

**RBI**

**Remittances to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) under the Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS)**

- On a review and with an objective to align the LRS for IFSCs set up under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019 vis-à-vis other foreign jurisdictions, it has been decided to amend the directions under para 2 (ii) of the aforementioned A.P. (DIR Series) Circular dated February 16, 2021, as – “Resident Individuals may also open a Foreign Currency Account (FCA) in IFSCs, for making the above permissible investments under LRS.”
- Thus, the condition of repatriating any funds lying idle in the account for a period up to 15 days from the date of its receipt is withdrawn with immediate effect, which shall now be governed by the provisions of the scheme as contained in the aforesaid Master Direction on LRS.

**RBI review General Credit Card (GCC) Facility**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reviewed the Revised General Credit Card (GCC) Scheme and issued revised instructions on GCC.
- The GCC scheme shall henceforth be called ‘General Credit Card (GCC) Facility’.
- The instructions shall apply to all banks which are eligible to issue credit cards under the Master Direction – Credit Card and Debit Card – Issuance and Conduct Directions, dated April 21, 2022.
- Individuals / entities sanctioned working capital facilities for non-farm entrepreneurial activities which are eligible for classification under the priority sector guidelines, may be issued General Credit Cards.

**Simplification of the application process for registration of Core Investment Companies**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has undertaken a comprehensive review of the system of processing of applications for registration as Core Investment Companies (CICs) to make the registration process smoother and hassle free. Accordingly, the application form has been revamped to make it structured and aligned with the extant CIC Regulations.
- Also, the number of documents to be furnished along with the application form has been reduced to 18 to make the registration process user-friendly.

- The revised application form together with an indicative list of documents / information to be furnished along with the application to be uploaded on the RBI website..

**Framework for acceptance of Green Deposits**

- Climate change has been recognised as one of the most critical challenges faced by the global society and economy in the 21st century. The financial sector can play a pivotal role in mobilizing resources and their allocation thereof in green activities/projects. Green finance is also progressively gaining traction in India.
- To encourage regulated entities (REs) to offer green deposits to customers, protect interest of the depositors, aid customers to achieve their sustainability agenda, address greenwashing concerns and help augment the flow of credit to green activities/projects, RBI has developed a Framework for acceptance of Green Deposits.
- REs shall issue green deposits as cumulative/non-cumulative deposits. On maturity, the green deposits would be renewed or withdrawn at the option of the depositor. The green deposits shall be denominated in Indian Rupees only.

**Online submission of Form A2 for Authorised Dealers Category II**

RBI has decided to permit AD Category II entities to allow online submission of Form A2. AD Category II entities shall frame appropriate guidelines with the approval of their Board within the ambit of extant statutory and regulatory framework.

**Amendment to the Master Direction on KYC**

- The Regulated entities (REs) have to undertake Customer Due Diligence (CDD), as per the process laid out in Master Directions on Know your Customer (KYC).
- RBI has amended the Master Direction on KYC to
  - a) align the instructions with the recent amendments carried out in the Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005,
  - b) incorporate instructions in terms of the Government Order dated January 30, 2023 titled "Procedure for Implementation of Section 12A of the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005 (WMD Act, 2005)
  - c) update certain instructions in accordance with FATF recommendations; and
  - d) refine certain extant instructions post review.

**SEBI**

**SEBI introduces new Advertisement code for investment advisers, research analysts**

- SEBI has barred investment advisers (IAs) and research analysts (RAs) from using extensive technical or legal terminology or promising guarantee of assured return to investors in their communications.
- These compliances are part of SEBI's new advertisement code to further strengthen the conduct of IAs and RAs, while issuing any advertisement.
- As per the new code, advertisements will include all forms of communications, issued by or on behalf of IA/RA, including pamphlets, research reports, newspaper or TV Ads, mails, electronic messaging and social media platforms, etc.

**SEBI asks AIFs to provide option of Direct Plans**

- SEBI asked Alternative Investment Funds(AIFs) to provide the option of direct plans for its investors.
- Through such plans, investors can participate in an AIF without having to pay any distribution fee or placement fee.

- AIFs are funds that cater to wealthy individuals willing to invest more than ₹1 crore in a single go. The regulator has also asked the AIFs to disclose distribution fees to the investors while on-boarding them.
- Also, for category III AIFs, which invest in listed securities, the distribution fee needs to be charged on a trail basis.
- These measures have been brought in to enhance the transparency and curb mis selling

**MCA**

**The Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Amendment Rules, 2023**

MCA has notified the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Amendment Rules, 2023 and the same shall come into force w.e.f. May 1, 2023. The following amendments have been made-

- a) An application for removal of name of company under Section 248 (2) shall be made to Registrar, Center for processing Accelerated Corporate Exit in Form No. STK-2 along with fee of INR 10,000/-.
- b) Requirement of attaching a copy of the Special resolution duly certified by each of the directors of the Company or consent of seventy five percent of the members of the Company with Form STK 2 shall stands deleted.
- c) The Registrar, Center for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit established under Section 396(1) shall be the Registrar of Companies for the purpose of exercising functional jurisdiction of processing and disposal of applications made in Form no. STK-2 and all matters related thereto under Section 248 having territorial jurisdiction all over India.