place necessary systems, controls, and safeguards while continuing such non-core activities.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a **consultation paper** on the **regulatory framework for Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) communication**. Stakeholders are invited to submit their comments from stakeholders by 28.05.2026 and counter-comments by 11.06.2026.

TRAI has released a **Consultation Paper** on the **proliferation of public Wi-Fi networks in India**, reviewing the current regulatory framework and identifying challenges. It seeks stakeholder comments on measures to enhance public Wi-Fi infrastructure, examining international practices, status, stakeholder roles, and potential revenue models.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

The **export policy for wheat remains prohibited** under specific HS Codes, but an additional 25 Lakh Metric Tonnes of wheat export is permitted, subject to modalities to be announced separately. Existing conditions from a previous notification still apply, allowing exports based on government permissions for food security needs.

**Press Information
Bureau,**
Dated: 27.04.2026,
MANU/PIBU/0627/2026

Notification No.:
GSR312(E),
Dated: 27.04.2026,
MANU/CAFF/0150/2026

Notification No.:
SO2103(E),
Dated: 27.04.2026,
MANU/CAFF/0151/2026

Notification No.:
SO2181(E),
Dated : 02.05.2026,
MANU/HOME/0047/2026

**Press Information
Bureau,**
Dated: 30.04.2026,
MANU/PIBU/0640/2026

Notification No. : RCD-
09002/1/2026-
Regulatory-FSSAI,
Dated: 28.04.2026,
MwANU/HFAM/0059/2026

Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation

The "**EnviStats India: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 2026**" publication aims to enhance understanding of environmental-economic accounting by providing structured insights into natural capital and ecosystem services. It aligns with global frameworks like the SEEA, offering comprehensive coverage of environmental statistics and methodologies to support evidence-based policymaking and sustainable development.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

The Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Second Amendment Rules, 2026 mandates that from July 1, 2027, e-commerce entities must include a searchable and sortable filter specifying the country of origin for imported products in their listings.

The Central Government has appointed **May 1, 2026**, as the date for enforcing specific provisions of the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026**, related to the **Legal Metrology Act, 2009**.

Ministry of Home Affairs

The Central Government has notified **15 May 2026** as the date on which the provisions of the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026**, pertaining to serial number 60 of the **Schedule and relating to the Disaster Management Act, 2005**, will come into force.

PIB Headquarters

The **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026**, coming into force on 1 May 2026, aims to establish a structured system for governing online games in India, focusing on user safety and industry growth. The rules, derived from the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, distinguish between safe and harmful online gaming forms, promoting e-sports and online social games while prohibiting online money games. This framework is expected to support responsible growth of the gaming sector, protect users, and position India as a leader in digital gaming governance.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

The **Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Amendment Regulations, 2026 [Draft]**, issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, propose updates to the existing packaging norms to enhance food safety, sustainability, and consumer protection. The draft introduces stricter standards for materials used in food packaging, including limits on contaminants and migration levels, while also encouraging the use of eco-friendly, recyclable, and biodegradable packaging alternatives.

**Press Information
Bureau,
Dated: 28.04.2026,
MANU/PIBU/0635/2026**

**Notification No.
872/D.60/21-
A/pr./Chh./26,
Dated: 28.04.2026,
MANU/SNCH/0079/2026**

**Notification No.
F.No.08/04/2024-LE&T,
Dated: 27.04.2026,
MANU/SNLD/0017/202**

Ministry of Labour & Employment

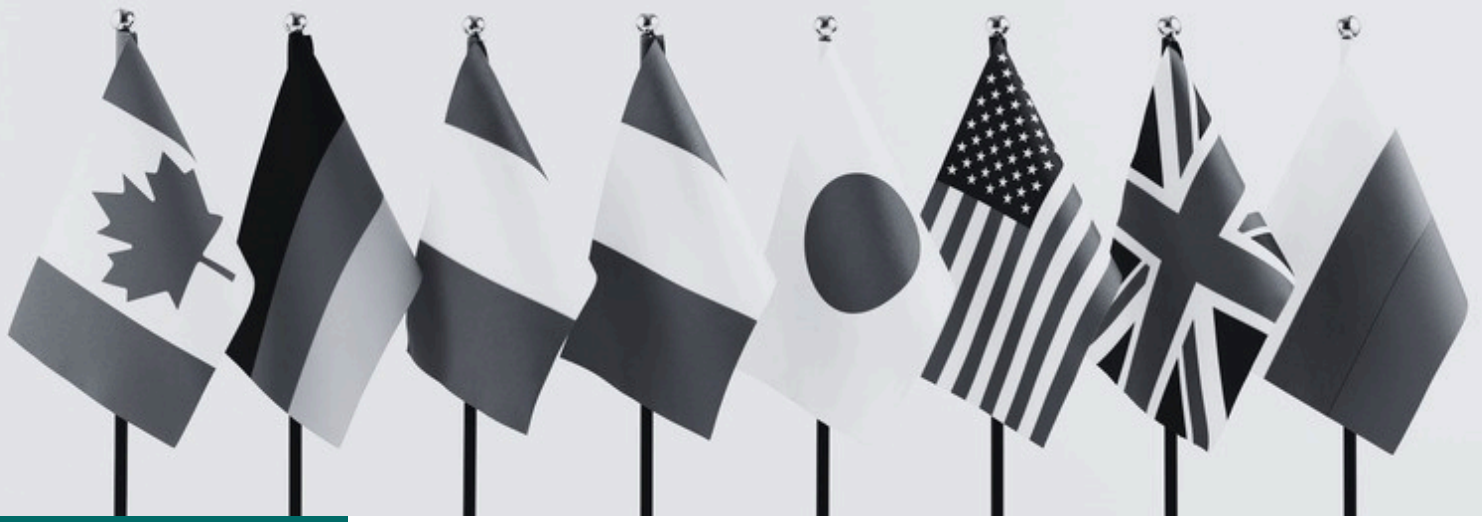
The Ministry of Labour & Employment has issued a nationwide **advisory** urging States and Union Territories to **implement measures to protect workers from heatwave conditions**. Recommendations include rescheduling work hours, providing drinking water and rest areas, and conducting health check-ups. Special attention is advised for outdoor and labor-intensive workers, with awareness campaigns and training programs on heatwave safety.

Law and Legislative

The **Chhattisgarh Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Act, 2026** (as approved by the State Cabinet) introduces targeted changes to key provisions of the principal Code, particularly updating sections relating to land administration and regulation. The amendment aims to streamline land revenue procedures, improve clarity in land records management, and strengthen regulatory control over land transactions and use. It builds on recent reforms by promoting efficiency in mutation and record-keeping processes while addressing administrative gaps in earlier provisions, thereby facilitating better governance and ease of dealing with land-related matters in the state.

Labour, Employment and Training

The **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (Lakshadweep) Rules, 2025** operationalize the central labour code within Lakshadweep by prescribing detailed standards for workplace safety, health, and welfare of workers. The Rules lay down requirements for registration and licensing of establishments, working conditions, hours of work, leave, and employment of women and contract labour, along with provisions for inspections and compliance mechanisms.



International Updates

AUSTRALIA

In the case of *ASIC v Bekier*, senior executives of The Star Entertainment Group Limited were found to have breached their duties under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) by allowing questionable transactions, failing to address **AML/CTF risks**, and **not properly informing the Board**. The Court stressed that **executive officers must actively identify risks and ensure full disclosure**, especially when they have specialised knowledge. In contrast, **non-executive directors were not held liable** as they reasonably relied on management and lacked full information. The ruling highlights that the **duty of care and diligence requires proactive judgment, transparency, and accountability**. It also makes clear that **senior and legal officers have a heightened duty to escalate risks** and cannot rely on internal reporting structures as a defense.

After one quarter of the new Australian Competition and Consumer Commission notification regime, the experience for financial sponsors is mixed. While **most deals are being cleared quickly**, and the process offers **greater transparency and certainty when notification is required**, it is still **complex, time-consuming, and not fully targeted**. The regime often **captures global transactions with minimal Australian impact**, creating unnecessary compliance burdens. Its **overly technical thresholds and rigid filing requirements** shift focus from real competition concerns to procedural formalities. More critically, the system's **complex design and severe consequence of void transactions for non-compliance** add uncertainty, making it harder for investors to navigate efficiently.

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Capital Market

Director Duties at Star Entertainment: Key Takeaways for Boards and Executives from *ASIC v Bekier*

Competition & Antitrust

Merger Reform After One Quarter: Key Wins, Setbacks, and Concerns

Construction

Lessons for Quantity Surveyors from *Mainteck v Stein Hurtey*: Prove It or Risk Losing It

27 April -2 May 2026

Manupatra Weekly Wrap

Employment & Labor

Understanding Changes to Junior Award Rates: Employer Essential

The Fair Work Commission has decided to **gradually phase out junior pay rates** for employees aged 18–20 under the General Retail Industry Award 2020, Fast Food Industry Award 2020, and Pharmacy Industry Award 2020. The ruling recognises that **workers in this age group perform similar work to adults**, so lower pay is no longer justified, except during an initial training period. However, **junior rates will still apply to employees under 18**. The changes will be implemented gradually over three years starting December 2026. Employers are advised to **prepare for increased labour costs, update payroll systems, and plan ahead for negotiations**.

IT & Data Protection

Understanding Australia's Automated Decision-Making Laws: A Guide for New Zealand Organizations

New Zealand organizations' handling Australian personal data, new rules under the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) will require **clear disclosure of AI and automated decision-making** in privacy policies from December 2026. These changes apply to entities governed by the **Australian Privacy Principles (APP)** and have **extraterritorial reach**, meaning NZ businesses with an Australian link must comply. Unlike the Privacy Act 2020, which has no such requirement, this creates a **significant compliance gap**. Organizations must explain how automated systems use personal data and impact decisions affecting individuals' rights. With regulators like the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner increasing enforcement, businesses should **review systems, update policies, and act early** to stay compliant.

Banking

China's Internet Finance Landscape Reshaped by New Online Marketing Measures for Financial Products

CHINA

China has introduced new rules through the **Measures for the Administration of Online Marketing of Financial Products**, creating a **unified framework for regulating digital financial promotions**. The rules limit marketing to **licensed financial institutions and approved platforms**, while banning misleading content, high-risk product promotion to the public, and unqualified influencers. They also impose **strict content controls, transparency, and accountability**, especially in areas like AI recommendations, live streaming, and third-party partnerships. Platforms must act as intermediaries rather than sellers, with clear liability and compliance duties. Overall, the Measures aim to **reduce financial risks, protect consumers, and bring discipline to China's rapidly evolving online finance ecosystem**.

Copyright

Moral Rights in Focus: Chinese Courts Stress Compliance in Brand Partnerships Following Major Copyright Case

A recent Chinese case highlights that **moral rights play a crucial role in brand collaborations**, even when commercial intent is harmless. In a dispute involving a portrait of Lu Xun, a brand altered version—changing minor elements for marketing—was held to **distort the original artistic expression**, leading to infringement of both economic and moral rights. The court clarified that **even subtle changes can violate the creator's intent**, not just obvious misuse or ridicule. Importantly, under Copyright Law of the People's Republic of China, moral rights **cannot be transferred or licensed**, meaning creators retain control. The case serves as a warning that brands must **seek proper consent and respect the integrity of original works** when using cultural or artistic content.

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Manupatra Weekly Wrap

Insurance

China Tightens Medical Insurance Enforcement in 2026: Key Changes and Pharma Industry Impact

China's 2026 reforms led by the National Healthcare Security Administration significantly tighten oversight of medical insurance use, combining detailed rules with an active enforcement campaign. The new framework introduces **clear definitions of fraud, strict penalties, and a mandatory criminal referral mechanism**, increasing direct risk for pharmaceutical companies and their staff. Enforcement is already focusing on **areas like falsified records, patient assistance programs, and off-label promotion**, showing these risks are real, not theoretical. Authorities are also using **data tracking tools to detect suspicious patterns across the supply chain**. As a result, companies must **act quickly on compliance issues, strengthen internal controls, and proactively engage with regulators** to reduce exposure.

HONG KONG

Hong Kong's expanded Mandatory Reference Checking (MRC) Scheme, led by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, has significantly widened its scope under Phase 2, now covering a much larger pool of financial professionals. Early experience shows that while the scheme has **improved transparency and standardized hiring checks**, it has also created **practical challenges like longer hiring timelines, complex cross-border verification, and increased intra-group checks**. Firms are placing greater focus on **data governance and record-keeping**, especially with the seven-year disclosure requirement. Regulators are also **closely scrutinizing implementation**, treating gaps as potential control weaknesses. Overall, the regime is strengthening accountability, but firms must **adapt processes and plan more carefully for compliance**.

SINGAPORE

International arbitration is widely used to resolve cross-border disputes because it offers **neutrality, flexibility, and easier enforcement** compared to court litigation. It works through an **agreement between parties to submit disputes to independent arbitrators**, whose **final and binding decision (award)** is enforceable. The process is shaped by factors like the **seat of arbitration, applicable laws and procedural rules**, often supported by institutions such as the International Chamber of Commerce or Singapore International Arbitration Centre. A major advantage is enforceability under the New York Convention, which allows awards to be **recognized and enforced across jurisdictions**. Arbitration also offers **confidentiality, party autonomy and limited scope for appeal**, making it an **efficient mechanism for resolving complex international disputes**.

USA

American Bar Association **Formal Opinion 518 clarifies the ethical duties of lawyers acting as mediators**, reinforcing **existing rules rather than introducing new restrictions**. It emphasizes **honesty, transparency and neutrality**, requiring mediators to **avoid misleading statements** and clearly distinguish their role from that of an advocate under the Model Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 2.4 and Model Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 8.4(c). **Importantly, the opinion does not limit a mediator's effectiveness or prohibit tools like mediator's proposals**, which can still be used ethically with party consent. It simply ensures that mediators **do not imply what is in a party's "best interest," preserving the lawyer's advisory role**. Overall, the guidance **strengthens ethical safeguards without disrupting practical mediation strategies**.

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Capital Markets

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Company & Commercial

New York City Introduces Proposed Regulations for Auto-Renewing Subscription Services

Competition & Antitrust

FTC's New HSR Rules Set Aside, Restoring Previous Filing Requirements

Employment & Labor

Joint Employment Redefined: DOL Proposal Seeks to Align Standards Across FLSA, FMLA, and MSPA

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's **proposed rules under the GENIUS Act broadly align with those of the** Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, **but introduce key differences**, particularly around **stricter limits on lending, reserve concentration and contingency planning**. The framework, created under the GENIUS Act, **sets out how stablecoin issuers can operate and be regulated**. Notably, the **FDIC adopts a more cautious approach by denying pass-through deposit insurance for stablecoin reserves**, treating them instead as **deposits of the issuer**. It also clarifies that **tokenised deposits remain eligible for insurance** under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. Overall, the **FDIC framework reflects a more conservative stance on risk and consumer protection**.

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and Commodity Futures Trading Commission have proposed major changes to Form PF that would **significantly reduce compliance burdens** for many private fund advisers. The amendments aim to **raise filing thresholds**, streamline reporting requirements, and eliminate certain obligations, meaning fewer firms would need to file while still capturing most market data. They also simplify areas like event reporting, feeder fund treatment, and exposure disclosures to make compliance more practical. At the same time, regulators plan **periodic reviews of thresholds** to keep the framework relevant. Overall, the proposal reflects a shift towards **easing regulatory pressure while maintaining oversight of key financial risks**.

New York City is intensifying regulation of auto-renewal subscriptions through Executive Order No. 10 to tackle deceptive “negative option” practices that keep consumers locked into payments. The proposed rules require **clear pre-purchase disclosures, easy and accessible cancellation mechanisms, and advance renewal notices**. Businesses are also **prohibited from delaying or obstructing cancellations**, ensuring greater consumer control. Non-compliance may result in **financial penalties and mandatory refunds**, prompting companies to **reassess and strengthen their subscription practices** in line with evolving regulatory standards.

U.S. federal courts have **invalidated the FTC's overhaul of the Hart-Scott-Rodino (HSR) rules**, restoring the **earlier, simpler filing framework** and significantly reducing compliance burdens. The rulings held that the FTC **exceeded its authority and failed to justify the expanded requirements**, which had introduced extensive disclosures and documentation. As a result, companies can now **revert to the streamlined pre-2025 filing process**, helping to **cut preparation time and costs** and potentially **accelerate deal timelines**. While the FTC's appeal is still pending, **future rulemaking changes remain likely**, keeping the regulatory landscape in flux.

The U.S. Department of Labor has proposed a new rule to reintroduce guidance on joint employer status under the FLSA, replacing the uncertainty that has existed since 2021. The proposal brings back a four-factor test for “vertical” joint employment with a broader and more flexible approach, while also reaffirming the established standard for “horizontal” relationships. Importantly, it seeks to **align the FLSA, FMLA, and MSPA under a single, uniform framework**, making compliance more consistent across these laws.

Tax

Profits Interests with Mandatory Conversion on Exit: Why Sponsors Are Using Them and How They Function

The rule expands the scope by considering factors like **reserved control and economic dependence**, potentially increasing employer exposure in multi-entity arrangements. If finalized, it would require businesses to reassess contracts, workforce structures, and compliance strategies.

A growing number of sponsors are now including a **conversion requirement for vested profits interests upon termination**, requiring employees to **convert them into capital units to retain value**. This mechanism typically involves a **cash contribution up to the participation threshold**, adjusted for prior distributions, or a **cashless “net exercise” option** that results in fewer units of equal value. The approach helps ensure **economic alignment, clearer governance rights, and simplified cap-table management**, especially after an employee exits. It also improves **transaction readiness in events like sales or IPOs**, by standardizing equity into capital units. Importantly, **conversion is treated as a capital contribution for tax purposes**, not compensation, preserving favorable tax treatment while requiring careful structuring and timing.



AI in Use

Understanding the sequence of events in a legal matter usually requires going through multiple documents and manually creating a timeline.

Most professionals still do this the hard way.

Challenges Faced

- Reading lengthy judgments, pleadings, and documents
- Manually noting dates from different files
- Missing important developments hidden in documents
- Spending hours arranging everything chronologically

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Upload one or multiple files containing case material, judgments, or records.

2. Generate the Timeline

The AI scans the documents, identifies key dates and events, and organizes them automatically.

3. View a Structured Timeline

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