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NEWSLETTER Weekly

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE

1. **NLMC to Facilitate E-Auction of 459 RINL Land Parcels in Visakhapatnam.**

   National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC), a 100% Government of India-owned enterprise under the administrative control of the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance, has announced the e-auction of strategically located land assets owned by Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL – Visakhapatnam Steel Plant) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. A total portfolio of 459 land parcels spanning 93,572.21 square yards is being offered for outright sale with clear, encumbrance-free government titles. Individual plots range in size from approximately 128.94 square yards to 2,728 square yards. Quikr India Pvt. Ltd. (QIPL) has been appointed as the Transaction Consultant to facilitate the auction process. Strategically Located Land Portfolio - HB Colony, Maddilapalem: Features 456 residential MIG/LIG plots situated in an established urban neighborhood equipped with complete civic and social infrastructure. The properties feature 24- to 60-foot concrete approach roads and direct proximity to National Highway 16 (NH-16), Auto Nagar, Gajuwaka: Includes a prime 2,728-square-yard contiguous parcel in Block 2 located 0.5 km from NH-16 (tailored for commercial and logistics use), alongside two residential plots in Block 3.

   For more information, you can access the GOI press release here:
   https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2305666&reg=3&lang=1

2. **GIFT IFSC emerges as a strong and vibrant international banking hub, mobilises over $52.8 billion under RBI's FCNR(B) Swap Facility, $11.62 bn in ECBs and $11.12 bn in bond listings by banks in IFSC exchanges.**

   The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) today highlighted the strong and growing role of GIFT City IFSC in supporting India's foreign currency mobilisation and external financing requirements, with IFSC Banking Units (IBUs) demonstrating significant scale and momentum across key international banking activities. As on 31 August 2026, 20 IBUs have sanctioned USD 54.02 billion under the Reserve Bank of India's special swap facility for FCNR(B) deposits, of which approximately USD 52.82 billion has already been disbursed. The scale-up has been particularly rapid in recent weeks, with aggregate sanctions increasing from USD 28.60 billion on August 14 to USD 37.26 billion on August 21 and further to USD 54.02 billion by August 31, 2026. The broad-based participation of domestic and international banks underscores the depth and capability of the banking ecosystem at GIFT-IFSC. The 20 participating IBUs include leading Indian banks as well as foreign banks, with individual IBUs recording substantial sanctions and disbursements under the facility. The performance of the IBUs under the FCNR(B) swap facility represents a significant demonstration of the ability of GIFT-IFSC to connect IBUs with global sources of foreign currency liquidity and efficiently channel international capital towards India.

   For more information, you can access the GOI press release here:
   https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2306144&reg=3&lang=1

3. **Secretary, DFS Chairs Review Meeting on Financial and Business Performance of Public Sector General Insurance Companies (PSGICs).**

   A performance review meeting of the Public Sector General Insurance Companies (PSGICs) was held on 02.09.2026 under the Chairpersonship of Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance. The financial and business performance of the PSGICs for FY 2025–26, covering underwriting performance across all Lines of Business (LoBs), Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), digital initiatives and other operational issues of the companies, was reviewed. The Secretary advised the PSGICs to strengthen their focus on profitable lines of business and adopt suitable measures to bring down the Incurred Claim Ratio (ICR). Greater use of technology and accelerated digitalisation were also emphasised, while optimising expenditure on Information Technology and other digital initiatives. The Secretary further emphasised the need to improve communication, publicity and customer outreach, including through social media and other platforms, to enhance awareness about various insurance products and the outreach of the PSGICs in underserved segments and areas. The Secretary also advised the companies to improve insurance penetration and density while reducing protection gaps. He further emphasised the need to strengthen performance monitoring through a robust and standardised KPI framework across PSGICs. He advised that the KPIs should enable consistent and comparable assessment of financial as well as non-financial performance across companies and should be reviewed on a quarterly basis. The Secretary (DFS) also advised the PSGICs to ensure expeditious redressal of customer grievances and also focus on the quality of redressal.

For more information, you can access the GOI press release here:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2306068&reg=3&lang=1

4. **India's Sovereign Credit Rating upgraded to 'A-' with Stable Outlook by Japan Credit Rating Agency.**

The Government of India welcomes the decision of Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR) to upgrade India's Long-Term Foreign Currency and Local Currency Issuer Ratings by one notch from 'BBB+' to 'A-', while maintaining the Stable Outlook. JCR has also raised India's country ceiling by one notch to 'A'. The upgrade reflects India's solid economic growth, the effectiveness of economic policies in strengthening the foundations for growth, and the improved soundness of the financial system. JCR noted that the Indian economy has maintained a high growth rate, supported by robust private consumption and public investment. The latest GDP estimates released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) indicate that real GDP growth remained strong at 7.8 per cent in FY26. The growth momentum was sustained in Q1 of FY27, with real GDP growing by 7.8 per cent, despite prevailing global headwinds. The agency also highlighted the Government's continued implementation of policies conducive to productivity growth and economic development, including the development of digital public infrastructure and implementation of the Goods and Services Tax, which have strengthened India's economic foundations. The agency also recognised the improvement in the quality of fiscal expenditure, with greater emphasis on capital expenditure, particularly infrastructure investment. JCR noted that the Central Government's fiscal deficit declined from 4.7% in FY25 to 4.4% in FY26, while capital expenditure remained high.

For more information, you can access the GOI press release here:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2306033&reg=3&lang=1

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

1. **First Batch of Corporate Mitra Course Commences with 2879 Learners registered.**

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICoAI), under the guidance of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), has commenced the Corporate Mitra Course, with 2879 Learners registered in the first batch. The launch of the Corporate Mitra Learning Management System (LMS) marks the beginning of the structured learning and capability-development phase of the programme. The Corporate Mitra initiative was announced by the Government of India in the Union Budget 2026-27 with the objective of creating a pool of trained and certified paraprofessionals who can support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in managing business and regulatory compliances. The programme brings together the professional expertise of ICAI, ICSI and ICoAI with the technology and academic support from IIT Madras, IIT Madras Pravartak and SWAYAM Plus. The course was officially launched at an event organised at the ICAI Head Office in New Delhi, in the presence of Smt. Anita Shah Akella, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs; Shri Mahendra Kumar, Director-PI, Ministry of Corporate Affairs; and the leadership of ICAI, including Hon'ble

President, ICAI, CA. Prasanna Kumar D; Hon'ble Vice-President, ICAI, CA. Mangesh P. Kinare and Hon'ble Secretary, ICAI, CA. (Dr.) Jai Kumar Batra. The event was also attended by Hon'ble President, Institute of Cost Accountants of India, CMA Chittaranjan Chattopadhyay; Hon'ble Vice-President, Institute of Cost Accountants of India, CMA Manoj Kumar Anand; and other senior officials and representatives of all three Professional Institutes.

For more information, you can access the GOI press release here:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2306813&reg=3&lang=1

2. **Senior bureaucrats attend IICA's 'weekend wisdom' program initiate.**

Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, under Ministry of Corporate Affairs hosted two senior bureaucrats resource persons, who delivered lectures under the aegis of "Weekend Wisdom Programme" recently. Welcoming the first guest, Sh. Anindo Majumdar an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) of the 1985 batch and have nearly four decades of rich and varied experience in different areas of public administration, Sh. Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, DG &CEO, IICA mentioned that as Secretary Chief Vigilance Commission and in current posting as Member (Administrative) of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Kolkata his contribution towards fostering ethical behavior in public life is greatly admired. In his interaction with PGIP/LLM students, on the subject 'Ethics and Corporate Governance', Sh. Anindo Majumdar highlighted finer distinction between law and ethics. Drawing example from apartheid regime in South Africa, he elaborated that the regime had the backing of law, yet it was blatantly unethical. With decades of experience at the very heart of India's vigilance and administrative machinery, Shri Majumdar brought to the students not just theory but wisdom of his experience backed by real stories of integrity, accountability, and encouraged students to uphold ethics in public life by simple message that "one should never say yes when apparent answer from the conscience is no'.

For more information, you can access the GOI press release here:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2305744&reg=3&lang=1

INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY BOARD OF INDIA

1. **Nearly Half of IBC Cases End in Over 80% Haircuts: Govt Data Shows.**

Nearly half of the corporate insolvency cases that resulted in approved resolution plans saw creditors recover less than 20% of their admitted claims, an analysis by Outlook Business of data from the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) shows. The finding comes amid scrutiny of massive haircuts in corporate insolvency resolution processes (CIRPs), following the National Company Law Tribunal's reconsideration of its order in the Subhash Chandra case. The case, which spiralled into controversy last week, is centred around the personal guarantees given by Essel Group Chairman Subhash Chandra on the bad loans of group firms. On August 25, an NCLT Delhi order approved a repayment plan under which Chandra was allowed to settle the guarantees for just ₹6.5 crore — a 99.9% haircut on the ₹22,006 crore claimed by creditors. An analysis of 1,164 CIRP cases shows that 564 cases, or 48.5%, ended with haircuts of more than 80%. The data shows that 355 cases, or 30.5%, saw haircuts of more than 90%, meaning creditors recovered less than a tenth of their admitted claims. Individual company data published by IBBI covers cases where resolution plans had been approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) up to March 31, 2025. The IBBI dataset records the total admitted claims and the realisable amount for financial creditors. While the numbers look alarming at first glance, industry experts say that the numbers need to be read carefully. They note that a large haircut against admitted claims does not necessarily mean that the IBC process itself destroyed value. In many cases, the deterioration has happened years before a company reaches the NCLT.

For more information, you can access the article here:
https://www.outlookbusiness.com/corporate/nearly-half-of-ibc-cases-end-in-over-80-haircuts-govt-data-shows

2. **Subhash Chandra Booked In ₹1,322 Cr LIC Housing Fraud Case**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against Essel Group chairman Subhash Chandra and others over an alleged ₹1,322 crore fraud involving LIC Housing Finance Ltd. LIC Housing Finance has alleged that loan facilities were obtained through misrepresentation, including the submission of inflated net-worth certificates, as per a report by NDTV Profit. The CBI case relates to two loan facilities with a combined sanctioned amount of ₹980 crore. Chandra had personally guaranteed both facilities, according to the lender's complaint. One facility involved a ₹500 crore loan extended to Vasant Sagar Properties Pvt. Ltd., with Pan India Infra Projects Pvt. Ltd. as co-borrower. The loan was approved as a Home Entity Loan for takeover and top-up purposes and was backed by a continuing guarantee executed by Chandra on March 28, 2018, as per the NDTV Profit report. The Vasant Sagar loan subsequently turned non-performing, with the outstanding amount rising to ₹570.5 crore, according to the report. A second ₹480 crore Digital loan also turned NPA, with ₹507.25 crore outstanding. LIC Housing Finance alleged that a net-worth certificate submitted for the ₹500 crore facility showed Chandra's net worth at ₹59,113 crore. A separate certificate for the second facility put his net worth at ₹40,562 crore, NDTV Profit reported. The lender later alleged that Chandra denied having the net worth claimed in the certificates.

For more information, you can access the article here:
https://www.outlookbusiness.com/corporate/subhash-chandra-booked-in-1322-cr-lic-housing-fraud-case

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

1. **Reserve Bank of India (Urban Co-operative Banks – Classification, Valuation, and Operation of Investment Portfolio) Second Amendment Directions, 2026.**

The Reserve Bank of India has issued the Reserve Bank of India (Urban Co-operative Banks – Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio) Second Amendment Directions, 2026, amending its 2025 Master Directions on UCB investment portfolios to expressly permit Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) to invest in equity shares of the Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC) for the purpose of acquiring membership, alongside existing eligibility for equity in the UCB-sector Umbrella Organization (UO). Specifically, paragraph 101(5) (which lists non-SLR securities eligible for the Held-to-Maturity category) has been substituted to read "Equity shares of Umbrella Organization (UO) of UCB sector and Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC) for acquiring membership;", thereby clarifying that such membership-related equity can be classified as HTM. Consequential changes have also been made to paragraph 107(1), expanding the scope of permissible equity investments (where necessary to acquire membership) to include Market Infrastructure Companies (MICs), the UCB-sector UO, IDPIC, and CCBs/StCBs. Issued under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the amendment takes effect from the date of issue and is aimed at enabling UCBs to join IDPIC—the nation's central digital payment fraud intelligence platform—while aligning their investment classification and valuation framework with this policy objective.

For more information, you can access the RBI notification here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=13691&Mode=0

2. **Relief Measures in Areas Affected by Natural Calamities - Reporting through Centralised Information Management System (CIMS) Portal - Introduction of Half-Yearly Return.**

The Reserve Bank of India has streamlined reporting on relief measures extended by Regulated Entities (REs) in areas affected by natural calamities, aligning it with the revised Resolution of Stressed Assets framework notified via amendment directions dated April 29, 2026 (effective July 1, 2026). REs are now required to submit half-yearly data on such relief measures through the CIMS portal using the revised reporting format, with returns due within 30 days of each half-year end—i.e., by October 30 for the April–September period and by April 30 for the October–March period. The circular mandates that submissions be accurate, complete, and duly validated, and advises REs to put in place robust internal systems for timely collection, verification, consolidation, and filing of the required information. Concomitantly, the erstwhile monthly return on natural-calamity relief measures applicable to all Scheduled Commercial Banks (including Small Finance Banks, but excluding Regional Rural Banks) has been discontinued with effect from July 1, 2026.

For more information, you can access the RBI notification here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=13692&Mode=0

3. **Deposits and Accounts – Accounts of Non-resident banks.**

The Reserve Bank of India has dispensed with two legacy reporting requirements concerning accounts of non-resident banks maintained by Authorised Dealer (AD) banks, originally mandated under Para B.2(ii) and B.8(i) of Part B of A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 92 dated April 4, 2003. Specifically, AD banks are no longer required to (i) furnish an annual list (as at end-December, by January 15 of the following year) of all offices/branches maintaining rupee accounts of non-resident banks to RBI's Central Office, and (ii) report temporary overdrawals by overseas branches/correspondents beyond permissible limits if not adjusted within five days. This rationalisation takes effect immediately and has been issued under Sections 10(4) and 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, without prejudice to any other permissions or approvals that may be required under applicable law.

For more information, you can access the RBI notification here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=13693&Mode=0

4. **Data on Forex inflows via FCNR(B) Deposits, External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) and Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) under Reserve Bank's Swap facility.**

RBI had introduced a special USD-INR Forex Swap facility covering FCNR(B) deposits, ECB and OFCB inflows on June 08, 2026. As already announced vide Press Release dated August 14, 2026, the Scheme was open till August 31, 2026 for FCNR(B) deposits, and will be open up to December 31, 2026 for ECBs and OFCBs. The provisional position of forex inflows reported by Authorised Dealer Banks till August 31, 2026 under the above facility is given below:

Type	Forex inflow (Amount in USD million)
FCNR(B) Deposits	1,27,226
OFCBs	5,260
ECBs	3,891
Total	1,36,377

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63502

5. **RBI imposes monetary penalty on TransUnion CIBIL Limited.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, by an order dated August 31, 2026, imposed a monetary penalty of ₹26,82,800 (Rupees Twenty-six lakh eighty two thousand eight hundred only) on TransUnion CIBIL Limited (the company) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the directions issued by RBI on 'Framework for compensation to customers for delayed updation/ rectification of credit information'. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of section 25(1)(iii) read with section 23(4) of the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005. The statutory inspection of the company was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2025. Based on supervisory findings of non-compliance with RBI directions and related correspondence in that regard, a notice was issued to the company advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for its failure to comply with the said directions. After considering the company's reply to the notice, additional submissions made by it and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, RBI found that the following charge against the company was sustained, warranting imposition of monetary penalty:

The company failed to credit the compensation amount to the bank accounts of certain eligible complainants, within the prescribed period. This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the company with its customers. Further, imposition of this monetary penalty is without prejudice to any other action that may be initiated by RBI against the company.

For more information, you can access the RBI notification here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63520

6. **RBI imposes monetary penalty on CRIF High Mark Credit Information Services Private Limited.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, by an order dated August 31, 2026, imposed a monetary penalty of ₹6,89,600 (Rupees Six lakh eighty nine thousand six hundred only) on CRIF High Mark Credit Information Services Private Limited (the company) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the directions issued by RBI on 'Framework for compensation to customers for delayed updation/ rectification of credit information'. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of section 25(1)(iii) read with section 23(4) of the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005. The statutory inspection of the company was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2025. Based on supervisory findings of non-compliance with RBI directions and related correspondence in that regard, a notice was issued to the company advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for its failure to comply with the said directions. After considering the company's reply to the notice, additional submissions made by it and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, RBI found that the following charge against the company was sustained, warranting imposition of monetary penalty: The company failed to credit the compensation amount to the bank accounts of certain eligible complainants, within the prescribed period. This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the company with its customers. Further, imposition of this monetary penalty is without prejudice to any other action that may be initiated by RBI against the company.

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63521

7. **RBI imposes monetary penalty on Sammaan Finserve Limited.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, by an order dated August 31, 2026, imposed a monetary penalty of ₹4.20 lakh (Rupees Four Lakh Twenty Thousand only) on Sammaan Finserve Limited (the company) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the directions issued by RBI on 'Early Recognition of Stress and Reporting to Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC)'. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under Section 58G(1)(b) read with Section 58B(5)(aa) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The statutory inspection of the company was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2025. Based on the supervisory findings of non-compliance with RBI directions and related correspondence in that regard, a notice was issued to the company advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for failure to comply with the said directions. After considering the company's reply to the notice and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, RBI found that the following charge against the company was sustained, warranting imposition of monetary penalty: The company failed to report credit information of its borrower to Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC). This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the company with its customers. Further, imposition of this monetary penalty is without prejudice to any other action that may be initiated by RBI against the company.

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63522

8. **RBI imposes monetary penalty on Equifax Credit Information Services Private Limited.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, by an order dated August 31, 2026, imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1,19,400 (Rupees One Lakh Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred only) on Equifax Credit Information Services Private Limited (the company) for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued by RBI on 'Framework for compensation to customers for delayed updation / rectification of credit information'. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under Section 25(1)(iii) read with Section 23(4) of the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005. The statutory inspection of the company was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2025. Based on the supervisory findings of non-compliance with RBI directions and related correspondence in that regard, a notice was issued to the company advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for its failure to comply with the said directions. After considering the company's reply to the notice and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, RBI found that the following charge against the company was sustained, warranting imposition of monetary penalty: The company failed to credit compensation amount to the bank accounts of certain eligible complainants, within the prescribed period. This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the company with its customers. Further, imposition of this monetary penalty is without prejudice to any other action that may be initiated by RBI against the company.

For more information, you can access the RBI press release here:
https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=63523

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

1. **Supreme Court Initiative Seeks to Bring eCourts Services, Legal Aid and Dispute Resolution to Remote Communities.**

The eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India, in collaboration with the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, is set to launch 26 Mobile eSewa Vans on 4 September 2026, marking a significant step towards taking technology-enabled justice services closer to citizens in remote and underserved areas. The flag-off ceremony will be held at the Supreme Court of India, with Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Patron-in-Chief of the eCommittee, scheduled to flag off the first tranche of the mobile units. The event will also be attended by Justice Vikram Nath, Chairman of the eCommittee; Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Law and Justice; and Justice Anjani Kumar Mishra, former Judge of the Allahabad High Court and Vice Chairman of the eCommittee, along with senior judicial and government officials.

First Phase of 73 Van Nationwide Deployment

The 26 vans constitute the first phase of a larger fleet of 73 Mobile eSewa Vans, which are proposed to be progressively deployed across designated High Court and District Court jurisdictions. The initiative has been conceived as an extension of the eCourts Project and seeks to address the digital divide by providing technology-enabled judicial and legal services directly to citizens. The vans are intended to facilitate services including:

- eCourts and digital judicial services;
- digital e-filing and secure electronic payments;
- Mobile Lok Adalats and dispute-resolution services;
- legal literacy and awareness programmes; and
- access to legal aid services.

Equipped with high-speed connectivity, video-conferencing facilities and independent power backup, the vans are also designed to facilitate remote hearings and witness depositions from field locations, subject to applicable judicial and procedural requirements. The Mobile eSewa Van initiative represents an effort to make digital judicial infrastructure more accessible to communities that may otherwise face geographical, technological or informational barriers in accessing court and legal services. By taking eCourts facilities and legal-aid mechanisms directly to underserved areas, the initiative seeks to strengthen accessibility, transparency and efficiency in justice delivery, while simultaneously increasing public awareness about available legal remedies and services. The launch of the Mobile eSewa Vans marks an important development in India's continuing transition towards technology-enabled and citizen-centric justice delivery. The initiative goes beyond digitizing court processes by attempting to take digital judicial services physically closer to those who may not have adequate access to conventional or online legal infrastructure. The success of the programme will ultimately depend on effective deployment, reliable connectivity, coordination with courts and legal-services authorities, and sustained public awareness. If implemented effectively, the initiative could serve as a significant bridge between digital judicial infrastructure and citizens in remote and underserved communities, furthering the broader objective of ensuring that access to justice is not limited by geography or technology.

For more information, you can access the article here:
https://www.livelaw.in/news-updates/cji-surya-kant-to-flag-off-mobile-e-sewa-vans-tomorrow-to-bring-e-courts-closer-to-people-548533

2. CJI Surya Kant to Hold Bilateral Talks with Judicial Leaders at BRICS Chief Justices Forum.

Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with senior judicial leaders from BRICS member states and partner countries during the BRICS Chief Justices' Forum, being hosted by the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi from 4 to 6 September 2026. The three-day judicial forum brings together Chief Justices, Presidents of Supreme Courts and senior judicial representatives to deliberate upon emerging challenges confronting justice systems and explore avenues for greater institutional cooperation.

As part of the opening day's programme, CJI Surya Kant is scheduled to hold bilateral discussions with judicial leaders from Russia, China, Egypt, Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, Belarus, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Iran and Uzbekistan. The participating judicial heads include Igor Krasnov, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation; Zhang Jun, Chief Justice of China and President of the Supreme People's Court; Boulos Gahmy Iskander Boulos, Chief Justice of Egypt's Supreme Constitutional Court; and Sunarto, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Indonesia. Other participating judicial leaders include Mohammed Hamad Al Badi Al Dhaheri, President of the UAE Federal Supreme Court; Andrei Shved, Chairman of the Supreme Court of Belarus; Aslambek Mergaliyev, Chairman of the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan; Mahube Betty Molemela, President of the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa; Ayatollah Gholam Hossein Mohseni-Eje'I, Chief Justice of Iran; and Malikakhon Kalandarova, Deputy Chairperson of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan. The bilateral engagements are expected to facilitate direct dialogue on matters of common judicial interest and strengthen cooperation between participating institutions. The substantive deliberations of the Forum will centre on four principal areas:

i. Mediation and International Commercial Disputes

   Judicial leaders will examine the growing importance of mediation as an effective mechanism for resolving commercial disputes in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

ii. Cross-Border Enforcement of Arbitral Awards

   Discussions will address challenges associated with enforcing arbitral awards across jurisdictions and the scope for greater procedural coordination and harmonisation.

iii. Artificial Intelligence and the Judiciary

   The Forum will consider the expanding role of artificial intelligence and digital technologies in justice delivery, including their potential benefits and implications for judicial systems.

iv. Judicial Leadership and Sustainable Development

The final theme will examine the judiciary's role in areas such as ecological governance, environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable energy systems.

The second day of the Forum will feature addresses by heads of judicial delegations. Judicial representatives from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa and the UAE, along with partner countries including Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda and Uzbekistan, are expected to participate. The discussions are intended to provide an international platform for sharing judicial experiences, examining emerging legal challenges and identifying areas for institutional cooperation. The Forum assumes significance at a time when judicial systems are increasingly required to address issues that transcend national boundaries. Cross-border commercial disputes, international arbitration, technological transformation and environmental governance require greater dialogue and understanding among judicial institutions.

The focus on artificial intelligence is particularly relevant as courts across jurisdictions explore technology-enabled systems while simultaneously considering issues of accuracy, accountability, transparency and judicial independence. Similarly, discussions on mediation and enforcement of arbitral awards reflect the growing importance of efficient dispute-resolution mechanisms in facilitating international commerce. The BRICS Chief Justices' Forum 2026 provides India with an important platform to strengthen judicial diplomacy and institutional engagement with BRICS members and partner countries. The bilateral meetings led by CJI Surya Kant, coupled with discussions on commercial dispute resolution, arbitration, artificial intelligence and sustainable development, are expected to contribute to a deeper exchange of judicial experiences. More broadly, the Forum reflects the evolving role of judiciaries in addressing global legal and technological challenges. Its significance will ultimately lie in translating judicial dialogue into practical cooperation, improved dispute-resolution mechanisms and stronger institutional responses to emerging challenges in the administration of justice.

For more information, you can access the article here:
https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/cji-surya-kant-to-hold-bilateral-talks-with-judicial-leaders-at-brics-chief-justices-forum-548457

3. Supreme Court Sets Aside ₹425.27-Crore Customs Penalty Over AI-Generated Fake Citations.

The Supreme Court of India has set aside a ₹425.27-crore Customs penalty after finding that the adjudicating authority had relied upon non-existent judgments, fabricated citations and legal propositions that appeared to have originated from AI-generated material. A Division Bench comprising Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Sheel Nagu held that such reliance fundamentally affected the sustainability of the adjudication order and reiterated that artificial intelligence may assist decision-making but cannot substitute the independent application of judicial or quasi-judicial mind. The dispute arose from an Order-in-Original dated 8 October 2025 passed by the Additional Commissioner of Customs, Surat, imposing a penalty of ₹425,27,99,100 under Section 114 of the Customs Act, 1962 over alleged misdeclaration of natural diamonds as lab-grown diamonds to attract a lower tariff. The Gujarat High Court had declined to interfere with the order on 20 January 2026, following which the matter was challenged before the Supreme Court. During its examination, the Supreme Court independently verified the judgments and articles relied upon in the Customs order. It found that several authorities were non-existent or supported by fake citations, while some genuine judgments did not contain the legal propositions attributed to them. The Court concluded that the material appeared to be the result of AI hallucination or inaccurate Referring to its earlier decision in Pooja Ramesh Singh v. Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd., the Court reiterated the need for strict verification of AI-generated legal material. It also noted the Draft Regulations for Use of Artificial Intelligence in Courts, 2026. "Assistance can never be substituted for adjudication." It further observed that AI may serve as a useful support mechanism, but placing it effectively in control of adjudication would be "imprudent and dangerous." The Supreme Court consequently set aside both the Gujarat High Court order and the Customs Order-in-Original. The proceedings have been revived for fresh adjudication by an officer of the same rank, other than the officer who passed the original order. The Court also left it to the competent authority to consider whether any action against the author of the original order was warranted in accordance with law. The ruling carries wider significance for the growing use of generative AI in legal research and justice administration. While AI can improve efficiency and assist in locating legal material, every authority generated or identified through AI must be independently verified before being relied upon. The judgment is particularly relevant to courts, tribunals, administrative authorities and legal practitioners, where incorrect precedents can directly affect the legality and credibility of decisions. The Supreme Court has drawn a clear line between AI-assisted adjudication and AI-dependent adjudication. The decision demonstrates that technological convenience cannot override the fundamental requirements of legal accuracy, verification and independent application of mind.

For more information, you can access the article here:
https://www.scconline.com/blog/post/2026/09/03/supreme-court-sets-aside-%E2%82%B9425-crore-customs-penalty-over-ai-generated-fake-citations/

You may send your suggestions at niyati@asalegal.in

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