

MANUPATRA WEEKLY WRAP

30th March - 4th April 2026



Case Laws

CIVIL

E. Muthurathinasabathy & Ors. vs. M/s Sri International & Ors., Dated: 01.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0302-2026; 2026 INSC 303)

The Supreme Court held that under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, an **auction sale does not attain finality if the purchaser fails to deposit the balance consideration within the prescribed period**. In such cases, even the issuance of a sale certificate cannot validate the sale, and the borrower retains the right to redeem the property upon clearing the outstanding dues.

Deepesh Maheswari & Anr. vs. Renu Maheswari & Ors., Dated: 01.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0291/2026; 2026 INSC 306)

The Supreme Court clarified that filing an appeal against an **ex-parte decree does not prevent a party from seeking to set aside the decree** under Order IX Rule 13 CPC. The Court explained that while an appeal under Section 96 CPC examines the merits of the decree, an application under Order IX Rule 13 allows the party to show sufficient cause for non-appearance. A bench emphasized that Order IX Rule 13 provides broader jurisdiction to restore a party's rights.

Supreme Court:
Redemption right continues when auction sale fails for non-payment of partial amount

Supreme Court:
Application under Order IX Rule 13 CPC is not barred merely because appeal against an *ex-parte* decree has been dismissed.

Supreme Court: Show cause notice can be contested in writ proceedings, but only in exceptional circumstances.

Rajasthan High Court: Transgender Bill may transform fundamental right to gender identity into a benefit that depends on government approval.

Delhi High Court: POCSO charges cannot be dismissed merely because some minors involved are unidentified in cases concerning child sexual exploitation content.

Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court: Pre-arrest bail under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is not barred if complaint does not disclose *prima facie* elements of offence.

Supreme Court: Even with laws and progress, dowry harassment and domestic violence remain common due to ongoing patriarchal practices.

CONSTITUTION

J. Sri Nisha vs. The Special Director, Adjudicating Authority, Directorate of Enforcement & Anr., Dated: 01.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0297/2026; 2026 INSC 309)

The Supreme Court held that, while writ petitions challenging a show cause notice are generally discouraged, courts may intervene in exceptional cases. Judicial review under Article 226 is available **where the notice suffers from fundamental legal flaws that could cause manifest injustice**. Intervention is justified if the notice is issued without jurisdiction, lacks proper application of mind, is predetermined, amounts to abuse of process, or violates natural justice.

Ganga Kumari vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors., Dated: 30.03.2026 (MANU/RH/0295/2026; 2026:RJ-JD:14683-DB)

The Rajasthan High Court observed that the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, **risks converting the fundamental right to self-perceived gender identity into a State-dependent entitlement**. The Court noted that the Bill conditions legal recognition of gender identity on certification or administrative approval, undermining what the Supreme Court previously recognized as an inviolable aspect of personhood.

CRIMINAL

Court on Its Own Motion vs. State & Ors., Dated: 04.04.2026 (MANU/DE/2449/2026; 2026:DHC:2817)

The Delhi High Court observed that unidentified minors or lack of conclusive age evidence cannot serve as a basis for dropping POCSO charges in cases involving child sexual abuse material. The Court highlighted that **most child sexual abuse material (CSEM) victims cannot be traced or examined**, and dismissing cases on this ground would leave numerous children unprotected from ongoing online abuse.

Santosh Devi vs. UT of J&K & Ors., Dated: 02.04.2026 (MANU/JK/0158/2026)

According to the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, **anticipatory bail under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 Act is not completely barred**. If a *prima facie* reading of the FIR fails to show the statutory elements of the offence, courts can allow pre-arrest bail. The ruling arose from a petition by a District Development Council member whose anticipatory bail application was dismissed in an FIR under Sections 3(1)(r) and 3(1)(s) of the Act.

Shankar vs. State of Rajasthan, Dated: 02.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0301/2026; 2026 INSC 315)

The Supreme Court observed that crimes against women remain widespread despite decades of laws, welfare programs, and judicial efforts, showing that patriarchy is deeply rooted. The Court noted that **even with economic growth, better literacy, and more women in education and work, violence against women continues**, especially in rural and semi-urban areas where men still dominate households.

Supreme Court: Under Section 197 CrPC, subsequent extension or requirement of prior sanction does not invalidate cognizance taken when no legal bar existed at time of initiation.

Delhi High Court: Writ petition is not maintainable before conclusion of court martial proceedings.

Kerala High Court: Protection of entrepreneurs from unfounded protests, emphasizing that fostering industrial growth is crucial for State's development.

Rajasthan High Court: Financial independence of adult sons does not diminish wife's separate right to claim permanent maintenance.

Bombay High Court: Recognizing villagers' customary right to hold the 'Bagad' festival on private property does not infringe upon their right to property.

Samarendra Nath Kundu & Anr. vs. Sadhana Das & Anr., Dated: 01.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0288/2026; 2026 INSC 304)

The Supreme Court of India held that a subsequent extension of sanction protection under Section 197 CrPC **cannot invalidate proceedings initiated when no such bar existed**. A bench upheld criminal proceedings against a subordinate Calcutta Police officer whose cognizance was taken prior to the extension of Section 197 protections to all such officers.

Ajit Kumar Singh through Smt. Poonam Singh Wife and Pairokar vs. Union of India & Ors., Dated: 30.03.2026 (MANU/DE/2310/2026; 2026:DHC:2650-DB)

The Delhi High Court ruled that writ petitions cannot be filed against disciplinary or court martial proceedings until their final orders are pronounced. The bench noted that **judicial interference before the conclusion of proceedings is legally inappropriate**.

ENVIRONMENT

Sudheer S. & Ors. vs. State of Kerala & Ors., Dated: 01.04.2026 (MANU/KE/0675/2026; 2026:KER:28842)

The Kerala High Court has urged political parties, ahead of the Legislative Assembly elections, to reassure voters that **entrepreneurs in the State should not fear arbitrary shutdowns due to baseless protests**. The Court emphasized that once an industrial unit secures all statutory approvals, including environmental and pollution clearances, no local authority can block its operation based on minor public agitation. Protecting lawful business activity, the Court noted, is vital for rule of law and investment confidence.

FAMILY

Shobha Kanwar vs. Narpat Singh, Dated: 01.04.2026 (MANU/RH/0296/2026; 2026:RJ-JD:9372-DB)

The Rajasthan High Court ruled that a divorced wife's right to permanent alimony is a distinct and independent entitlement under Section 25 of the Hindu Marriage Act, which **cannot be nullified simply because her adult sons are capable of earning**. The Court noted that while the sons' majority and earning capacity may influence the quantum of alimony, they do not affect the fundamental right itself.

PROPERTY

Ganesh D. Tapkir & Anr. vs. Baner Yethil Samasta Gramastha Mandal & Ors., Dated: 01.04.2026 (MANU/MH/3119/2026; 2026:BHC-AS:15517)

The Bombay High Court held that acknowledging the **villagers' customary right to celebrate the Bagad festival on the disputed property does not infringe the landowners'** right to property. The Court noted that records show long-standing and continuous exercise of this right, and the lower courts' orders protecting it were neither perverse nor illegal.

SERVICE

Supreme Court:

Compassion cannot override rules in public employment, and candidates who miss physical tests are not entitled to second chance.

Supreme Court: High-ranking employees are not entitled to receive same reduced punishment as juniors

Supreme Court: Pay commission benefits cannot be withheld by imposing extra conditions beyond those prescribed.

Supreme Court: In departmental enquiry, any document not admitted by employee must be proved through testimony of witness.

Delhi High Court: Ministry of Home Affairs has competence to commence disciplinary proceedings against AGMUT IAS officers

Commissioner, Delhi Police & Anr. vs. Uttam Kumar, Dated: 02.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0300/2026; 2026 INSC 314)

The Supreme Court ruled that a candidate who misses a scheduled physical test in police recruitment **cannot demand a rescheduling simply because their requests for postponement went unanswered**. The Court emphasized that compassion and discretion are limited in public employment. The bench set aside the Delhi High Court ruling that had upheld the Administrative Tribunal's grant of a second attempt to the candidate who was unwell on the test date.

Punjab & Sind Bank vs. Sh. Raj Kumar, Dated: 02.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0296/2026; 2026 INSC 313)

The Supreme Court held that a **senior officer cannot demand the same lenient punishment as lower-ranking employees for similar misconduct**. A bench upheld the dismissal of a senior manager of Punjab & Sind Bank who, along with a subordinate officer and a gunman, misappropriated customer funds for personal gain.

Union of India & Ors. vs. Sunil Kumar Rai & Ors., Dated: 01.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0293/2026; 2026 INSC 311)

The Supreme Court held that the **Central Pay Commission's recommendations cannot be misinterpreted to deny benefits by imposing extra conditions**. A bench ruled in favor of respondents who, after serving four years at Level 8 with Grade Pay ₹4,800 in the Border Roads Organisation and being redesignated as Junior Engineers, were wrongly denied Non-Functional Upgradation (NFU) to Level 9 (Grade Pay ₹5,400) merely because they were not direct recruits.

Jai Prakash Saini vs. Managing Director, U.P. Cooperative Federation Ltd. & Ors., Dated: 01.04.2026 (MANU/SC/0290/2026; 2026 INSC 305)

The Supreme Court held that an **employee cannot be dismissed based solely on documentary evidence not admitted by him**. Employers must prove such documents through witnesses, allowing the employee an opportunity for cross-examination. A bench set aside the dismissal of a U.P. Cooperative Federation Limited employee on this ground.

Union of India & Ors. vs. Padma Jaiswal, IAS (AGMUT: 2003), Dated: 01.04.2026 (MANU/DE/2339/2026; 2026:DHC:2680-DB)

The Delhi High Court ruled that the Ministry of Home Affairs, acting as a delegate of the Joint Cadre Authority, **is legally empowered to initiate disciplinary proceedings and impose penalties on AGMUT cadre IAS officers**. A bench held that such action cannot be considered without legal authority.



News

03.04.2026

CIVIL

The **Allahabad High Court** has launched a major crackdown on the widespread misuse of firearms to assert 'power' and 'influence' in society. The court has demanded detailed data on arms licences issued in Uttar Pradesh, expressing concern over the rising "gun culture" in the state.

01.04.2026

The **Supreme Court** has observed that it had no reason to doubt that the Madhya Pradesh High Court would address the objections raised by the Mosque management, which were reportedly captured in the videography of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) survey, in the ongoing *Bhojshala Temple-Kamal Maula Mosque* dispute.

The **Delhi High Court** has reprimanded actress Richa Chadha and the media for making unverified claims regarding sexual misconduct against a man. The court criticized the actress for sharing the allegations online without proper verification, emphasizing the harm caused by digital vigilantism.

30.03.2026

The **Delhi High Court** has observed that an advocate who uses a chamber as an associate of the original allottee does not gain any vested rights to the premises, describing the usage as a "mere permissive user".

CONSTITUTION

31.03.2026

The High Court of **Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh** granted interim protection to advocates fearing preventive detention under the Public Safety Act over a recent altercation inside the court complex in Srinagar.

The **Kerala High Court** has upheld the 2024 amendments to the Kerala Lok Ayukta Act.

30.03.2026

The **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026**, which brings significant changes to the legal framework on the recognition, rights, and protection of transgender individuals, has been passed by the Parliament.

The **Central Government** has proposed amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, aimed at increasing compliance obligations for intermediaries with government directives and expanding regulatory oversight on online content, including news and current affairs shared by non-publisher users.

CRIMINAL

The **Uttarakhand High Court** has temporarily halted criminal proceedings against a 15-year-old boy accused of kidnapping a girl of the same age, with whom he was reportedly in a consensual relationship.

MINES AND MINERALS

The **Supreme Court** has raised serious concerns over escalating violence by illegal sand mining mafias in the Chambal sanctuary area and criticized the States' failure to address the issue.

NARCOTICS

The **Supreme Court** has granted bail to two medical professionals accused in a narcotics case, citing the failure to provide the grounds for their arrest in writing before they were produced before the Magistrate.

The **Kerala High Court** Full Bench has observed that repeated possession of even small quantities of narcotic drugs can classify a person as a “drug offender” or “goonda” under KAAPA, emphasizing the need for a zero-tolerance approach toward drug abuse in society.

01.04.2026

02.04.2026

01.04.2026

31.03.2026



Notification Updates

Ministry of Finance

The **Income-tax Act, 2025**, effective from April 2026, replaces the old 1961 Act, aiming to simplify and modernize India's tax laws with clearer language and streamlined processes. New rules and forms have been introduced to facilitate easier compliance.

The **Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment (First Amendment) Regulations, 2026** introduce updates to the existing rules governing the submission of sea cargo manifests and transshipment processes. These amendments aim to streamline documentation, enhance security measures, and improve compliance with reporting requirements for shipping operators and port authorities.

The **Income-tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026**, introduced by the Central Board of Direct Taxes, amend the Income-tax Rules, 1962, to allow for changes such as substituting "one house property" with "two house properties" in certain clauses and updating forms for the assessment year 2026-27.

The CBIC has implemented comprehensive reforms to enhance e-commerce exports and courier trade, including **removing the INR. 10 lakh cap on courier export consignments and introducing a Return to Origin mechanism for unclaimed imports**. These measures aim to improve ease of doing business, reduce logistics inefficiencies, and boost global competitiveness, particularly benefiting MSMEs, artisans, and start-ups.

Press Information
Bureau,
Dated: 01.04.2026,
MANU/PIBU/0562/2026

Notification No.
38/2018-Customs,
Dated: 30.03.2026,
MANU/CUSN/0032/2026

Notification No.
45/2026,
Dated: 30.03.2026,
MANU/CBDT/0045/2026

Press Information
Bureau,
Dated: 31.03.2026,
MANU/PIBU/0557/2026

Reserve Bank of India

The Reserve Bank of India has issued revised **operational guidelines for the Floating Rate Savings Bonds, 2020 (Taxable)**, which supersede the previous guidelines from June 2020. These changes are effective immediately.

The **Master Direction on Incentives for Currency Distribution and Exchange** outlines guidelines for banks regarding the distribution and exchange of currency, offering incentives for efficient handling. It also includes provisions for penalties and penal actions against bank branches and currency chests that fail to meet customer service standards or neglect proper reporting of transactions and balances. The aim is to ensure accountability, enhance service quality, and improve transparency in currency management.

The Reserve Bank of India has issued revised **amendment directions for Small Finance Banks regarding capital adequacy norms**. These amendments modify the treatment of irrevocable payment commitments as financial guarantees and specify capital maintenance requirements for capital market exposures. The revised norms will take effect from the earlier bank's implementation date or July 1, 2026.

The Reserve Bank of India imposed a **monetary penalty of INR. 31.80 lakh on Airtel Payments Bank Limited for non-compliance with RBI's directions on financial statement disclosures**. This action was based on findings from a supervisory evaluation and is not related to the validity of any transactions or agreements by the bank.

The Reserve Bank of India has issued revised **amendment directions for Small Finance Banks regarding credit facilities, effective from July 2026**. These amendments include modifications to definitions, lending conditions, and prudential norms for loans against eligible securities and credit facilities to Capital Market Intermediaries. The changes aim to enhance regulatory compliance and risk management in the banking sector.

The Reserve Bank of India has revised directions for **reporting External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) returns under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999**. Changes include treating certain forms as non-flow capturing, computing Late Submission Fees per return, and requiring banks to submit returns within seven days. These directions take effect from April 2026.

Circular No. :
IDMD.RETL.No.S23/13.
01.300/2026-2027,
Dated: 02.04.2026,
MANU/IDMC/0001/2026

Circular No. : DCM (CC)
No. G-
3/03.06.001/2026-
2027,
Dated: 01.04.2026,
MANU/RDCM/0002/2026

Notification No.:
DOR.CRE.REC.453/21-
01-002/2025-2026,
Dated: 30.03.2026,
MANU/RMIC/0099/2026

Press Release No.
2025-2026/2358,
Dated: 30.03.2026,
MANU/RPRL/0189/2026

Notification No.:
DOR.CRE.REC.451/07-
01-002/2025-2026,
Dated: 30.03.2026,
MANU/RMIC/0106/2026

Circular No. A.P. (DIR
Series) Circular No. 25,
Dated 30.03.2026,
MANU/APDR/0007/2026

Circular No. A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 03
Dated 01.04.2026,
MANU/APDR/0010/2026

Circular No A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 01,
Dated 01.04.2026,
MANU/APDR/0008/2026

Press Information Bureau,
Dated: 30.03.2026,
MANU/PIBU/0552/2026

Press Information Bureau,
Dated: 01.04.2026,
MANU/PIBU/0561/2026

Press Information Bureau,
Dated: 02.04.2026,
MANU/PIBU/0571/2026

The Reserve Bank of India issued this circular to **align Authorised Dealer Banks with updated FEMA Regulations, 2026**. It streamlines foreign exchange compliance, revises reporting requirements, and removes outdated instructions. The objective is to improve transparency and efficiency in forex transactions.

Issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), introduces a new reporting framework under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999** for guarantees governed by the *Foreign Exchange Management (Guarantees) Regulations, 2026*. It standardizes how guarantees must be reported, including forms, timelines, and penalties for late submission

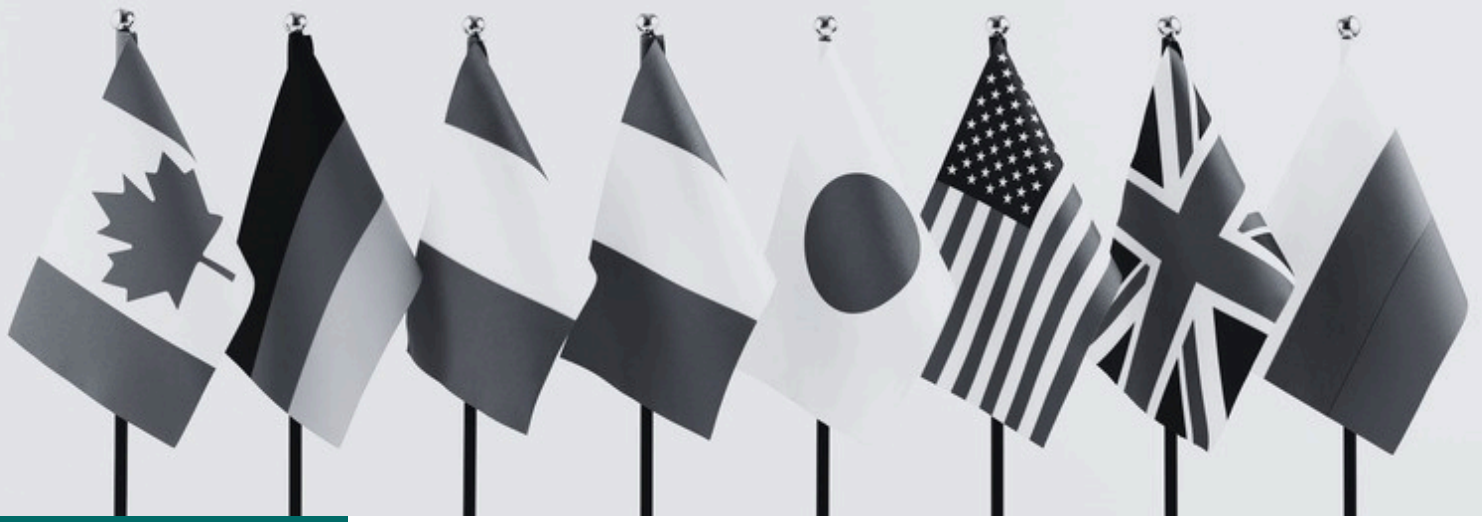
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

The **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, set to take effect from April 1, 2026**, emphasize circular economy principles and extended producer responsibility, mandating four-stream waste segregation and online tracking. They outline roles for various government bodies, increase fuel substitution rates, and include provisions for land allocation, audits, and environmental compensation.

The **Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023** has led to a significant increase in IPR filings related to India's biological resources, enhancing compliance and transparency. The Act mandates prior to registration for IPR and simplifies approval processes, fostering innovation while ensuring conservation and equitable benefit sharing.

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

The **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026**, passed by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, aims to enhance Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living by amending 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts, decriminalising 717 provisions, and amending 67 to reduce compliance burdens. The Bill reflects the government's commitment to trust-based governance and rationalising regulations.



International Updates

AUSTRALIA

Competition & Antitrust

Australia broadens merger control rules to capture minority acquisitions and asset-based deals

Australia has introduced a significantly expanded **mandatory merger notification framework** under the supervision of the **Australian Competition and Consumer Commission**, which came into effect from **01 January 2026**. The reforms introduce **bright-line voting power thresholds** and **transaction value thresholds** that now apply even where acquisitions do not result in formal control. The concept of control continues to be governed by the **Corporations Act 2001**, focusing on the ability to influence financial and operational decisions. This means that even **minority share acquisitions** or **standalone asset purchases** may now trigger notification obligations. Businesses must conduct detailed assessments of **voting rights**, **transaction value**, and **associates' interests** before proceeding. The regime increases **regulatory scrutiny**, reduces deal flexibility, and raises compliance costs for merging parties. While long-term economic effects are still uncertain, early indications show a shift toward **preventive competition enforcement**.

Construction

Fuel price instability and supply shortages escalate financial and timeline risks in construction projects

Australia's construction sector is facing significant disruption due to **rising fuel costs** and **global supply chain instability**, largely driven by geopolitical tensions affecting shipping routes. Fuel is no longer a marginal cost but a central factor impacting **transportation**, **material production**, and **on-site energy generation**. Contractors operating under **fixed-price agreements** are particularly exposed, as they may be forced to absorb increased expenses without contractual relief. At the same time, **delays in logistics and material supply** are creating cascading effects on project timelines and sequencing of work. These disruptions increase the likelihood of **claims**, **variations**, and **contractual disputes** between stakeholders. Even projects in early development phases are now being reassessed for cost feasibility. The situation reflects a broader shift toward heightened **commercial risk in construction contracting**.

Energy & Natural Resources

Fuel shortages raise possibility of emergency intervention and rationing under statutory framework

Insurance

Court affirms referee findings and dismisses procedural fairness challenge in infrastructure dispute

Banking

Government moves toward multi-sector anti-fraud framework with enhanced obligations for regulated entities

Australia is preparing for potential **fuel supply disruptions** under the framework of the **Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984**, which empowers the government to intervene during national shortages. Authorities may declare a **national liquid fuel emergency**, allowing them to control the **distribution, movement, and allocation of fuel resources**. The government has already outlined a phased strategy focusing on monitoring, maintaining supply, and protecting essential services. Businesses dependent on fuel must now evaluate their eligibility as **essential users**, which may grant priority access during rationing. The law expressly allows **rationing measures**, although it does not permit price control mechanisms. Companies are encouraged to engage in **policy discussions** and strengthen internal contingency plans. The situation highlights the growing importance of **energy security and regulatory preparedness** in Australia.

In *Acciona Infrastructure Australia Pty Ltd v Zurich Insurance plc UK Branch* [2026] *New South Wales Supreme Court 185*, the Court upheld the findings of a **special referee** in a dispute concerning damage to infrastructure works. The contractor claimed that severe weather caused the damage, while the insurer argued it resulted from **defective construction materials**. The insurer challenged the referee's report on grounds of **procedural unfairness**, particularly alleging inadequate opportunity to respond to expert evidence. However, the Court found that the referee acted within permissible procedural limits and that no contradictory evidence had been presented. The judgment emphasises the importance of **active participation in evidentiary proceedings** and timely procedural responses. It also reinforces judicial support for **referee determinations** in complex construction disputes. This ruling strengthens confidence in alternative dispute mechanisms within litigation.

CANADA

The Government of Canada has initiated consultations on a proposed **National Anti-Fraud Strategy** aimed at addressing rising fraud risks across financial, telecommunications, and digital sectors. The strategy focuses on strengthening **law enforcement capabilities**, improving **public awareness**, and establishing a **multi-sector regulatory framework**. Proposed measures include mandatory **fraud risk notifications**, monitoring of suspicious transactions, and blocking fraudulent communications such as spoofed calls. The initiative responds to fraud losses exceeding **2.4 billion Canadian dollars since 2022**, with concerns about the growing use of **artificial intelligence and cross-border fraud schemes**. Regulated entities may soon face new obligations to detect and prevent fraudulent activity. The consultation signals a shift toward **coordinated regulatory intervention** and stricter compliance expectations.

Competition & Antitrust

Federal Court dismisses large-scale generic drug price-fixing case for lack of evidentiary basis

In *Kathryn Eaton v Teva Canada Limited et al.*, 2026 Federal Court 239, the Federal Court of Canada dismissed a proposed class action alleging a **price-fixing conspiracy** among generic drug manufacturers. The plaintiff relied on **deferred prosecution agreements** from the United States to support claims of a broader North American conspiracy. However, the Court found no **evidence connecting those admissions to Canadian market conduct**. The ruling emphasises the Court's role as a **gatekeeper at the certification stage**, ensuring that only claims with a credible factual basis proceed. The decision also highlights the limitations of relying on foreign enforcement actions to establish domestic liability. It reinforces the need for **clear, jurisdiction-specific evidence** in competition litigation.

Patents

China advances intellectual property enforcement through coordinated administrative and judicial mechanisms

CHINA

China has reported significant progress in strengthening its **intellectual property enforcement system**, with over **57,000 patent infringement disputes** handled in 2025. The **China National Intellectual Property Administration** has enhanced coordination with digital platforms to address online infringement through an **online verification system**. At the judicial level, the **Supreme People's Court** has increased the application of **punitive damages**, significantly raising deterrence in intellectual property cases. The data shows a substantial rise in both the number of cases and the quantum of damages awarded. The system now reflects a dual approach combining **administrative efficiency** with **judicial strength**. These developments signal a maturing intellectual property regime aimed at protecting both domestic and international rights holders.

Trade & Customs

New overseas food registration regime introduces risk-based compliance and faster processing timelines

China has introduced a revised framework under **Decree 280 and General Administration of Customs Announcement No. 27 of 2026**, effective from **01 June 2026**, governing overseas food manufacturers. The system adopts a **risk-based classification model**, narrowing some product categories while expanding others such as **health foods and special dietary products**. It also introduces **automatic renewal provisions** for registrations, with specific exceptions for high-risk products. Processing timelines for importer registration have been reduced, improving administrative efficiency. The framework also clarifies the scope of storage facilities requiring registration, focusing on high-risk categories. These changes aim to enhance **food safety regulation** while facilitating smoother trade operations.

Employment & Labor

Gig Workers Act 2025 establishes structured protections and mandatory social security contributions

MALAYSIA

The **Gig Workers Act 2025**, effective from **31 March 2026**, introduces a comprehensive legal framework governing gig economy workers in Malaysia. The law mandates **social security contributions** through platform providers to the **Social Security Organization**, ensuring financial protection for workers. It also introduces **conciliation mechanisms** allowing disputes to be resolved within defined statutory timelines. Additional subsidiary regulations specify compoundable offences and compliance procedures. The legislation places new obligations on digital platforms while enhancing **worker protections and benefits**. It represents a major step toward formalising the gig economy and addressing regulatory gaps. The framework reflects a broader move toward **inclusive labour regulation** in emerging work models.

30 Mar-4 April 2026

Manupatra Weekly Wrap

Construction

Court reinforces strict procedural compliance and immediate payment obligations in adjudication disputes

Trade & Customs

Proposed amendments introduce stricter penalties and extended liability period for advertising violations

Employment & Labor

Supreme Court clarifies contractual obligations of employees in handling company data during exit

Banking

New regulatory framework strengthens oversight of hire purchase and leasing businesses in financial sector

SINGAPORE

In *Lim Kim Huat Building Construction Pte Ltd v LBD Engineering Pte Ltd* [2026] Singapore High Court 28, the Court reaffirmed the principle of “**pay now, argue later**” under the **Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act 2004**. The defendant failed to comply with procedural timelines while seeking to challenge an adjudication determination. As a result, the Court dismissed the applications and upheld the enforcement order. The ruling highlights the importance of **strict adherence to statutory procedures** in construction disputes. It also reinforces the temporary finality of adjudication decisions, ensuring cash flow in the industry. The judgment strengthens the effectiveness of the statutory payment regime.

SOUTH KOREA

The **Korea Fair Trade Commission** has proposed amendments to the **Act on Fair Labeling and Advertising**, aiming to strengthen enforcement against misleading practices. The amendments extend the **look-back period from 3 years to 5 years** and lower the threshold for imposing higher penalties. Even a single prior violation may now result in enhanced fines, with maximum penalties increasing significantly. The reforms also reduce opportunities for penalty reductions, signalling a stricter enforcement approach. These changes are expected to increase **compliance pressure on businesses**. The move reflects a broader focus on **consumer protection and fair market practices**.

TAIWAN

In *AFA Micro Co. v Jian et al.*, 113 Tai-Shang 721, the Taiwan Supreme Court examined employee obligations regarding company data during the offboarding process. The dispute involved deletion of critical technical data before returning company devices. The Court analysed claims under **contract law, tort law**, and obligations arising from the **Civil Code**, particularly focusing on a **non-disclosure agreement**. While tort claims were dismissed due to limitation periods, the case emphasised contractual duties relating to **confidential information and data protection**. The judgment highlights the importance of clear contractual provisions governing employee conduct. It strengthens employer rights in safeguarding proprietary information.

THAILAND

Thailand has introduced a new regulatory regime placing hire purchase and leasing businesses under the **Financial Institution Business Act** through a **Royal Decree**. The **Bank of Thailand** has issued detailed guidelines governing all stages of transactions, including pre-contract disclosures, contractual performance, and default handling. The framework applies to both financial institutions and non-financial operators. It aims to ensure **fair treatment of consumers**, transparency, and standardised business practices. The regulations also impose compliance obligations on operators dealing with instalment payments. These reforms strengthen **consumer protection** and enhance regulatory supervision in the financial services sector.

Agriculture

United States deregulates genetically engineered corn following comprehensive scientific assessment

The **United States Department of Agriculture**, through the **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**, has determined that MON 95275 maize is no longer subject to regulation under **7 Code of Federal Regulations Part 340**. The decision was based on a detailed **plant pest risk assessment** and evaluation of scientific data submitted by developers. The crop has been engineered to provide resistance against insect damage using advanced genetic techniques. Authorities concluded that it does not pose greater risks than conventional crops. This deregulation supports the advancement of **agricultural biotechnology** and innovation. It also reflects a science-based regulatory approach balancing safety and technological progress.

Product Regulation & Liability

Global comparative report highlights evolving product liability standards across multiple jurisdictions

A recent international legal publication examining **product regulation and liability laws across multiple jurisdictions** provides a comprehensive overview of changing compliance landscapes. The report analyses how different countries approach **product safety obligations**, enforcement mechanisms, and liability exposure for manufacturers and distributors. It highlights increasing emphasis on **consumer protection**, stricter regulatory expectations, and cross-border compliance challenges. Businesses operating internationally must now navigate differing **legal standards and risk frameworks**, particularly in sectors involving consumer goods and technology. The study also underscores the importance of proactive **risk management strategies** and regulatory awareness. It serves as a key resource for understanding how liability regimes are evolving globally. These developments indicate a broader trend toward **harmonisation and stricter accountability in product regulation**.

Company and Commercial

Thailand introduces new compliance requirements to curb nominee shareholding structures

Thailand's Ministry of Commerce has introduced new measures requiring companies to submit confirmations that shareholders have made **genuine investments and are not acting as nominees for foreign entities**. The rules will take effect from 01 April 2026 and aim to prevent misuse of corporate structures. Directors must certify compliance and acknowledge potential **criminal liability for false declarations** under the Thai Criminal Code. Authorities may also share information with enforcement agencies for further action. These measures strengthen oversight of **foreign participation and corporate transparency**. The initiative reflects ongoing efforts to address **illegal nominee arrangements and ensure regulatory compliance**.

Disputes

Comparative global analysis outlines increasing complexity in class action litigation frameworks

A detailed international review of **class action regimes across multiple jurisdictions** highlights the growing complexity of collective litigation. The analysis examines procedural requirements, certification standards, and enforcement mechanisms across different legal systems. It identifies a trend toward expanding access to **collective redress mechanisms**, while also increasing judicial scrutiny at certification stages. Businesses face rising exposure to **multi-jurisdictional litigation risks**, particularly in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, and financial services. The report also discusses variations in **damages frameworks and settlement procedures**. It emphasises the importance of understanding local procedural nuances when dealing with cross-border disputes. Overall, the study reflects a global shift toward more structured and sophisticated **class action frameworks**.



AI in Use

Understanding the sequence of events in a legal matter often means going through multiple documents and manually building a timeline.

Most professionals still do this the hard way.

Reading lengthy judgments, pleadings, and documents to find dates

Manually noting events from different files

Missing important developments hidden in the documents

Spending hours arranging everything chronologically

How Manuworks makes it easier

With Manuworks' Timeline Generator, you can automatically create structured timelines from one or multiple documents in seconds.

Simply:

- Upload Your Documents
- Upload one or multiple files containing case material, judgments, or records.
- Generate the Timeline

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

View a Structured Timeline

Instantly see events arranged chronologically with descriptions, sources, and references in a clean timeline format.

- No manual extraction.
- No sorting dates yourself.
- Just a clear, organized timeline created directly from your documents.

Try it now: <https://www.manuworks.ai/dashboard>

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