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SEBI TO EASE NORMS FOR INVESTORS WILLING TO INVEST IN START-UPS

To provide a boost for startups seeking to get listed, capital markets regulator Sebi's board approved easing of norms for accreditation of investors willing to invest in such new-age entities.

Under this framework, the investor having a demat account will make an application to the stock exchanges or depositories to be recognized as an 'accredited investor (AI)'.

The exchanges and depositories will grant accreditation to these investors for a period of three years, after ascertaining their eligibility.

Source: Live Mint

CABINET APPROVES PROMULGATION OF ORDINANCE TO AMEND SEZ ACT

Trusts now can approach the government to set up units in special economic zones as the Cabinet approved the promulgation of an Ordinance for amendment to the SEZ Act, 2005.

"The amendment will enable a trust to be considered for grant of permission to set up a unit in SEZs," an official statement said.
It said the amendment would also provide flexibility to the central government to include 'trusts' in the definition of a 'person', any entity that the central government may notify from time to time and also facilitate investments.

Source: Live Mint

SEBI BOARD APPROVES LOWERING OF FEES FOR BROKERS, EXCHANGES

Seeking to make it more cost-effective to trade in Indian stock markets, regulator Sebi's board approved lowering of fees charged from brokers, stock exchanges and the companies seeking to get listed.
At a meeting, the board approved reduction in fees payable by brokers by 33.33 per cent from ₹15 per crore of transactions to ₹10, for agri-commodity derivative transactions it would be reduced by 93.33 per cent from ₹15 to just Re 1.
It also approved a proposal to grant permanent registration to custodians, instead of periodical renewal every year.
It was also decided to reduce the fees payable by the issuers for one refiling of offer documents by 50 per cent from the current levels, if the refiling is done within one year of validity of observation letter.
In order to rationalize the regulatory fee payable by the stock exchanges, it has been decided to reduce this fee by 80%.
In another important proposal, it approved changes in norms for debenture trustees, which the regulator would said help secure the interest of the debenture holders and enable Debenture Trustees (DTs) perform their duties effectively and promptly. Cont…..

Cont……Under the approved changes, the minimum net worth requirement of a DT would be increased from existing ₹2 crore to ₹10 crore.
The requirement of calling for a meeting of debenture holders in the event of default in payment obligation by issuer in case of public issue of debt securities will not be obligatory.
Besides, e-voting will be a valid option for DTs to obtain consent of the debenture holders wherever applicable.
In case of delay in creation of charge in favour of DT within the specified period, the issuer will need to pay additional interest as specified in the Trust Deed and disclosed in the Offer Document to the debenture holders for the period of delay in creation of charge.
In case of issuers having both listed equity and debt securities, the certificate from the DT as per the requirements would need to be submitted to the stock exchanges by the issuer within seven working days from the date of submission of financial results to the stock exchanges.
Source: Live Mint

INDIA TO PUSH FOR STRICT SOURCE COUNTRY NORMS IN FTA WITH PERU

India will push for stricter source country criteria while offering tariff concessions to Peru at the ongoing negotiations for its proposed free-trade agreement with the South American nation.
The source country norms, called rules of origin in trade parlance, will help reduce India's rising trade deficit with the country, officials said. Rules of origin are the criteria needed to determine the source country of a product based on which they get tariff concessions or are subjected to duties.

Source: Economic Times

TAXPAYERS CAN COMPARE TAX LIBAILITY DECLARED IN FINAL, SUMMARY GST RETURNS FORMS: GSTN

The GST Network said businesses registered under GST can now compare the tax liability declared as well as input tax credit claimed in their final and summary sales returns forms.
The GSTN, which handles the technology backbone for the new indirect tax, has provided a facility to the taxpayers to view and download a report on tax liability as declared in their form GSTR- 1 (final sales return) and as declared and paid in their return filed in form GSTR-3B (summary sales return).
While GSTR-1 for a month is filed by the 11th day of the succeeding month, GSTR-3B is filed and taxes paid by the 20th day of the succeeding month.
The new facility enables the taxpayers to view these two liabilities in one table for each return period at one place, which can be compared. This will enable taxpayers to make good of any differences between the two forms filed by them on GST portal, GSTN said.
Further, the GSTN has also provided taxpayers information regarding data of Input tax credit (ITC) as claimed in their form GSTR 3B and as accrued in form GSTR 2A, based on the return uploaded by the supplier.
This functionality has been provided in Returns dashboard on the GST Portal to taxpayers under the headings "Comparison of liability declared and ITC claimed".
"This facility will help taxpayers in reconciling their liability and ITC details quickly. They can view the monthly comparison as well as cumulative comparison upto the month, on the GST Portal in the tables provided. This will help them in taking corrective steps," GSTN CEO Prakash Kumar said.
Source: Economic Times

SEBI LIFTS FOREIGN INVESTMENT CAP IN CORPORATE BONDS

Markets regulator Sebi withdrew the 20% limit on investments by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in corporate bonds of an entity.
In a notification, the regulator said the restriction is being withdrawn in accordance with a circular issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Source: Live Mint

GOVT BRINGS IN NEW POLICY TO REVIVE STALLED HIGHWAY PROJECTS

he government has unveiled a policy for resolving stalled highway projects worth nearly Rs 30,000 crore, including those where proceedings have been initiated against the companies before the bankruptcy tribunal.
The move is aimed at unlocking money of both lenders and private players, including crisis-hit IL&FS, which is caught in about 28-30 projects as work has come to a standstill due to shortage of funds.
According to a road transport ministry circular issued on March 9, agencies such as NHAI can foreclose the contract by signing a supplementary agreement. It said the authority will a make full and final payment to the private player for the "value of work done" or 90% of the debt due, whichever is lower. "The value of work done will be arrived at after a detailed assessment of the progress and the debt due will be as per the contract agreement, which mentions the exact cost of the project," said an official. Nearly all the stuck projects were being implemented on a build operate and transfer (BOTToll) mode. The circular also defines the projects that would qualify for such a resolution — projects where work has stopped due to inability of the contractor or concessionaire on account of proceedings initiated before the NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code or default on account of both the clients, which could be NHAI, PWD and the private player. "Once the private player exits, we can invite bids for completing the project and start work. Similarly, the lenders would get back some portion of the loan, rather than losing the entire amount. In the existing concession agreement there is no provision for any payment, if the contract is terminated before total or provisional completion of the project due to contractor's default," said an official.
Source: Economic Times

ABACUS LEGAL GROUP
ADVOCATES

R-116 Greater Kailash Part-1. New Delhi 110048, India
Ph# (+91 11) 41633366/5/4
Email: abacus@abacuslegalgroup.net
Website: www.abacuslegalgroup.net