



BRICS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

BUILDING BUSINESSES BRICS AND BEYOND

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

NEW MEMBER**PATRON MEMBER****SHRI HARVANSH P CHAWLA****MANAGING PARTNER,
K. R. CHAWLA & CO**

We are delighted to welcome Mr. Harvansh P. Chawla as our Patron Member. Mr. Chawla is the Managing Partner of the prestigious law firm K.R. Chawla & Co., renowned for advising leading global clients such as Northrop Grumman, Singapore Airlines, and Denso Corporation. A pioneer in India's infrastructure and privatization legal landscape, he has worked with the Ministry of Finance on counter guarantees and led landmark deals like ABN-AMRO's takeover of Bank of America's retail business. His expertise spans project finance, corporate law, and cross-border transactions. Beyond law, he is a dedicated social contributor, supporting aged care, legal education, and charitable institutions. We are honored to have him join the BRICS CCI community and look forward to his valued contributions.

NEW MEMBER

CORPORATE MEMBER

CHINTELS INDIA



We are pleased to welcome Mr. Prashant Solomon, Director at Chintels India, as part of our community. A key member of the governing body of CREDAI NCR, Mr. Solomon brings deep expertise in real estate and a strong commitment to ethical development. With an academic background in History from St. Stephen's College and a Law degree, he began his career as a journalist with MidDay before transitioning into real estate. An avid writer, he has authored two books and contributes regularly to The Speaking Tree and Inner Voice. Deeply engaged in philanthropy, he actively supports organizations like United Christian Action and the Nora Solomon Foundation. We look forward to his insights and contributions.

NEW MEMBER

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER



DR. HIMANSHU SHARMA
DIRECTOR
POLO PROMOTERS LTD.

We are honoured to welcome Mr. Himanshu Sharma as our Individual Member. A distinguished social worker, public policy advocate, and entrepreneur based in New Delhi, Mr. Sharma has led impactful initiatives in healthcare, youth leadership, and human rights. As Director of Polo Promoters Ltd. and founder of Aamari Resorts and Aamari Grocers, he exemplifies how business can drive community empowerment. Recognized with accolades such as an Honorary Doctorate in Social Work and the “Entrepreneur of the Year” award, Mr. Sharma brings a visionary blend of social commitment and entrepreneurial excellence to the BRICS CCI community. His work has consistently focused on empowering marginalized communities and promoting inclusive development. We look forward to his valuable insights and active engagement in advancing the BRICS CCI mission of innovation, collaboration, and sustainable growth.

BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS

BRICS CCI Strengthens Ties with Brazilian Counterparts

On 06th May, 2025, in a significant diplomatic engagement, **Mr. Sameep Shastri, BRICS CCI, Vice Chairman; Mr. Atul Banshal, Executive Director-International Affairs, BRICS CCI and Ms. Ankita Sachdev, Joint Director, BRICS CCI** met with their **Brazilian counterparts H.E. Mr. Kenneth Félix Haczynski da Nóbrega, Ambassador, Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Mr. Pedro Piacesi De Souza, Second Secretary, Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil**, reinforcing the commitment to multilateral cooperation and sustainable economic growth within the BRICS framework.

The discussions emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts to address global economic challenges and the role of emerging economies in shaping a more inclusive and equitable world order.



BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS

BRICS CCI Chandigarh Chapter Engages with IAS Amit Dhaka, CEO- Punjab Bureau of Investment Promotion



We're proud to share that **Mr. Deepak Shukla, Regional Director – BRICS CCI Chandigarh Chapter, and Mr. Vikas Vij, Member – BRICS CCI**, held a constructive meeting with **IAS Amit Dhaka, CEO – Punjab Bureau of Investment Promotion**.

The dialogue focused on exploring collaborative opportunities to drive sustainable development and promote investment growth in Punjab. A shared vision to boost regional economic advancement marked the spirit of the meeting.

BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS

BRICS CCI Meets TiE Chandigarh Leadership

The BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI) had a highly productive and forward-looking meeting with the leadership of **TiE Chandigarh** to explore avenues for strategic collaboration in the areas of trade, innovation, and entrepreneurship. This meaningful engagement underscored the shared commitment of both organizations to fostering inclusive economic development and promoting global synergies.



Key discussions revolved around enabling cross-border partnerships that would empower entrepreneurs and businesses to access new markets across BRICS nations. The meeting also emphasized the importance of nurturing the regional startup ecosystem by facilitating mentorship, access to funding, and knowledge exchange between stakeholders.

A shared vision emerged for driving sustainable economic growth by leveraging innovation-led initiatives, policy advocacy, and collaborative platforms. Both BRICS CCI and TiE Chandigarh expressed a strong intent to co-create programs, including joint events, accelerators, and delegations, that can deepen economic and cultural ties between BRICS countries and the dynamic entrepreneurial landscape of Chandigarh and the northern India region.

BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS

Strengthening Civic-Industry Collaboration: BRICS CCI Meets ADGP Punjab



We are pleased to share that **Mr. Deepak Shukla, Regional Director – Chandigarh Chapter, BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI)**, recently paid a courtesy visit to **Mr. A.S. Rai, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Punjab Police**.

He was accompanied by **Mr. Rahul Mittal, esteemed Member of BRICS CCI**, and **Mr. Madhav Shukla**. The meeting served as a meaningful opportunity to engage in dialogue on leadership, community development, and strategic collaboration.

The conversation highlighted shared interests in promoting sustainable growth, fostering public-private partnerships, and exploring new avenues for constructive engagement between civic leadership and industry stakeholders.

Insights were exchanged on the importance of collective leadership in driving inclusive progress and strengthening socio-economic frameworks.

BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS

BRICS CCI Leadership Meets Hon'ble MoS for Health to Align on National Healthcare Vision



This interaction reflects BRICS CCI's commitment to building bridges between institutional leadership and forward-thinking initiatives that contribute to regional stability, innovation, and long-term development. We are pleased to share that BRICS CCI leadership—**Mr. Sameep Shastri (Vice Chairman)**, **Mr. Prann Sharma (Executive Director - Strategy & President, Healthcare Vertical)**, and **Ms. Ankita Sachdev (Joint Director)**—had a fruitful meeting with **Shri Prataprao Jadhav Ji, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India**.

The discussion focused on aligning BRICS CCI's healthcare initiatives with India's vision for a healthier, resilient nation. The upcoming **BRICS CCI Healthcare Summit 2025** was also discussed, reaffirming our commitment to innovation, accessibility, and global healthcare collaboration.

BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS

Amplifying Women's Voices: BRICS CCI at the Forefront of Global Dialogue in Moscow



The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BRICS CCI) proudly participated in the **II BRICS Women's Entrepreneurship Forum, held in Moscow, Russia from 15–16 May 2025**. This prestigious event brought together women leaders, policymakers, and changemakers from across the BRICS nations to foster dialogue, share best practices, and build stronger networks that support women-led growth in business and beyond.

Representing BRICS CCI were **Ms. Ruby Sinha, President of the BRICS CCI Women Empowerment (WE) Vertical**, and **Ms. Ankita Sachdev, Joint Director, BRICS CCI**. Their participation reinforced the organization's steadfast commitment to promoting inclusive economic growth, gender equity, and international collaboration.

The forum served as a key milestone in advancing BRICS CCI's mission to empower women through strategic policy dialogue, capacity-building initiatives, and cross-border partnerships—paving the way for a more resilient and gender-balanced global economy.



BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS

BRICS CCI Chandigarh and TiE Chandigarh Sign MoU to Advance Innovation and Global Trade

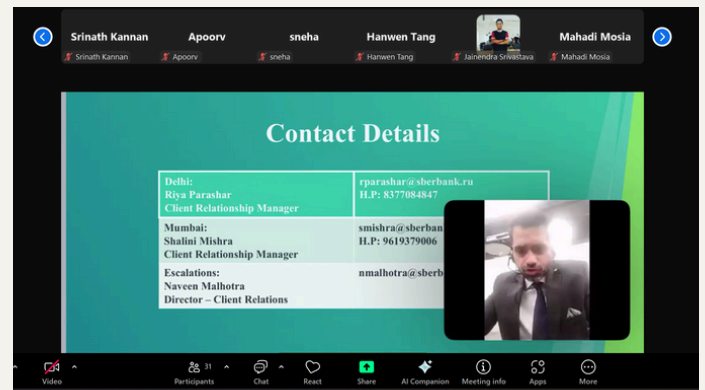
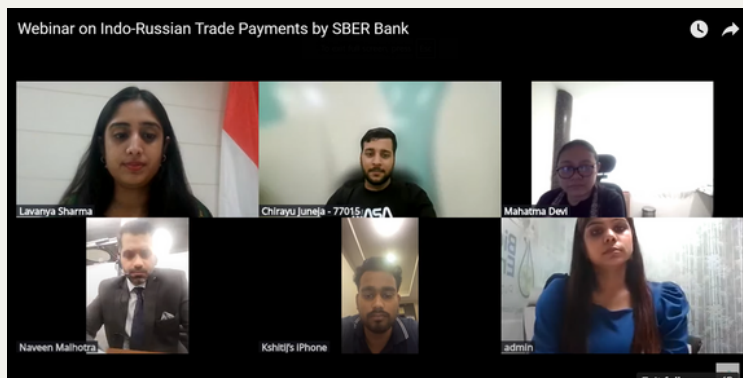


We are proud to share that **Mr. Deepak Shukla, Regional Director, BRICS CCI – Chandigarh Chapter**, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Mr. Satish Kumar Arora, President of TiE Chandigarh**, to strengthen ties in innovation, trade, and cross-border collaboration. This strategic partnership aims to unlock new growth opportunities, facilitate global market access, and promote deeper integration between the Chandigarh startup ecosystem and BRICS nations.

Together, BRICS CCI and TiE Chandigarh are committed to building a more inclusive, connected, and future-ready entrepreneurial ecosystem—one that empowers startups and fosters global economic partnerships.

BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS

Webinar: Payment Mechanisms in Rupee-Ruble Bilateral Trade



BRICS CCI, in collaboration with **Sberbank**, organized a webinar on **"Payment Mechanisms in Rupee-Ruble Bilateral Trade."** The session brought together experts from the banking and trade sectors to discuss emerging frameworks for facilitating smoother cross-border transactions between India and Russia. Key topics included alternative payment systems, use of national currencies, and strategies to reduce dependence on third-party currencies. The discussion highlighted opportunities in sectors like energy, defense, and pharmaceuticals, while emphasizing the need for policy support and institutional collaboration. The session also addressed regulatory challenges and practical considerations for businesses engaging in bilateral trade. It served as a valuable platform for fostering dialogue and promoting sustainable economic cooperation between the two nations.

BRICS AND BEYOND NEWS

India invites BRICS nations to boost startup cooperation

India launched the BRICS Startup Knowledge Hub on January 31, 2025, inviting all BRICS nations to collaborate on innovation and share best practices. The move was highlighted at the 9th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting in Brasilia, where leaders stressed the need for deeper industrial cooperation and inclusive growth.

Source: [ndtvprofit](#)



BRICS Esports Championship 2025

India secured a Top 8 finish in the Tekken 8 tournament at the BRICS Esports Championship 2025, held at VK Play Arena, Moscow, from May 31 to June 1.

China's XCC (Weibo Gaming) won the title and a prize of \$19,434, followed by KaizokuLars (Turkey) with \$11,013, and Strog (Russia) with \$6,478.

Matches are available on the Esports Federation of India (ESFI) YouTube channel.

Source: [IGN India](#)



BRICS AND BEYOND NEWS

India urges ethical AI, stronger cultural property laws at BRICS forum

At the 10th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting in Brasilia, India urged BRICS to lead civilisationally by promoting cultural diversity, ethical AI, and stronger laws against illicit trade in cultural property. A Joint Declaration was adopted focusing on culture and AI, climate change, cultural property, and BRICS festivals. India also highlighted the return of 642 heritage items since 2014 and held talks with Brazil, South Africa, and the UAE on cultural cooperation. Source: [Business Standard](#)



BRICS seminar discusses future of cooperation in sustainable public procurement

The BRICS Seminar on Sustainable Public Procurement, held on May 27 in Brasilia, highlighted the role of public procurement in promoting sustainability, innovation, and economic development. Officials from BRICS nations shared experiences on green infrastructure, local industry support, digital tools, and public sector training. The seminar concluded with a commitment to include its key insights in the final BRICS declaration. Source: [BRICS Info](#)



ARTICLES



CA ANJALI GUPTA
PARTNER , SPNG & CO
INDIVIDUAL MEMBER, BRICS CCI

A New Era in Taxation

India to Introduce Revised Direct Tax Code

In a landmark move aimed at simplifying and modernizing India's tax system, the Government of India has announced plans to implement a new Direct Tax Code (DTC), set to come into effect from April 1, 2026. This long-anticipated overhaul marks a significant shift in the country's approach to direct taxation and is expected to have wide-reaching implications for individuals, businesses, and the overall economic environment.

Background and need for Direct Tax code

India's current direct tax framework, primarily governed by the Income Tax Act of 1961, has seen numerous amendments over the decades. While these changes have helped address evolving economic conditions, they have also led to complexity and a lack of coherence. The introduction of a new Direct Tax Code is an attempt to streamline, simplify, and modernize this framework in line with global best practices.

The DTC will also be in-line with the global standards making the taxation simpler for both residents and non-resident taxpayers. The DTC will aim at enhancing transparency and make tax compliance easier for both individuals and businesses. Additionally, it will also focus on simplifying the process of calculating and filing income tax returns, ensuring it is straightforward and user-friendly.

The Direct Tax Code (DTC) 2025 introduces comprehensive reforms aimed at simplifying India's tax framework, enhancing compliance, and aligning with global standards. Here's an overview of the key changes.

Simplified Residency Rules

The DTC 2025 streamlines taxpayer classification by eliminating the "Resident but Not Ordinarily Resident (RNOR)" category.

ARTICLES

Now, individuals are classified as either "Resident" or "Non-Resident," reducing complexity in determining tax obligations.

Unified Tax Year

To reduce confusion between "Financial Year" and "Assessment Year," the DTC introduces a single "Tax Year" concept. This change aligns tax reporting with the actual year income is earned, simplifying the filing process.

Unified Corporate Tax Rates

The new code establishes a uniform corporate tax rate of 30% for both domestic and foreign companies. Additionally, branch profits of foreign companies are subject to an extra 15% tax. This harmonization aims to create a level playing field and enhance India's appeal to multinational businesses.

Simplified Tax Structure

Replacing the complex Income Tax Act of 1961, the DTC 2025 reduces the number of sections and removes redundant provisions. The new code is more concise and easier to navigate, making it more accessible to taxpayers.

Enhanced Compliance and Reduced Litigation

The DTC aims to minimize legal disputes by clarifying provisions and removing ambiguities. Notably, non-filing of Income Tax Returns (ITR) is now classified as a non-

cognizable offense, reducing the risk of arbitrary arrests and promoting voluntary compliance.

Tax Relief for Individuals

Under the new regime effective from the financial year 2025-26, individuals with a net taxable income up to ₹12 lakh are eligible for a full tax rebate of up to ₹60,000 under Section 87A. This provision effectively results in zero tax liability for taxpayers within this income bracket, encouraging more individuals to opt for the new tax system.

These reforms are designed to make the tax system more transparent, equitable, and aligned with global standards, thereby fostering a more taxpayer-friendly environment in India.

ARTICLES



MS. PRITI GOEL

FOUNDER & CEO - PRISHA WEALTH
MANAGEMENT PRIVATE LIMITED
PARTNER & CEO - AVINAV CONSULTING
AUTHOR – DHANAISHA, CHERISHED WEALTH
INDIVIDUAL MEMBER, BRICS CCI

India Becomes the World's Fourth-Largest Economy: Investment Opportunities in 2025 and Beyond

In May 2025, India officially became the world's fourth-largest economy, surpassing Japan with a GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of \$4.19 trillion, according to the International Monetary Fund. This landmark achievement signals more than just a shift in rankings, it reflects India's robust and evolving economic foundations, and positions the country as a critical engine of global growth.

India's economic rise offers a renewed canvas for investors, both domestic and international, who are now recalibrating their portfolios to reflect this paradigm shift.

The Macro Landscape: Solid Growth Anchors

- Sustained GDP growth, with projections of 6.8% for FY26
 - A vast and growing domestic consumption base
 - The world's largest population, with a young median age under 30
 - Digitally integrated governance and financial systems
 - Broad-based policy continuity that promotes manufacturing, infrastructure, and green energy
- Digital transformation continues to be a force multiplier. India processes over 1 billion Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions daily, and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is streamlining access to banking, credit, and services for millions.

ARTICLES

Global Equity Market Overview

As of May 27, 2025, here's an updated snapshot of major global (top 4 world economies) equity indices, including their year-to-date (YTD) performance:

India

· **Nifty 50:** 24,785.80 (on May 27)

YTD return: +4.3%

The Nifty 50 index has shown resilience, maintaining a positive trajectory year-to-date despite recent market fluctuations.

· **BSE Sensex:** 81,551.63 (on May 27)

YTD return: +5.1%

The BSE Sensex continues to reflect investor confidence in domestic growth, with a steady year-to-date gain. After a brief correction in April, Indian equities have regained strength, reflecting investor confidence in domestic growth despite global headwinds. Mid-cap and small-cap indices have shown resilience, buoyed by strong Domestic Institutional Investors (DII) flows and sectoral earnings recovery. The key takeaway: while not overheating, the market remains on a steady upward path, supported by fundamental drivers.

United States

· **S&P 500:** 5,921.54 (on May 27)

YTD return: +6.2%

The S&P 500 index has rebounded strongly, marking a significant year-to-date increase.

Broad based sector recovery, especially in energy, financials, and consumer discretionary has underpinned the index's strength.

· **Dow Jones Industrial Average:** 42,343.65 (on May 27)

YTD return: +4.8%

The Dow Jones Industrial Average has shown robust performance, contributing to the positive outlook of U.S. markets. Aably supported by strength in industrials and blue-chip stocks. Infrastructure spending and resilience in manufacturing heavy constituents have contributed to gains.

· **Nasdaq Composite:** 19,199.16 (on May 27)

YTD return: +7.5%

The Nasdaq Composite has outperformed, driven by strong gains in the technology sector and Artificial Intelligence (AI) focused companies. Investor enthusiasm around AI innovation, semiconductor demand, and robust earnings from tech giants have propelled the index upward.

China

· **Shanghai Composite Index:** 3,342.93 (on May 27)

YTD return: -0.2%

The Shanghai Composite Index has remained relatively flat year-to-date, reflecting cautious investor sentiment amid economic uncertainties. The index is weighed down by a fragile property sector, regulatory tightening, and tepid consumer sentiment, despite intermittent policy support.

ARTICLES

Germany

· DAX Index: 24,226.49 (on May 27)

YTD return: +33.4%

Germany's DAX Index has achieved significant growth year-to-date, buoyed by strong performances in key sectors. It has been Europe's top performer so far in 2025. Driven by a rally in defense and industrial stocks, easing energy concerns, and a boost from EU-U.S. trade relief measures.

Investment Themes Shaping the Landscape

1. Infrastructure and Urban Expansion

India's commitment to physical and digital infrastructure remains strong. The **National Infrastructure Pipeline** continues to receive substantial public and private investment, with execution improving across roadways, freight corridors, airports, and urban housing.

Smart city initiatives, logistics infrastructure, and real estate demand in Tier 2/3 cities are creating sustainable investment avenues.

2. Manufacturing and Export Push

The **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** schemes have started delivering results, with India's electronics, medical devices, solar modules, and white goods exports hitting record levels in FY25.

The "China+1" diversification strategy by global firms continues to benefit India, particularly in textiles, automobiles, and chemicals.

3. Green Energy and Sustainability

India is targeting 50% of energy capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030. In 2025, solar, wind, and green hydrogen projects have received increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), while domestic firms are scaling battery storage and clean mobility platforms.

This green transition is opening long-term investment opportunities across the energy, transport, and manufacturing sectors.

4. Technology and Digital Innovation

India's digital economy is projected to reach \$1.2 trillion by 2030, with AI, automation, fintech, and healthtech driving growth. Regulatory clarity and increased digital trust have supported the growth of emerging platforms and startups.

The resurgence of startup funding in early 2025 has improved prospects for tech Initial Public Offers (IPOs) in late 2025 and early 2026.

5. Healthcare and Financial Inclusion

Healthcare demand is growing with increased insurance penetration and changing consumer behavior. Financial inclusion has deepened through Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhar-linked services, and digital lending platforms.

ARTICLES

With rising household savings channeled through mutual funds and systematic investment plans (SIPs), financial services remain a pillar of India's capital markets.

The FII-DII Dynamic in 2025

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs)

In early 2025, FIIs were net sellers of Indian equities, offloading approximately \$15.5 billion by March, marking one of the most significant sell-offs in recent history. However, sentiment shifted in April and May, with FIIs turning net buyers, investing around \$2.2 billion during this period.

On the fixed income front, the inclusion of Indian government bonds in JP Morgan's and Bloomberg's Emerging Market bond indices has been a double-edged sword. While these inclusions were expected to attract substantial passive inflows, the actual impact has been mixed. In April and May, Indian bonds experienced significant outflows, with foreign investors pulling out \$2.4 billion, despite the anticipated benefits of index inclusion.

FIIs continue to focus on high-growth sectors, particularly those with strong export linkages, scalable technology platforms, and robust corporate governance. However, their investment strategies are increasingly influenced by global macroeconomic factors, including U.S. interest rate expectations and geopolitical developments.

Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs)

Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) continue to provide stability to Indian equity markets, backed by record monthly SIP inflows of ₹26,632 crore (~\$3.2 billion) as of April 2025. Mutual funds, insurance, and pension funds are now dominant forces on Dalal Street, supported by steady domestic savings.

Retail investor participation has surged, with demat accounts crossing 192 million, with 41 million added in FY25 alone. This growth is increasingly broad-based, fueled by rising awareness and digital access in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

As foreign institutional flows remain sensitive to global uncertainties, DIIs driven by long-term domestic capital are emerging as the key pillars of market resilience. The rise of disciplined retail investing through SIPs is reshaping India's market dynamics.

This structural shift marks a maturing equity ecosystem more inclusive, stable, and rooted in long-term value creation.

Risks and Challenges to Monitor

- Global economic uncertainty: Slowing growth in developed markets and shifting monetary policy by the US Fed remain external watch points.
- Commodity price volatility: Oil, metals, and agri-inputs could influence inflation and margins.

ARTICLES

- Execution risks: While policy continuity is strong, timely execution of infra and energy projects remains critical.
- Climate and monsoon variability: A weak monsoon could affect rural demand and food inflation.

However, these risks are cyclical, not structural, and are being actively mitigated through fiscal and monetary tools.

Conclusion: India's Investment Moment Is Here

India's elevation to the fourth-largest global economy marks the beginning, not the peak of its economic and investment ascent. The country's unique blend of scale, stability, and dynamism makes it a standout among emerging markets.

While markets may experience intermittent corrections, India offers investors a long-term growth runway anchored in domestic consumption, innovation, and policy vision. For global capital and domestic savers alike, India in 2025 is not just an opportunity, it is a necessity in a diversified, forward-looking portfolio.

ETFs (Exchange Traded Funds) remains as one of the best asset classes in India, especially for long-term, cost-conscious investors. They are the "index-linked superhighways" of India's economic growth; cost-effective, transparent, and scalable for every investor.

If you're looking to build a low-maintenance, tax-efficient, long-term portfolio that tracks India's rise, ETFs are one of the best asset classes to do it with. For details, contact us at info@prishawealth.com.

Disclosures:

- Investment in securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing
- The securities quoted are for illustration only and are not recommendatory
- Registration granted by SEBI, membership of BASL (in case of IAs) and certification from NISM in no way guarantee performance of the intermediary or provide any assurance of returns to investors

ARTICLES



MR. RAHUL BAGGA
FOUNDER - AUMIRAH
INDIVIDUAL MEMBER, BRICS CCI

THE AI RELIABILITY PARADOX IN PATENT SEARCH

Abstract

Artificial intelligence has revolutionized patent searching, enabling practitioners to process extensive databases with unprecedented speed and sophistication. However, the reliability of AI-generated search results presents serious challenges that demand systematic examination. This analysis explores the specific limitations of AI in patent search, examines failure modes unique to prior art discovery, and establishes validation frameworks for practitioners seeking to balance efficiency with accuracy in patent search processes.

Yet beneath these impressive capabilities lies a critical question: Can we trust AI search results when patent validity and business decisions depend on comprehensive prior art analysis? The challenge extends beyond simple accuracy metrics to comprehend the fundamental reliability of AI-generated search strategies and results interpretation.

The stakes are particularly high in patent searching. Ignoring relevant prior art can lead to invalid patents, failed prosecution strategies, and costly litigation surprises. Conversely, relying on fabricated or misinterpreted results can undermine patentability assessments and freedom-to-operate analyses.

LIMITATIONS OF AI SEARCH

AI search has several limitations, including hallucination in search results where incorrect information is generated, and fabricated prior art references that can mislead users. It also faces challenges with synthetic technical relationships and misattributed classification searches, leading to inaccurate categorizations. Semantic interpretation challenges and technical term conflation can cause misunderstandings, while legal language misunderstanding and temporal context loss further complicate the accuracy and relevance of search results.

ARTICLES

SEARCH STRATEGY RELIABILITY ISSUES

Search strategy reliability issues encompass various challenges, such as problems with query formulation and an over-reliance on keyword matching, which can lead to inaccurate results. Misapplication of classification and jurisdictional gaps further complicate the search process. Additionally, issues with result ranking and relevance assessment, false relevance signals, novelty assessment errors, and limitations in citation analysis can undermine the effectiveness and accuracy of search strategies.

VALIDATION FRAMEWORK FOR AI PATENT SEARCH

A validation framework for AI patent search involves a multi-layer verification protocol that includes source authentication and technical accuracy review to ensure reliability. It assesses search completeness and cross-validates results with traditional methods. The framework also incorporates quality metrics for AI search performance, such as precision metrics, recall assessment, false positive analysis, and coverage analysis, to comprehensively evaluate and enhance the accuracy and effectiveness of AI-driven patent searches.

PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

1. Search Process Integration:

- Staged Search Approach: Implement AI search as an initial screening tool followed by human expert review and traditional search validation.
- Documentation Requirements: Maintain detailed records of AI search strategies, query formulations, and result filtering criteria to enable later validation and improvement.

Misapplication of classification and jurisdictional gaps further complicate the search process. Additionally, issues with result ranking and relevance assessment, false relevance signals, novelty assessment errors, and limitations in citation analysis can undermine the effectiveness and accuracy of search strategies.

VALIDATION FRAMEWORK FOR AI PATENT SEARCH

A validation framework for AI patent search involves a multi-layer verification protocol that includes source authentication and technical accuracy review to ensure reliability. It assesses search completeness and cross-validates results with traditional methods. The framework also incorporates quality metrics for AI search performance, such as precision metrics, recall assessment, false positive analysis, and coverage analysis, to comprehensively evaluate and enhance the accuracy and effectiveness of AI-driven patent searches.

PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

1. Search Process Integration:

- Staged Search Approach: Implement AI search as an initial screening tool followed by human expert review and traditional search validation.
- Documentation Requirements: Maintain detailed records of AI search strategies, query formulations, and result filtering criteria to enable later validation and improvement.
- Expert Oversight Protocols: Establish clear requirements for human expert review of AI search results, particularly for high-stakes patentability or freedom-to-operate analyses.

ARTICLES

2. Risk Management Strategies

- **Client Communication:** Clearly communicate to clients the role of AI in search processes and the validation measures employed to ensure reliability.
- **Professional Liability Considerations:** Ensure that professional liability insurance adequately covers risks associated with AI search tools and establish clear protocols for AI-assisted work documentation.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Implement feedback mechanisms to track AI search performance over time and identify areas requiring additional validation or alternative approaches.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN AI PATENT SEARCH

1. Technological Advancement Trajectories:

- **Enhanced Domain Specialization:** Future AI systems may incorporate deeper understanding of patent-specific language and legal constructions, reducing semantic interpretation errors.
- **Improved Uncertainty Quantification:** Advanced AI systems may provide confidence scores and uncertainty measures for search results, enabling more informed reliance decisions.
- **Integrated Validation Systems:** AI tools may evolve to include built-in validation mechanisms that cross-reference results against multiple databases and flag potential reliability concerns.

2. Professional and Regulatory Evolution:

- **Search Quality Standards:** Professional organizations may develop specific standards for AI-assisted patent searching, including validation requirements and competency expectations.

- **Expert Oversight Protocols:** Establish clear requirements for human expert review of AI search results, particularly for high-stakes patentability or freedom-to-operate analyses.

2. Risk Management Strategies

- **Client Communication:** Clearly communicate to clients the role of AI in search processes and the validation measures employed to ensure reliability.
- **Professional Liability Considerations:** Ensure that professional liability insurance adequately covers risks associated with AI search tools and establish clear protocols for AI-assisted work documentation.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Implement feedback mechanisms to track AI search performance over time and identify areas requiring additional validation or alternative approaches.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN AI PATENT SEARCH

1. Technological Advancement Trajectories:

- **Enhanced Domain Specialization:** Future AI systems may incorporate deeper understanding of patent-specific language and legal constructions, reducing semantic interpretation errors.
- **Improved Uncertainty Quantification:** Advanced AI systems may provide confidence scores and uncertainty measures for search results, enabling more informed reliance decisions.
- **Integrated Validation Systems:** AI tools may evolve to include built-in validation mechanisms that cross-reference results against multiple databases and flag potential

ARTICLES

reliability concerns

2. Professional and Regulatory Evolution:

- **Search Quality Standards:** Professional organizations may develop specific standards for AI-assisted patent searching, including validation requirements and competency expectations.
- **Enhanced Training Requirements:** Patent practitioners may need specialized training in AI search tool capabilities and limitations to maintain professional competence.
- **International Coordination:** Global patent systems may develop coordinated approaches to AI search validation and quality assurance.

FINAL WORD:

The integration of AI in patent search offers substantial benefits but requires careful attention to reliability challenges. Success depends on treating AI as a powerful search tool that enhances rather than replaces human expertise and judgment.

Key Recommendations for Practitioners:

1. **Implement Systematic Validation:** Never rely solely on AI search results without independent verification of key references and search strategy completeness.
2. **Maintain Expert Oversight:** Ensure that qualified domain experts review AI search strategies and results, particularly for complex technical fields or high-stakes analyses.
3. **Document Thoroughly:** Maintain comprehensive records of AI search processes, validation procedures, and expert review outcomes.

4. **Understand Tool Limitations:** Develop deep understanding of specific AI tools' capabilities and known failure modes to guide appropriate usage and validation efforts.

5. **Balance Efficiency and Accuracy:** Use AI to enhance search efficiency while maintaining rigorous validation standards appropriate to the stakes involved in each search project.

The future of patent search will likely involve sophisticated human-AI collaboration where artificial intelligence handles initial data processing and pattern recognition while human experts provide validation, interpretation, and strategic guidance. Organizations that master this collaboration while maintaining high reliability standards will be best positioned to serve clients effectively in an increasingly complex patent search.

ARTICLES



Mr. Gaurav Mahajan

Lawyer - Dispute Resolution/ Technology-Data &
AI Ethics/ White Collar Crime
Partner, The Precept Law Offices
Individual Member, BRICS CCI

FROM COMPLIANCE TO COMPETITIVE EDGE: THE CASE FOR ROBUST ANTI-BRIBERY AND WHISTLEBLOWER POLICIES IN INDIAN COMPANIES

In the dynamic and increasingly scrutinized corporate governance environment, Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption ("ABAC") mechanisms and whistleblower protection frameworks have emerged as non-negotiable pillars of corporate integrity. In India, the significance of these systems transcends statutory compliance as they represent a core component of long-term enterprise resilience, investor confidence, and reputational capital.

In the dynamic and increasingly scrutinized corporate governance environment, Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption ("ABAC") mechanisms and whistleblower protection frameworks have emerged as non-negotiable pillars of corporate integrity. In India, the significance of these systems transcends statutory compliance as they represent a core component of long-term enterprise resilience, investor confidence, and reputational capital.

Domestically, legislations such as the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018), the Companies Act, 2013, and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 impose obligations on companies to implement robust internal controls, including anti-bribery codes and grievance redressal mechanisms.

Moreover, regulatory authorities like SEBI, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA"), and the Serious Fraud Investigation Office ("SFIO") have strengthened their surveillance and enforcement frameworks, demanding proactive disclosures, internal reporting mechanisms, and corporate accountability through structured compliance programs. The failure to institute ABAC and whistleblower policies is not merely a governance lapse rather, it increasingly constitutes a legal exposure with severe civil, criminal, and regulatory consequences.

ARTICLES

This article undertakes a critical analysis of the legal mandates, strategic advantages, and operational challenges associated with instituting ABAC and whistleblower policies in Indian companies. It evaluates current statutory obligations, draws parallels with global best practices from jurisdictions such as the UK Bribery Act, the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act ("FCPA"), and the EU Whistleblower Directive, and proposes a blueprint for Indian corporations to transform legal compliance into strategic value creation.

i. Legal Framework Governing Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption in India

India's approach to ABAC enforcement is grounded in a combination of criminal statutes, corporate governance obligations, and regulatory mandates. Together, they address both public sector bribery and private sector fraud, while imposing direct compliance burdens on corporate entities. Below is a detailed overview of the key statutory instruments:

ii. Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018)

Originally designed to curb corruption in the public sector, the Prevention of Corruption Act was significantly strengthened in 2018 to address corporate bribery, aligning India's domestic law with international anti-corruption standards, particularly the UNCAC[1].

The Key provisions include:

a. **Section 9** – Introduces corporate criminal liability for offering bribes to public servants[2].

a. **Section 10** – Imposes vicarious liability on management, unless they demonstrate having exercised due diligence[1].

b. **Section 14** – Criminalizes abetment of bribery and corruption-related offences[2].

The 2018 amendment also introduced the requirement for adequate compliance procedures, effectively mandating businesses to implement internal safeguards to avoid prosecution[3].

i. The Companies Act, 2013

[1] Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended), Section 10.

[2] Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended), Section 14.

[3] Ministry of Law and Justice, Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018, Gazette Notification, 26 July 2018.

The Companies Act lays down various governance obligations to ensure transparency, integrity, and accountability:

a. **Section 134(5)(f)** – Mandates the Board of Directors to confirm the existence of adequate internal financial controls and compliance systems[1].

b. **Section 166** – Codifies the fiduciary duties of directors, including acting in good faith, avoiding conflicts of interest, and exercising reasonable care[2].

c. **Sections 177(9) and 177(10)** – Require the establishment of a vigil mechanism, including a whistleblower policy for listed and certain prescribed companies[3].

d. **Schedule IV** – Provides a Code for Independent Directors, making them responsible for overseeing corporate ethics and compliance[4].

ARTICLES

These provisions elevate ethical conduct to a statutory duty and make boards accountable for corruption-related lapses.

i. **SEBI** (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015

Companies listed on Indian stock exchanges are subject to additional obligations under SEBI's regulatory framework:

a. **Regulation 4(2)(d)(iv)** – Requires listed entities to establish a code of conduct and an effective whistleblower mechanism[1].

[1] SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, Regulation 4(2)(d)(iv).

[1] United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2003 (ratified by India on 9 May 2011)

[1] Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended), Section 9.

[1] Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended), Section 10.

[1] Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended), Section 14.

[1] Ministry of Law and Justice, Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018, Gazette Notification, 26 July 2018.

[1] Companies Act, 2013, Section 134(5)(f).

[1] Companies Act, 2013, Section 166.

[1] Companies Act, 2013, Sections 177(9) and 177(10).

[1] Companies Act, 2013, Schedule IV

[1] SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, Regulation 4(2)(d)(iv).

a. Regulations 17 to 27 – Set out corporate governance norms, including the role of audit committees in overseeing vigil mechanisms and risk management[1].

a. **SEBI Circular No. CIR/CFD/CMD1/27/2019** –

Mandates detailed disclosures in the Annual Report regarding corporate governance practices, including anti-corruption systems[1].

These provisions make ethical compliance and whistleblower protection integral to investor transparency and market integrity.

i. **Extraterritorial Obligations under Foreign Anti-Corruption Laws**

Indian companies with global operations or foreign investors must also comply with extraterritorial anti-bribery legislation:

a. **The UK Bribery Act, 2010** applies globally to any company carrying on business in the UK, and criminalizes both active and passive bribery, including facilitation payments[1].

b. **The US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), 1977** applies to companies listed in the US or those engaging in business within its jurisdiction, and mandates internal controls and accurate books to deter bribery of foreign officials[2].

Failure to comply with these laws has resulted in substantial penalties and reputational damage for several Indian corporations in recent years. Consequently, Indian companies are increasingly expected to maintain globally harmonized ABAC policies, conduct third-party due diligence, and implement robust internal training and reporting mechanisms.

[1] UK Bribery Act, 2010, Sections 1–7.

[2] U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), 1977.

I. Regulatory Mandates for Whistleblower Policy in India

ARTICLES

Whistleblower mechanisms serve as a critical early-warning system for corporate fraud, ethical misconduct, and governance failures. Indian law has gradually evolved to impose both statutory and regulatory obligations on companies especially listed entities and larger public companies to establish and operationalize such frameworks. The key legal and regulatory mandates are as follows:

i. The Companies Act, 2013

The Companies Act provides the primary statutory mandate for instituting a vigil mechanism, particularly for specified classes of companies:

a. **Section 177(9)** mandates that every listed company, as well as public companies with either (a) a paid-up share capital of INR. 10 crore or more or (b) turnover of INR. 50 crore or more, must establish a vigil mechanism for directors and employees[1].

[1] **Companies Act, 2013, Section 177(9);** Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014.

[1] SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, Regulations 17–27.

[1] SEBI Circular No. CIR/CFD/CMD1/27/2019, dated 8 February 2019.

[1] UK Bribery Act, 2010, Sections 1–7.

[1] U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), 1977.

[1] Companies Act, 2013, Section 177(9); Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014.

[1] Companies Act, 2013, Section 177(10).

a. **Section 177(10)** requires that the vigil mechanism provide for adequate safeguards against victimization of the whistleblower and ensure direct access to the Audit Committee in appropriate or exceptional cases[1]

This provision aims to institutionalize anonymous reporting, protect good faith disclosures, and create a board-level response structure.

i. SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015

For listed companies, SEBI imposes specific governance requirements regarding whistleblower mechanisms as a condition for market access:

a. **Regulation 4(2)(d)(iv)** states that the Board must ensure the existence of a whistleblower policy that enables employees to report unethical behavior, actual or suspected fraud, or violation of the code of conduct[2].

b. It also mandates that such mechanisms must facilitate direct access to the chairperson of the Audit Committee, strengthening the independence of the reporting process[3].

These requirements reinforce the Companies Act framework and link whistleblower systems to broader governance and risk oversight mandates under the SEBI regime.

i. Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014

Although primarily applicable to the public sector and government bodies, the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014 lays down foundational protections for individuals making disclosures of corruption, abuse of power, or criminal wrongdoing in government agencies[1].

[1] Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014, No. 17 of 2014, Gazette of India, dated 9 May 2014.

ARTICLES

a. It prohibits victimization of whistleblowers, and prescribes disciplinary action against those who retaliate against them.

b. While not directly applicable to the private sector, the principles of the Act such as confidentiality, protection from retaliation, and independent investigation which serve as best-practice benchmarks for corporate whistleblower frameworks.

Private sector entities are encouraged to mirror these protections in spirit, especially in industries with high public interest or compliance risk exposure.

Importance of ABAC Policies in Indian Companies

i. Legal Risk Mitigation: Failure to implement ABAC policies exposes companies to prosecution, monetary penalties, imprisonment of directors, and debarment from public procurement.

[1] Companies Act, 2013, Section 177(10).

[1] SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, Regulation 4(2)(d)(iv).

[1] SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, read with Schedule II Part C(A)(3).

[1] Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014, No. 17 of 2014, Gazette of India, dated 9 May 2014.

i. Reputational Safeguard: Companies embroiled in corruption scandals face severe reputational loss, investor flight, and declining market capitalization.

ii. Investor Confidence and Due Diligence: ABAC policies are critical elements in ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) ratings. Institutional investors, including PE/VC firms, often mandate proof of internal compliance mechanisms.

i. International Business Requirements: Multinational supply chains require vendors and partners to maintain ABAC policies to ensure compliance with international laws like FCPA and UKBA.

ii. Corporate Sustainability: Companies with robust ABAC systems foster an ethical work culture, enhance stakeholder trust, and maintain long-term sustainability.

I. Core Components of an Effective ABAC Policy

1. Policy Statement: Clear zero-tolerance declaration towards bribery and corruption.

2. Scope: Applicability to employees, directors, agents, consultants, third parties.

3. Definitions: Clarifying bribery, facilitation payments, gifts, conflicts of interest, etc.

4. Risk Assessment: Periodic risk evaluations across geographies and operations.

5. Gifts and Hospitality: Reasonable limits, recording obligations, and approval matrices.

6. Third Party Management: Due diligence, contract clauses, and ongoing monitoring.

7. Training and Communication: Periodic training for employees and business partners.

8. Reporting and Investigation: Mechanisms for confidential reporting and fair investigations.

9. Sanctions and Disciplinary Measures: Proportional disciplinary actions for violations.

10. Review and Update: Annual policy reviews to reflect changing legal and business contexts.

ARTICLES

I. Importance of Whistleblower Mechanism in Indian Companies

i. **Early Detection of Fraud:** Whistleblower policies serve as early warning systems, enabling prompt detection and investigation of unethical practices.

ii. **Regulatory Compliance:** As discussed, such mechanisms are mandatory under both Companies Act and SEBI LODR for listed and certain public companies.

iii. **Protection of Stakeholders:** A well-designed mechanism protects employees, investors, and other stakeholders by uncovering potential losses or illegalities early.

iv. **Fostering Ethical Culture:** Having a formal whistleblower framework assures employees that unethical actions will not be tolerated, encouraging transparency.

v. **Global Governance Alignment:** Robust whistleblower programs bring Indian companies in line with global benchmarks such as ISO 37002:2021 (Whistleblowing Management Systems), US Sarbanes-Oxley Act ("SOX"), OECD Whistleblower Guidelines

i. **Awareness & Training:** Regular awareness campaigns across all employee levels.

ii. **Grievance Redressal Timeline:** Defined steps and timelines for resolution of reported concerns.

iii. **Escalation Matrix:** Clear hierarchy and protocols for escalation and closure of issues.

iv. **Record Keeping:** Secure and confidential documentation of reports and actions taken.

Essential Features of an Effective Whistleblower Policy

i. **Anonymous Reporting Mechanism:** Secure digital and offline channels for confidential reporting.

ii. **Independence:** Oversight by an independent Audit Committee or Ethics Committee.

iii. **No Retaliation Clause:** Explicit prohibition of retaliation against whistleblowers.

ARTICLES

Distinctions in Policy Requirements for Listed vs. Unlisted Companies

Factor	Listed Companies	Unlisted Companies
ABAC Policy	Mandated under SEBI and ESG norms; integral to risk disclosure	Not mandatory but strongly advisable under corporate
Whistleblower Policy	Mandatory under Companies Act, SEBI LODR	Mandatory only if they meet thresholds under Section 177;
Board Oversight	Audit Committee must review ABAC/whistleblower cases	Board-level oversight sufficient in absence of formal Audit
Public Disclosure	Annual report and website publication required	Internal documentation sufficient
Enforcement Expectation	High—due to shareholder, regulator, and public scrutiny	Moderate—but rising due to investor and lender expectations

ARTICLES

I. Implementation Roadmap for Indian Companies

To ensure legal compliance and foster a culture of integrity, Indian companies particularly those with significant public exposure, global operations, or regulatory obligations must adopt a structured, legally defensible approach to implementing anti-bribery, anti-corruption (ABAC), and whistleblower mechanisms. The following phased roadmap is recommended:

i. Legal Gap Analysis

Begin with a comprehensive legal and regulatory audit of the company's existing policies, practices, and governance architecture vis-à-vis applicable Indian statutes (Companies Act, SEBI LODR, Prevention of Corruption Act) and foreign extra-territorial legislation (FCPA, UK Bribery Act, etc.).

ii. Drafting or Revising Policies

Develop or revise whistleblower, ABAC, and ethics policies in consultation with legal counsel, ethics officers, and key internal stakeholders such as HR and finance.

These policies must clearly define Reportable conduct, Scope of protection, Investigation protocols, Roles and responsibilities and Escalation procedures.

Constitution of Ethics or Compliance Committee

Establish a dedicated Ethics & Compliance Committee composed of cross-functional members (e.g., legal, HR, finance, internal audit). This committee should have a clear mandate to Oversee whistleblower complaints, Monitor ABAC implementation and Coordinate investigations and remediation

i. Digital Reporting Platforms

Deploy a secure, third-party digital platform for anonymous whistleblower reporting accessible via web, mobile, and hotline. Ensure multilingual support and 24x7 availability.

ii. Third-Party Vetting and Contractual Safeguards

Conduct due diligence on vendors, agents, and intermediaries especially in high-risk geographies or sectors. Include ABAC representations, warranties, and termination clauses in all vendor, distributor, and consultant contracts.

iii. Independent Audits and Investigations

Schedule periodic audits and forensic reviews, either by internal audit teams or external experts, to evaluate policy effectiveness and detect potential violations. Establish investigation protocols that ensure objectivity, confidentiality, and documentation.

iv. Periodic Board and Audit Committee Reporting

Submit quarterly or biannual reports to the Board or Audit Committee on Number and nature of whistleblower complaints, Status of internal investigations and ABAC risk assessments and remediation.

i. Disclosure and Transparency

Ensure public disclosure of key policies (whistleblower, code of conduct, ABAC) on the company's website, investor relations page, and employee intranet. In induction and annual compliance training sessions, include specific modules on these policies.

ARTICLES

I. **Enforcement Challenges and Best Practices in Whistleblower Policy Implementation**

While the legal and regulatory landscape in India mandates the establishment of whistleblower and vigil mechanisms particularly for listed and larger public companies the practical enforcement and operationalization of such mechanisms remains uneven and riddled with systemic and cultural hurdles. Below is a detailed analysis of key enforcement challenges and recommended best practices to address them:

i. Enforcement Challenges

a. **Fear of Retaliation and Lack of Anonymity:**

Despite statutory safeguards under the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI LODR Regulations, the fear of workplace retaliation, professional isolation, demotion, or even dismissal remains a significant deterrent, especially in unlisted entities or family-owned businesses. In the absence of robust anonymity protocols, potential whistleblowers are often disincentivised from reporting misconduct.

a. **Policy-on-Paper Syndrome:** Many companies adopt whistleblower or vigil mechanisms merely to meet regulatory checklists. These policies often exist in form but not in substance with no training, awareness programs, reporting dashboards, or investigation protocols. Such token compliance not only violates the spirit of regulatory mandates but also exposes companies to liability in case of actual wrongdoing.

a. **Conflicts of Interest in Investigation and Oversight:**

Where investigations are conducted internally particularly by HR or compliance officers reporting to the same management accused of wrongdoing there is a serious risk of bias, suppression of evidence, or internal cover-ups. This conflict undermines credibility and compromises the very purpose of whistleblower protection.

b. **Cultural Inertia and Hierarchical Pressures:** In many Indian workplaces, hierarchical deference to senior management and an ingrained aversion to "complaining" or "disrespecting seniors" dissuades employees from reporting even blatant misconduct. This cultural resistance is often compounded by the lack of education around ethical reporting and legal safeguards.

i. **Recommended Best Practices**

To address the above challenges and ensure that whistleblower frameworks are both effective and credible, companies should adopt the following proactive and preventive measures:

a. **Engage Independent Ethics Hotlines and Third-Party Reporting Platforms:** Outsourcing whistleblower reporting to neutral third parties such as external ethics helplines, law firms, or compliance service providers enhances anonymity, trust, and objectivity. These mechanisms also enable multilingual, round-the-clock reporting and reduce the fear of internal retaliation.

ARTICLES

a. **Offer Whistleblower Recognition and**

Protection Incentives: While monetary rewards may not always be appropriate, companies should consider offering non-financial incentives such as public acknowledgements, legal support, internal transfers, or performance-based bonuses to whistleblowers who report in good faith and assist investigations.

b. **Conduct Periodic Mock Drills, Awareness Campaigns, and Role-Based Training:**

Practical drills, scenario-based workshops, and e-learning modules should be conducted at all employee levels particularly for senior leadership, HR, finance, and compliance teams to internalize the importance of whistleblower protection and train on real-life handling of complaints.

c. **Foster 'Tone-at-the-Top' and 'Tone-in-the-**

Middle' Culture: Compliance begins with visible, unequivocal commitment from the Board and C-suite executives. CEO-led communications, board-level oversight of vigil mechanisms, and leadership accountability metrics should be institutionalized. Simultaneously, middle management must also be sensitized and incentivized to support ethical conduct across departments.

By operationalizing these best practices, companies can move beyond mere compliance and establish a culture where integrity, transparency, and accountability are genuinely embedded in their organizational DNA.

Conclusion:

Embedding Integrity into Corporate DNA

ABAC and whistleblower mechanisms are no longer optional or symbolic they are foundational to a company's legal defensibility, ethical credibility, and long-term sustainability. In India's evolving regulatory landscape, driven by statutory mandates (under the Companies Act, SEBI LODR, and the Prevention of Corruption Act) and growing convergence with global norms (such as the UK Bribery Act and FCPA), these frameworks must be treated as strategic imperatives.

For both listed and unlisted entities, mere "checkbox compliance" is increasingly inadequate and exposes firms to legal, reputational, and operational risk. Instead, businesses must internalize these policies as part of their core governance architecture, integrating them across functions from vendor onboarding and board oversight to employee training and stakeholder communication.

Investors, regulators, and international partners now expect demonstrable integrity, not just declarations of intent. Companies that proactively foster a culture of transparency, accountability, and ethical vigilance are more likely to Attract long-term capital, Withstand regulatory scrutiny; and Build trust with customers, employees, and the public.

Ultimately, robust ABAC and whistleblower systems are not just compliance tools they are strategic assets that safeguard the company's license to operate in an increasingly regulated and reputation-sensitive global economy.

LAW DIGEST



Patent rejection can't be based on health or morality without scientific proof: Calcutta High Court

Calcutta High Court: An appeal was filed by ITC Limited (appellant) challenging the order dated 21-08-2024, whereby the appellant's patent application titled "A Heater Assembly to Generate Aerosol" was rejected under Section 3(b) of the Patents Act, 1970 on the ground that the invention causes serious prejudice to human life, health, public order, and morality. Ravi Krishan Kapur, J., held that the impugned order is unsustainable and set aside as the subject invention is contrary to public order and morality is unreasoned, cryptic and without any basis.

Link:- [Calcutta High Court Sets aside patent rejection under S 3\(b\) of Patents Act| SCC Times](#)

DoT looks to find the right signal for 6G research, patents push in India

In a bid to drive up patent filings from India and establish dominance in certain segments, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is planning to collaborate with industry and academia to identify key technological niches for its 6G research, officials said. The move is crucial for the Centre's plan for India to contribute at least 10 per cent of global patent filings by 2030.

While India has become the sixth-largest patent filer in October last year, the sector remains dominated by China and the US.

Link:- [6G Patents India: Govt likely to prioritise key technological niches for 6G patents | Industry News - Business Standard](#)



LAW DIGEST



When Dye Becomes Decisive: Patent Infringement, Equivalence, and Estoppel

In a patent infringement suit between agrochemical rivals, Crystal Crop Protection Limited (“Crystal”) instituted a suit before the Delhi High Court seeking a permanent injunction against Safex Chemicals India Limited and its affiliates for alleged infringement of Indian Patent No. 417213. The patent, titled “Weedicidal Formulation and Method of Manufacture thereof,” claimed a specific composition of herbicides for controlling weeds, particularly in wheat crops. The Court denied the interim injunction sought by Crystal, holding that no prima facie case of infringement had been established in view of the absence of a dyeing agent in the defendants’ products.

Link:- [When Dye Becomes Decisive: Patent Infringement, Equivalence, and Estoppel | Intellepedia](#)

India and Denmark Collaborate in Online Workshop to Exchange Best Practices on Madrid Protocol

On May 26, 2025, the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) of India and the Danish Patent and Trademark Office (DKPTO) conducted an online workshop focused on the "Exchange of Best Practices with regard to the Madrid Protocol." This collaborative session was part of the ongoing international cooperation initiatives aimed at enhancing the implementation and administration of the Madrid Protocol, which facilitates the international registration of trademarks.



LAW DIGEST



Too Much, Yet Too Little: An Examination of Delhi HC's "Andaz Apna Apna" Interim Order

In an interesting development for all the movie (and IP) buffs, recently the Delhi High Court passed an interim injunction order against unauthorized use and commercial exploitation of character names, traits, and dialogues of the popular Hindi film "Andaaz Apna Apna". Kartik Sharma takes a look at the order and explains how it, inter alia, fails to take a nuanced view towards personality rights, character merchandising, fair use and more. Kartik is a fourth-year student at the National Law School of India University. His previous posts can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#).

Link:- <https://spicyip.com/2025/05/too-much-yet-too-little-an-examination-of-delhi-hcs-andaz-apna-apna-interim-order.html>

Calcutta High Court Refuses to Hold 20-Year Patent Term from Date of Application as Unconstitutional

In a matter concerning a writ petition challenging the constitutionality of the 20 year time period from the date of the application, a DB has upheld the Single Judge order rejecting the writ petition. Taking a look at the DB judgement, SpicyIP intern Hruthika Addlagatta highlights the missing discussion on Section 45(3) and how the case flags an important concern of the applicants- delayed examination of the patent applications. Hruthika is a 1st year law student from NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.

Link- <https://spicyip.com/2025/05/calcutta-high-court-refuses-to-hold-20-year-patent-term-from-date-of-application-as-unconstitutional.html>



LAW DIGEST



Delhi High Court Protects Volvo's Trademark; Directs Defendants To Pay Damages

The Delhi High Court delivered a decision in favor of Aktiebolaget Volvo & Ors, a Swedish Company, in a trademark infringement case against Mantis Technologies pvt. Ltd. & Ors. The Court found that the defendants had infringed Volvo's trademark right by using the "VOLVO" mark without authorization.

Link:- <https://www.legaleraonline.com/ip-news/delhi-high-court-protects-volvos-trademark-directs-defendants-to-pay-damages-953908>

Ola Electric sued over Bharat Cell trademark: Delhi High Court sends case to mediation

The Delhi High Court on Thursday referred to mediation a trademark dispute between lithium-ion battery maker Kushmanda Power Limited (KPL) and Ola Electric over the use of the mark 'Bharat Cell' for electric vehicle battery cells.

Link:-

<https://www.barandbench.com/news/litigation/ola-electric-sued-over-bharat-cell-trademark-delhi-high-court-sends-case-to-mediation>



LAW DIGEST



Delhi High Court rules that numeric trademarks can be registered if...

The Delhi High Court recently ruled that numerical combinations, if arbitrary and distinctive, are eligible for trademark registration under Indian law, even if they consist solely of numerical digits [Vineet Kapur v. Registrar of Trade Marks].

Link:-

<https://www.barandbench.com/news/litigation/delhi-high-court-rules-that-numeric-trademarks-can-be-registered>

Delhi High Court grants relief to German body in case against Indian entity over 'Max Mueller' trademark

The Delhi High Court recently granted interim relief to German cultural organisation Goethe-Institut in a trademark case filed by it against an Indian entity for using the "Max Mueller" mark while offering German language courses.

Link:-

<https://www.barandbench.com/news/litigation/delhi-high-court-grants-relief-to-german-body-in-case-against-indian-entity-over-max-mueller-trademark>



LAW DIGEST



Skills 3.0: How corporate India is training for tomorrow

As India advances toward becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2027 and ambitiously eyes the \$30 trillion milestone by 2050 it's not just the markets or policies that must evolve. The workforce, often cited as the engine of India's growth story, is undergoing a radical transformation, driven by digitisation, demographic shifts, and the accelerating adoption of artificial intelligence (AI).

Link:-

<https://hr.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/workplace-4-0/learning-and-development/empowering-indias-workforce-the-future-of-corporate-learning-in-a-digital-age/121490190>

FPIs' investment in corporate bonds rises 11.4% in FY25: RBI report

Investments by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in corporate bonds grew by 11.4 per cent in 2024–25, rising from ₹1.08 trillion in 2023–24 to ₹1.21 trillion in FY25, according to the Reserve Bank of India's Annual Report 2024–25.

However, utilisation of the approved investment limits declined slightly to 15.8 per cent as of end-March 2025, down from 16.2 per cent a year earlier, primarily due to an expansion in the absolute investment limits for FPIs, the report said.

Link:- https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/fpis-investment-in-corporate-bonds-rises-11-4-in-fy25-rbi-report-125052901774_1.html



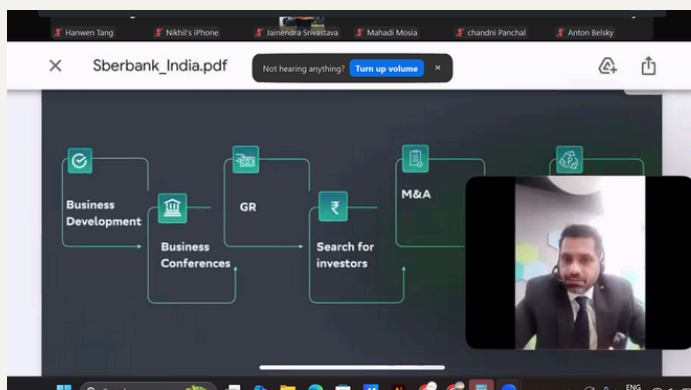
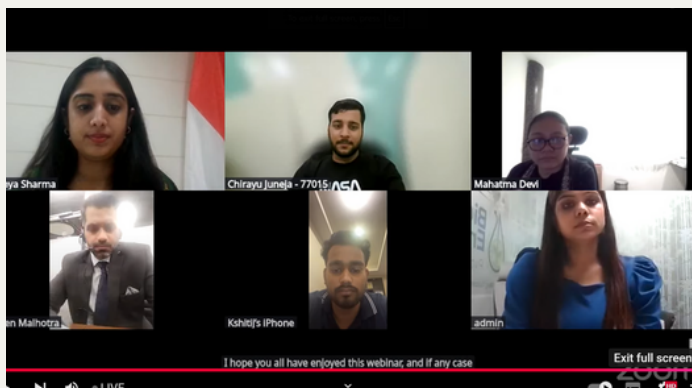
MAY 2025

GALLERY



MAY 2025

GALLERY





BRICS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

THANKS FOR READING

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

BRICS CCI HEAD OFFICE:

**A-2/8, First Floor
Africa Avenue Road
Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi, Delhi 110029
Email Id: info@bricscci.com**