



Monthly Newsletter

SARVAANK
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01 September 2026 to 30 September 2026



Securities and Exchange Board of India

Ease of regulatory compliances for FPIs investing only in Government Securities Dated 7th September 2026

Securities and Exchange Board of India (“SEBI”) has issued a circular to reduce the compliance burden on Foreign Portfolio Investors (“FPIs”) that invest only in Government Securities. Earlier, by its circular dated 10th September, 2025, SEBI had said that FPIs investing only in Government Securities under the Fully Accessible Route need not give investor group details. Since then, the Reserve Bank of India (“RBI”), by its circular dated 5th June, 2026, has removed the concentration limit for FPIs investing in Government Securities through the General Route. As this limit no longer applies, there is no need to identify investor groups. SEBI has therefore changed the relevant sub-para in Part A of the Master Circular for Foreign Portfolio Investors, Designated Depository Participants and Eligible Foreign Investors dated 30th May, 2024, and it now says that all FPIs investing only in Government Securities are not required to furnish investor group details. Depositories, Custodians and Designated Depository Participants have been asked to make the necessary changes in their systems. The circular is effective immediately.

This Circular can be accessed [Here](#).

In this newsletter you can expect:

Ease of regulatory compliances for FPIs investing only in Government Securities

Relaxation in timeline with respect to Accredited Investor mandate for Angel Funds

Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) (Amendment) Rules, 2026

Cabinet Approves Higher EPFO Wage Ceiling of Rs. 25,000

Key Decisions of the SEBI Board Meeting

Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Act, 2026



Relaxation in timeline with respect to Accredited Investor mandate for Angel Funds Dated 7th September 2026

SEBI has given more time to existing Angel Funds to follow the Accredited Investor requirement. Angel Funds registered with SEBI on or before 10th September, 2025 had to comply by 8th September 2026. As the AIF industry asked for more time, SEBI has extended this date to 31st March, 2027. Until then, such Angel Funds must not offer investment opportunities to more than 200 non-Accredited Investors, and after 31st March, 2027 they cannot accept money from Non-Accredited Investors for investment in an investee company. Investors who have already invested can continue to hold their investments as per the Private Placement Memorandum (“PPM”) and fund documents. This does not change the rule for Angel Funds registered after 10th September, 2025, which must offer investments to Accredited Investors only. SEBI has amended para 8.1.2 of Chapter 8 of the Master Circular for AIFs dated 3rd June, 2026 accordingly, and all other provisions remain the same. The circular is effective immediately.

This Circular can be accessed [Here](#).

Key Decisions of the SEBI Board Meeting Dated 24th September 2026

At its Board meeting held on 24th September, 2026, Securities and Exchange Board of India (“SEBI”) approved three measures aimed at opening new routes for raising and investing capital. First, SEBI approved a framework to allow depository receipts (“DRs”) to be issued against units of Real Estate Investment Trusts (“REITs”) and publicly listed Infrastructure Investment Trusts (“InvITs”). This will let overseas investors get exposure to Indian REIT and InvIT units through a security issued and traded in another market, and gives these trusts one more way to attract foreign capital. The detailed operational framework will be issued separately. Second, after a comprehensive review of the SEBI (Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 2020, SEBI approved changes that allow portfolio managers to invest in IPOs and primary-market debt issuances and give more flexibility to invest in overseas securities and specified unlisted debt, subject to conditions. A separate route has also been approved for portfolio management services that invest in mutual funds, with a minimum investment of INR 25 lakhs. Third, SEBI approved a framework that allows Foreign Portfolio Investors (“FPIs”) to participate in physically settled, non-agricultural commodity derivative contracts, subject to prescribed safeguards. The detailed rules for these decisions are yet to follow, and their real impact will depend on those rules.

The Press Release can be accessed [Here](#).

Master Circular for Debenture Trustees Dated 28th September 2026

Securities and Exchange Board of India (“SEBI”) has issued a new Master Circular for Debenture Trustees (“DTs”), which brings all existing SEBI circulars for DTs together in one place, chapter-wise. It replaces the earlier Master Circular dated 13th August, 2025, and also supersedes the Circulars dated 25th November, 2025 (on the timeline for issuers to submit information to DTs, changes to Chapter IV on Recovery Expense Fund, and terms for DTs carrying out activities outside SEBI’s purview) and 28th April, 2026 (extension of timeline for those activities). Anything done under the old Master Circular before it was rescinded is treated as done under the new one, and pending applications continue as if made under it. The Master Circular has 17 chapters covering, among other things, registration of DTs, due diligence, security and covenant monitoring, recovery expense fund, security cover certificate, disclosures on the DT’s website, investor grievance redressal, default and remedies, outsourcing, conflict of interest, and registration with FINNET 2.0 of Financial Intelligence Unit-India. It includes the requirement that issuers deposit 0.01% of the issue size (maximum INR 25 lakh) as recovery expense fund with the Designated Stock Exchange, and that DTs carrying out activities not regulated by SEBI must do so through a separate business unit, to be implemented by 27th October, 2026.

This Master Circular can be accessed [Here](#).



MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION OF INDIA

Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) (Amendment) Rules, 2026 Dated 09th September 2026

The Department of Consumer Affairs has notified the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) (Amendment) Rules, 2026 ("Amendment Rules"), which amend the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020 made under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The Amendment Rules come into force from 1st January, 2027, which gives e-commerce entities about four months to comply. The key changes are: (i) every e-commerce entity must become a partner of the National Consumer Helpline ("NCH"); (ii) the grievance officer must acknowledge a complaint within 48 hours and resolve it within one month; (iii) search results or search indexes cannot be manipulated based on the user's search query; (iv) sponsored listings must be clearly and prominently marked; (v) when a price reduction is announced, the reduced price must be shown along with the prior price, which is the lowest price in the previous 30 days; (vi) the seller's name must be shown on the invoice in the same font size as the name of the e-commerce entity; (vii) entities must follow the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023, do a yearly self-audit and display a compliance certificate on the platform; (viii) marketplaces must explain in plain language the main parameters, in order of importance, that decide the ranking of sellers and goods; (ix) marketplaces must show detailed seller information (such as business name, address, customer care number, email, ratings and GST or MSME number) and product information (such as country of origin, expiry date, return, refund, warranty and delivery details); (x) marketplaces cannot use consumer information to sell goods through sellers having a common brand or name, or to promote any seller as associated with the marketplace, without express and affirmative consent; (xi) marketplaces cannot collect bundled fees for unrelated services, except for loyalty or membership programmes; and (xii) for imported goods, the importer's details and the full name of the country of origin must be mentioned.

This Amendment Rules can be accessed [Here](#).

MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

Cabinet Approves Higher EPFO Wage Ceiling of Rs. 25,000 Dated 16th September 2026

The Union Cabinet has approved an increase in the wage ceiling for mandatory coverage under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation ("EPFO") from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000 per month. This was announced by Union Minister of Labour & Employment, and the new ceiling takes effect from 17th September 2026. The ceiling had not changed since September 2014, even though wages, minimum wages and living costs have gone up. At present, employees who join an establishment at wages above INR 15,000 per month are not automatically covered under the mandatory EPF framework. After this change, employees earning between INR 15,000 and INR 25,000 per month will become eligible for mandatory coverage. They will get access to the three schemes run by EPFO, namely the Employees Provident Fund ("EPF"), the Employees' Pension Scheme ("EPS") and the Employees Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme ("EDLI"), as per the applicable statutory and scheme provisions. The proposal was recommended by the Expenditure Finance Committee on 16th June, 2026. The yearly Government cost is estimated at about INR 11,339 crore, against the existing yearly budgetary support of about INR 10,250 crore, and the estimated cost over five years is about INR 56,696 crore. The Ministry of Labour & Employment and EPFO will now take the necessary statutory and administrative steps to implement the decision.

This Press Release can be accessed [Here](#).



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Act, 2026 Dated 4th September 2026

The Government of Karnataka has passed the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Act, 2026 ("Karnataka S&E Amendment Act") to amend the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1961 ("Karnataka S&E Act"), with the aim of simplifying compliance, reducing procedures and giving establishments more flexibility. It received the Governor's assent on 3rd September, 2026, was published in the Karnataka Gazette on 4th September, 2026 and has come into force immediately. The key changes are: (i) establishments with 10 or more workers that are already registered under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 ("OSH Code") no longer need to register separately under the Karnataka S&E Act, and godowns within 100 metres of the main establishment also need no separate registration, but establishments with fewer than 10 workers that are not registered under the OSH Code must still register; (ii) registration, fees and closure intimation must now be done digitally, the Inspector must communicate refusal of registration within 7 days (earlier 30 days), and registration stays valid until closure, so renewal is no longer needed; (iii) employers must issue a service certificate within 7 days of the employee's application and cannot keep original educational, experience or other documents of employees; (iv) references to the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 and the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 are replaced with the Code on Wages, 2019 and the Code on Social Security, 2020; (v) for women working night shifts, the detailed transport rules (such as driver verification, route control, security guards, control room and emergency app) are removed, but employers must still provide free transport with security measures and GPS; (vi) penalties are increased, for example the maximum fine for a first offence is now INR 3,000 (earlier INR 1,000) and for a second or later offence INR 5,000 (earlier INR 2,000), and non-compliance with rules on employment of women and children now attracts a fine of not less than INR 10,000 instead of imprisonment and/or fine; (vii) the Labour Officer can compound an offence on payment of 50% of the fine for a first offence and 75% for a second or later offence, but the same offence committed more than twice within one year cannot be compounded, and no penalty can be imposed without giving a reasonable chance of being heard; and (viii) an appeal can be filed within 30 days against a compounding penalty order, and the appellate authority must decide it within 60 days.

This Act can be accessed [Here](#).



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