

BRICS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Newsletter

JANUARY 2026

BRICS
INDIA 2026



Table of Content

Particulars	Page Number
New Members	1
MOUs Signed by BRICS CCI	2
Event Organised by BRICS CCI	3
Articles	5
Law Digest	17
BRICS & Beyond News	25
Gallery	28



MR. RAVI JAIN

Seasoned Finance Leader

We are honoured to welcome **Mr. Ravi Jain**, a Seasoned finance leader with 15 years of experience in NCR real estate development, as our esteemed Individual Life Member .

Mr. Jain is seasoned finance professional with 15 years of experience, specializing in strategic and analytical leadership within the real estate development sector in the NCR region. Proven expertise in driving fundraising initiatives, structuring financial strategies, and supporting large-scale development projects with a strong commercial focus.

Highly skilled in business development and enhancing organizational efficiency, with a track record of optimizing financial processes and enabling sustainable growth. Adept at aligning financial planning with long-term business objectives while navigating the dynamic real estate landscape of the NCR market.

We are delighted to welcome Mr. Ravi Jain to the BRICS CCI community and look forward to his valuable guidance and contributions towards fostering collaboration, growth, and sustainable development.

BRICS CCI CHANDIGARH CHAPTER AND GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH FORMALIZE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP UNDER BRICS PRESIDENCY 2026



A Memorandum of Understanding was executed on 4 January 2026 in Shimla between the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Government of Himachal Pradesh, aligned with India's BRICS Presidency 2026. The MoU was facilitated with the crucial support of the BRICS CCI Chandigarh Chapter, which played a key role in enabling this collaboration. The MoU aims to facilitate BRICS delegations, conferences, policy dialogues, and knowledge-driven engagements, while positioning Himachal Pradesh as a hub for sustainable development, innovation, tourism, MSMEs, and global cooperation. The MoU was signed on behalf of the Government of Himachal Pradesh by Dr. Yunus, IAS, Commissioner, Industries, Government of Himachal Pradesh, and signed by BRICS CCI Leadership, in the presence of Mr. Harvansh Chawla, Chairman; Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh, Vice Chairman; Mr. Sameep Shastri, Vice Chairman; and Mr. Deepak Shukla, Regional President, Chandigarh Chapter.

The MoUs were executed in the 2025 in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, and the Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Shri Harshwardhan Chauhan, underscoring the State's commitment to promoting investment, MSMEs, startups, and sustainable economic development

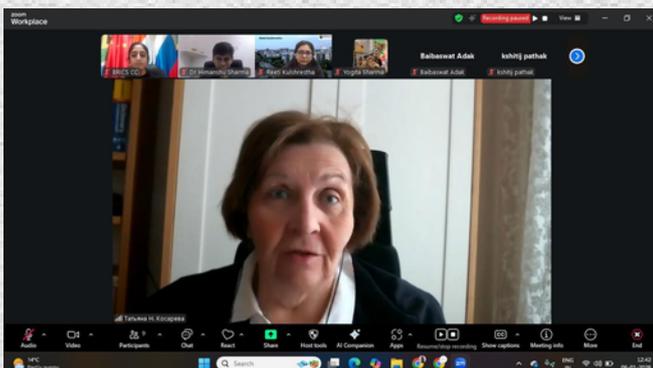
YOUTH & AI POLICY LAB - CASE STUDY CHALLENGE 2026 OFFICIAL PRE-SUMMIT EVENT OF INDIA AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026

The Youth & AI Policy Lab – Case Study Challenge 2026 was organised by the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI) as the official pre-summit initiative of the India AI Impact Summit 2026. The grand finale was held on 22 January 2026 at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi. The initiative aimed to create a structured platform for youth, policymakers, industry leaders, and global experts to deliberate on ethical, inclusive, and policy-oriented applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI).



The objective of the Policy Lab was to bridge the gap between AI innovation and governance by encouraging young researchers and professionals to develop practical, scalable, and socially responsible AI policy solutions. The programme aligned with India's vision of human-centric AI and strengthened collaboration across BRICS+ nations.

The event received **200 registrations, including 128 students and 72 working professionals**, representing diverse institutions and organisations across 11 countries. A total of 55 case studies were evaluated. The programme included a **two-week mentorship phase led by 10 global mentors from six countries**, who conducted **25 structured sessions**. Each team received personalised guidance focused on research quality, policy design, feasibility, and ethical safeguards.



The evaluation process was conducted in two rounds - mentor review followed by jury assessment—based on originality, policy relevance, scalability, feasibility, and socio-economic impact. The top ten teams were shortlisted to present their case studies at the finale, which was attended by over **300 participants and dignitaries**.

The event was graced by the **Chief Guest, Shri Kartikeya Sharma, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha**, who highlighted the importance of youth participation in shaping global AI governance and emphasised the role of the Global South in building equitable AI frameworks. The **Guest of Honour, Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India**, underscored the transformative potential of AI in enhancing productivity, governance efficiency, and inclusive development.



Key sessions included a **Panel Discussion** on “AI Across Sectors – Youth Shaping Policy,” covering AI in education, healthcare, fintech, food security, and ethics. The panel featured **Mr. Vikram Malhotra (Director AI & Technology, Microsoft)**, **Mr. Sanjay Singh (CTO, Tiket.com)**, **Mr. Amit Gemini (CTO, Press Trust of India)**, and **Mr. Naveen Malhotra (Director, Customer Relations, Sberbank India)**, moderated by **Mr. Jayanth N Kolla (Founder & Partner, Convergence Catalyst)**

A **Fireside Chat** between **Mr. Bibin Babu, Executive Director, BRICS CCI** and **Mr. Jayanth N Kolla** focused on AI entrepreneurship and governance challenges. The live presentations by the Top 10 teams remained the highlight, enabling direct engagement between youth innovators and senior decision-makers.

Ms. Vrinda Pandey from National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, was declared the **Winner and awarded USD 1000**. Team IBRICS Watchful Brotherhood (Russia) secured the **First Runner-Up position (USD 500)**, and Team Sa-Su-Vi was declared **Second Runner-Up (USD 200)**. The top ten papers will be featured in a dedicated case booklet.



Supported by partners including **Foundation for Organisational Research and Education (FORE)**, **GrowQR**, **Abani Fragrances**, and **Chaiom**, the event received strong media and social media coverage.

In conclusion, the Youth & AI Policy Lab – Case Study Challenge 2026 successfully established a structured, international platform for youth-led engagement in AI policy, reinforcing the role of young leaders in shaping responsible and inclusive AI governance across India and BRICS+ nations.



Ms. Priti Goel

Founder & CEO of Prisha Wealth Management Private Limited, a SEBI Registered Investment Adviser (INA000019202); and Partner & CEO of Avinav Consulting; and Author – Dhanasha, Cherished Wealth

KEVIN WARSH AS U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIR NOMINEE: MONETARY DISCIPLINE, MARKET SIGNALS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR BRICS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (FOR POLICY-MAKERS INVESTORS)

Kevin Warsh's nomination as Chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve marks a transition from an era of abundant global liquidity to one defined by **monetary discipline, institutional credibility, and selective easing**. While not overtly hawkish, a Warsh-led Fed is unlikely to prioritize growth at the cost of inflation credibility. With U.S. real policy rates still positive (approximately 1.5–2.0%), and the U.S. dollar trading around 10–12% above its long-term real effective average, global financial conditions are structurally less forgiving. For BRICS economies, this implies tighter global financial conditions, heightened differentiation across emerging markets, and a rising premium on macro stability and domestic capital formation.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- U.S. policy is likely to remain data-dependent, incremental, and credibility-focused rather than pre-emptively accommodative.
- Global liquidity will be more selective; capital allocation will increasingly reward fundamentals over momentum.
- BRICS resilience will hinge on currency stability, fiscal discipline, credible policy framework and the depth of domestic capital markets.

1. POLICY SIGNAL : WHAT A WARSH FED REPRESENTS

Kevin Warsh, a former Federal Reserve Governor during the Global Financial Crisis, has consistently argued that prolonged ultra-loose monetary policy distorts asset prices, encourages leverage, and weakens long-term growth potential. His nomination signals a clear philosophical shift :

- A preference for **real-rate discipline over financial repression**
- Reduced tolerance for policy ambiguity or prolonged emergency settings
- Stronger anchoring of inflation expectations and term premia

For policy-makers, this suggests a Federal Reserve less inclined to act as the first responder to market volatility. For investors, it implies a regime where earnings quality, balance-sheet strength, and **macro fundamentals matter more than excess liquidity**.

2. UNITED STATES: GROWTH, INFLATION AND INSTITUTIONAL CREDIBILITY

Monetary Trajectory

Under Warsh, rate cuts, if delivered, are likely to be **gradual and conditional**, not preemptive. Current market pricing suggests only 50–75 basis points of cumulative easing over the next 12 months, reinforcing a “higher-for-longer” real-rate environment.

Markets should expect :

- Fewer and slower rate cuts
- Sustained positive real rates
- Clearer communication linking realized inflation outcomes to policy action

This approach prioritizes durability of growth over short-term stimulus.

Fed Independence

While political proximity has raised concerns, Warsh’s credibility-first stance may ultimately reinforce institutional strength. However, any sustained divergence between inflation outcomes and easing expectations could rapidly reprice U.S. risk assets through a rising term premium.

CEO View : *The U.S. economy may experience slower but more resilient growth, with reduced tolerance for asset-price excesses and financial imbalances.*

3. Financial Markets: A CEO Lens

Equities

- **United States:** Valuation multiples are likely to compress modestly in a positive real-rate-regime. U.S. Equities currently trade at approximately 19–20x forward earnings, limiting scope for multiple expansion. Quality, cash-flow visibility, and balance-sheet resilience should outperform.

- **BRICS:** Equity flows will be episodic rather than broad-based. Markets with strong domestic demand, credible policy frameworks, and structural reform momentum, India in particular, remain relatively resilient. India's equity risk premium remains structurally higher than most developed-market peers, offering relative valuation support.

FIXED INCOME

- U.S. long-end yields are likely to stay firm due to inflation risk premia re-embed.
- The U.S. term premium has turned positive again after nearly a decade of suppression.
- Yield curves may steepen gradually as policy credibility is reasserted.
- For BRICS, elevated U.S. yields have increased external borrowing costs by roughly 200–300 basis points since 2021, constraining domestic rate-cut cycles.

CURRENCIES

- Structural support for a **strong U.S. dollar** persists under positive real rates and safe-haven demand.
- BRICS currencies may face intermittent pressure, elevating the importance of FX reserves, credible monetary frameworks, and macro-prudential buffers.

COMMODITIES & GOLD

- Gold has consolidated recently as real yields stabilize.
- Strategically, gold retains relevance as a hedge against geopolitical risk, currency debasement, and systemic stress. Over the past two years, gold has delivered approximately 30–40% returns, outperforming global equities and reinforcing its role in BRICS reserve diversification.

4. Implications for BRICS Economies

Capital Flows & Financial Stability

A Warsh-led Fed reinforces global capital selectivity. Countries with weak fiscal positions, large current-account deficits, or high external debt burdens face higher and more volatile risk premia. Differentiation across BRICS will intensify.

- India and Brazil benefit from deeper domestic capital markets and improving policy credibility.
- China faces structural growth challenges and capital-flow constraints.
- South Africa remains vulnerable to twin deficits.
- Russia remains largely decoupled from global capital markets.

Monetary Policy Trade-offs

BRICS central banks face tighter constraints:

- Premature easing risks currency instability and capital outflows.
- Prolonged tight policy risks growth fatigue and political pressure.

In this environment, policy credibility, sequencing, and communication will be decisive.

Trade & Strategic Realignment

A stable but slower U.S. growth path may accelerate:

- Intra-BRICS trade integration
- Local-currency settlement mechanisms
- Regional financial safety nets and development finance initiatives

5. GLOBAL FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE: STRUCTURAL SHIFTS

Warsh's leadership reinforces a global transition toward:

- Lower tolerance for leverage
- Reduced moral hazard
- Greater emphasis on balance-sheet strength and pricing of risk

With global debt-to-GDP still exceeding 330%, the scope for aggressive monetary accommodation without credibility costs is structurally limited. For BRICS, this strengthens the strategic case for deepening domestic capital markets, gradual reserve diversification, and coordinated financial frameworks.

CONCLUSION: DISCIPLINE OVER DISRUPTION

Kevin Warsh's nomination does not signal monetary shock therapy, but it does confirm a regime of **discipline, predictability, and credibility**. In this environment, BRICS economies that prioritize stability over stimulus will be better positioned to navigate tighter global financial conditions.

Monetary credibility, not liquidity, will define resilience in the next global cycle.

Disclosures :

- Investment in securities market is 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.



Mr. Rahul Bagga

Founder - Aumirah
Member, BRICS CCI

BRICS AND THE FUTURE OF TRADEMARK MULTILATERALISM

INTRODUCTION

The Madrid Protocol's expansion into BRICS jurisdictions, China's accession in 1989, Russia's in 1976 under the Madrid Agreement, India's in 2013, and Brazil's in 2019 has not resolved fundamental tensions in cross-border trademark enforcement. Territorial rights regimes, divergent bad faith filing standards, and inconsistent enforcement mechanisms continue to fragment protection across these economies despite formal adherence to WIPO-administered frameworks. South Africa's non-participation in the Madrid system further complicates regional harmonization efforts.

These jurisdictions now account for the majority of global trademark filing growth, yet their enforcement philosophies diverge significantly from traditional brand-exclusive models. The shift toward consumer deception standards, variable proportionality thresholds in injunctive relief, and competing approaches to trademark squatting reflect deeper conflicts between proprietary rights frameworks and competition policy objectives. As BRICS countries strengthen bilateral cooperation mechanisms outside traditional multilateral structures, their collective approach to trademark law increasingly challenges Western-dominated international IP governance.

THE TRADITIONAL TRADEMARK MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK

a. WIPO and International Trademark Treaties

Trademarks have witnessed significant growth in both domestic and international trade. Due to the advancement in technology and increase in cross-border business, use of trademarks is no longer restricted to domestic territory.[1] Accordingly, trademarks protected at the national level increasingly require protection beyond domestic jurisdictions. To address it, efforts have been taken such as development of trademark legal instruments which have played a crucial role in improving the trademark legal system. Some of these instruments include Paris Convention, Madrid Agreement (Marks), Madrid Protocol and Nice Agreement.[2] These instruments are administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a specialised agency of the United Nations. The primary objective of these treaties is to establish a framework that facilitates international trademark registration, promotes administrative cooperation, and encourages harmonisation of domestic trademark laws.

b. Implementation challenges in Cross-border Trademark enforcement

There are certain challenges that arise in cross-border trademark protection due to the structure of the international intellectual property system, thus making it hard to access effective remedies. Trademark rights are territorial, thus, to enforce rights in other jurisdictions, it is important to obtain registrations in relevant jurisdictions. Parallel imports are another critical issue, where enforcement is subject to proving that brand has been harmed and presence of counterfeiting practices, making enforcement harder. Implementation issues also arise on e-commerce and social media platforms where a number of counterfeit products are being sold leading to inconsistencies in the system. Certain jurisdictions have a weaker IP enforcement system due to political/economic restrictions, this can be a major problem for proprietors holding rights in those countries.[3].

[1] Id.

[2] WIPO, trademarks, <https://www.wipo.int/en/web/trademarks> (last visited Feb. 3, 2026).

[3] Akshi Seem, Challenges in Cross-Border Trademark Enforcement, Lexology (Oct. 8, 2025), <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=3758ae81-9205-49ac-86d5-aa52bb7f7896>.

COMMON TRADEMARK CHALLENGES ACROSS BRICS JURISDICTIONS

a. Bad-Faith Filings and Trademark Squatting

Bad faith filings refer to those trademark filings which are made with an unfair and dishonest intent. Such filings are carried out to take advantage of the situation, where the true proprietor has not obtained registration.[4] Trademark Squatting involves fraudulent parties who apply for closely similar or identical marks to that of the well-known mark with the purpose of selling or transferring these to the genuine proprietors at an increased cost. These fraudulent practices call for proper functioning of the trademark law and need for judicial scrutiny to protect the interests of legitimate trademark owners.[5]

b. Balancing Proprietary Rights and Competition

Competition and proprietary rights are of the most complex intersection. It is to be noted that proprietary rights do contribute towards innovation by encouraging creators and innovators through recognition of their efforts however on the other hand it also leads to creation of monopolies. It is important to bring a balance between the proprietary rights and competition to ensure that neither innovation is being discouraged nor anti-competitive practices are being carried out in the market.[6]

TRADEMARK APPROACHES WITHIN BRICS

The laws of trademarks that exist in the BRICS jurisdictions vary in several aspects such as the premise of which application is made or the time of non-use which could lead to cancellation of work. According to Madrid Yearly Review of WIPO, in 2013, China was the only member country to have registered above 20,000 designations followed by Russia registering 18,239 designations. India's economy is also advancing day by day, and it is likely to experience an increase in international trademark registrations.

[4] Bad Faith Trademark - TM5, TM5, <https://tmfive.org/continuationexpansion-of-bad-faith-project-2-2/> (last visited Feb. 3, 2026).

[5] Garima Chopra, Trademark Squatting: Bane of a Legitimate Trademark Owner, Lexology (Mar. 29, 2024), <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=569f60e2-6f26-4b80-97f4-651df1b3edf3>.

[6] Yatinder Garg, Balancing Act: Competition Law And Intellectual Property Rights In India, Mondaq - Law Articles and Insights (Nov. 8, 2023), <https://www.mondaq.com/india/antitrust-eu-competition/1386500/balancing-act-competition-law-and-intellectual-property-rights-in-india>.

. India entered into Madrid Protocol in April 2013, after major changes in its trademarks act 1999, legislative amendments and administrative reforms to align with international standards. After several deliberations, Brazil finally acceded the Madrid Protocol in July 2019, and the system is in effect in country since October 2019. This step allows Brazilian trademark proprietors to apply for protection in several member countries using one international application and foreign applicants to designate Brazil under the Madrid system.[7]

TRADEMARK ENFORCEMENT PHILOSOPHY

a. Proportionality in injunctions and damages

IP rights, entitle the proprietor in case of any infringement, a right of injunction. There are two levels for grant of an injunction to assess proportionality. At the first level, the injunction must be aligned to the infringement itself, ensuring the remedy doesn't lead to overcompensation. At the second level, injunction must satisfy broader principle of proportionality, requiring that the measures adopted are relevant and requisite to achieve the intended legitimate aim. This approach is similar to the CJEU's three-step test, which considers appropriateness, necessity and proportionality *stricto sensu*, along with pursuit of legitimate aim.[8] Under the trademarks act, damages are not explicitly defined. Under section 135,[9] court has the power to grant relief for infringement or passing off, including injunctions, damages or an account of profits. Rule 20 of the Delhi High Court Intellectual Property Rights Division Rules, 2022[10] further requires parties seeking damages on accounts of profits to submit a reasonable estimated corroborated by evidence. [11]

[7] Accession of Madrid Protocol by Brazil, S.S. Rana & Co. (July 19, 2019), <https://ssrana.in/articles/accession-of-madrid-protocol-by-brazil/#:~:text=After%20years%20of%20discussion,%20a,in%20the%20region%20follow%20suit>”.

[8] Peter Teunissen, Intellectual Property, Injunctions, and Proportionality: Towards a Uniform Approach, 2025 GRUR Int'l, <https://doi.org/10.1093/grurint/ikaf074>.

[9] Trademarks Act, 1999, § 135.

[10] Delhi High Court Intellectual Property Rights Division Rules, 2022, Rule 20.

[11] Mayank Grover & Pratibha Vyas, Assessment Of Damages In Trademark Disputes – Recent Developments, Mondaq - Law Articles and Insights (Feb. 15, 2025), <https://www.mondaq.com/india/trademark/1624534/assessment-of-damages-in-trademark-disputes-recent-developments>.

b. Increased focus on consumer deception rather than brand exclusivity

Trademarks are highly persuasive when it comes to consumers viewing products and brands, and most of the times, they leave an impression on the minds of consumers. However, at times there can arise a situation where a trademark is so similar that it can cause confusion or mislead the consumer as provided under section 2(1)(h) of Trademarks Act, 1999.[12] Due to deceptive similarity, a consumer might have to face certain consequences such as mistaken purchases, significant health risks in case of pharmaceutical products. On the other side, this can also harm the reputation and goodwill of the brand. Promoting consumer welfare is the underlying philosophy of both consumer law and trademark jurisprudence.

CONCLUSION

Apart from being the leading countries in the world in terms of geographic size and population, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are also aligned in terms of socio-economic development.[13] The intellectual property right regime within the BRICS countries is a complicated system of evolution of law, implementation challenges and economic interests. Although considerable efforts were taken to align the domestic intellectual property laws with International Frameworks, however, there still lies discrepancies between implementation and enforcement. Countries like China and India have relatively made more use intellectual property rights to help drive innovation and economic development. However, on the other side, countries like Brazil, Russia and South Africa are still facing challenges such as procedure delays, counterfeiting and lack of institutional capacity. Well-functioning IP systems promote foreign investment, market competition, and innovation in the market whereas lack of execution can discourage investment and hamper growth.[14] To address these challenges, BRICS countries must prioritise strengthening enforcement mechanisms, enhancing institutional capacity, promoting stakeholder awareness, and leveraging technology to improve transparency and efficiency within trademark administration and enforcement frameworks.

[12] Trademarks Act, 1999, § 2(1)(h).

[13] Adriana Brigante Deorsola et al., Intellectual property and trademark legal framework in BRICS countries: A comparative study, 49 World Pat. Info. 1, (2017), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wpi.2017.03.001>.

[14] Haryono Haryono et al., Intellectual Property Rights in BRICS Countries: Legal Frameworks, Enforcement Challenges, and Economic Implications, 2 W. Sci. Interdisc. Stud. 2494, (2024), <https://doi.org/10.58812/wsis.v2i12.1550>.



Mr. Gaurav Mahajan

Partner- The Percept Laws
Member, BRICS CCI

MEITY NOTIFIES THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (INTERMEDIARY GUIDELINES AND DIGITAL MEDIA ETHICS CODE) AMENDMENT RULES, 2026: INTRODUCING A FRAMEWORK FOR SYNTHETICALLY GENERATED AND AI-DRIVEN CONTENT

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (“MeitY”) has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026 (“2026 Amendment”), further amending the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (“IT Rules, 2021”). The 2026 Amendment introduces a comprehensive compliance framework governing “synthetically generated information”, including AI-generated and deepfake content, and significantly increases due diligence obligations for intermediaries and Significant Social Media Intermediaries (“SSMIs”). The Amendment comes into force on February 20, 2026, and marks a substantial regulatory development in the governance of artificial intelligence-driven content in India.

A key feature of the 2026 Amendment is the insertion of new definitions under Rule 2(1). The term “audio, visual or audio-visual information” has been introduced and broadly defined as, “any audio, image, photograph, graphic, video, moving visual recording, sound recording or any other audio, visual or audio-visual content, with or without accompanying audio, whether created, generated, modified or altered through any computer resource”.in a manner that such information appears to be real, authentic or true and depicts or portrays any individual or event in a manner that is, or is likely to be perceived as indistinguishable from a natural person or real-world event”. The definition is intentionally expansive and technology-neutral, thereby bringing within its ambit AI-generated content, deepfakes, and other forms of algorithmically manipulated media.

At the same time, the definition incorporates carefully drafted exceptions. Content arising from routine or good-faith editing, formatting, enhancement, colour correction, compression, translation, transcription, or accessibility improvements is excluded, provided such processes do not materially alter, distort, or misrepresent the substance or meaning of the original information. This exception seeks to distinguish legitimate digital processing from deceptive synthetic manipulation.

The Amendment further inserts Rule 2(1A), which clarifies that any reference to “information” in the context of unlawful acts under the IT Rules including under Rule 3(1) (b), Rule 3(1)(d), and Rule 4(2) and Rule 4(4) shall be construed to include synthetically generated information unless the context otherwise requires. This interpretative expansion ensures that all existing due diligence, takedown, traceability, and proactive monitoring obligations applicable to unlawful content now equally apply to AI-generated and synthetic content. Additionally, Rule 2(1B) clarifies that removal or disabling of access to synthetically generated information in compliance with the IT Rules, including through the deployment of reasonable and appropriate technical measures, shall not amount to a violation of Section 79(2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000. This clarification reinforces safe harbour protection for intermediaries acting in good faith to curb unlawful synthetic content.

The 2026 Amendment also substantially revises Rule 3 relating to due diligence by intermediaries. Intermediaries are now required to inform users at least once every three months rather than annually about the consequences of non-compliance with platform rules, potential penal liability under applicable laws, and mandatory reporting obligations where the content relates to offences under statutes such as the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 or the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

Pertinently, another significant structural change is the insertion of Rule 3(3), which lays down due diligence obligations specifically in relation to synthetically generated information. Intermediaries that offer computer resources enabling or facilitating the creation, generation, modification, alteration, publication, transmission, sharing, or dissemination of synthetically generated information are now required to deploy reasonable and appropriate technical measures, including automated tools or other suitable mechanisms, to prevent users from generating or disseminating synthetic content that violates applicable law. The 2026 Amendment identifies categories of prohibited synthetic content, including child sexual abuse material, non-consensual intimate imagery, obscene or sexually explicit material, false documents or false electronic records, content relating to explosives or arms, and content that falsely depicts or portrays a natural person or real-world event in a deceptive manner.

In addition to prohibiting unlawful synthetic content, the said amendment mandates a labelling and provenance regime. All synthetically generated information that is not prohibited must be clearly and prominently labelled in a manner that ensures visibility in visual displays or, in the case of audio content, through a prominently prefixed audio disclosure. Furthermore, such content must, to the extent technically feasible, be embedded with permanent metadata or other technical provenance mechanisms, including a unique identifier capable of identifying the intermediary's computer resource used to generate or alter the content. The Amendment expressly prohibits intermediaries from enabling the modification, suppression, or removal of such labels or embedded identifiers, thereby reinforcing content traceability.

Moreover, the 2026 Amendment also significantly tightens compliance timelines. The time limit for removal or disabling of access to unlawful information upon receipt of a valid government or court order has been reduced from thirty-six hours to three hours. Similarly, the grievance resolution period has been shortened from fifteen days to seven days, and expedited complaint resolution timelines have been reduced in specified cases. These compressed timelines impose heightened operational readiness obligations on intermediaries.

Notably, enhanced obligations have also been introduced for SSMI under a newly inserted Rule 4(1A). SSIMs that enable users to upload or publish information must, prior to display or publication, require users to declare whether the content is synthetically generated. They must deploy reasonable and proportionate technical measures to verify the correctness of such declarations and ensure that confirmed synthetic content is clearly and prominently labelled before publication. Where an SSMI knowingly permits, promotes, or fails to act upon unlabelled synthetic content in contravention of the Rules, it may be deemed to have failed to exercise due diligence. Additionally, Rule 4(4) has been amended to require SSIMs to “deploy” appropriate technical measures for proactive identification of unlawful content, replacing the earlier, less strict obligation to merely “endeavour” to deploy such measures.

LAW DIGEST

SOUTH KOREA, CHINA SIGN AGREEMENT ON STRENGTHENING IP RELATIONS

South Korea and China have signed a partnership agreement aimed at strengthening cooperation on intellectual property protection, on the sidelines of a summit between South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

According to Seoul's Ministry of Intellectual Property, the new memorandum of understanding expands and upgrades the bilateral cooperative framework first established in 2021, significantly widening the scope of collaboration between the two countries.

Link:- <https://asiaiplaw.com/section/news-analysis/south-korea-china-sign-agreement-on-strengthening-ip-relations>



TIKTOK NOW RECOGNIZED AS A FAMOUS TRADEMARK IN NEPAL

TikTok is now regarded as a famous trademark in Nepal.

The Department of Industry (DoI) has formally recognized the mark as such, which means "TikTok" is more than a well-known mark in Nepal.

The DoI made the landmark decision via the TikTok Information Technology UK Limited v. C.G. Foods (Nepal) Pvt. Ltd. trademark opposition proceeding. The dispute involved the attempted registration of the mark "Tic Toc" for instant noodles under Class 30 by C.G. Foods, Nepal's leading snack foods manufacturing company.

Link:- <https://asiaiplaw.com/section/news-analysis/tiktok-now-recognized-as-a-famous-trademark-in-nepal>



LAW DIGEST

MALAYSIAN DURIAN INDUSTRY URGED TO TAP GI PROTECTION TO BOOST GLOBAL VALUE

Malaysia's leading durian varieties should pursue wider geographical indication (GI) protection to strengthen their global profile and unlock greater branding and pricing power, according to senior intellectual property officials.

In a statement, Yusnieza Syarmila Yusoff, director general of the Malaysian Intellectual Property Corporation, said more farmer groups and state authorities should apply for GI status for distinctive durians tied to specific regions.

Link:- <https://asiaiplaw.com/section/news-analysis/malaysian-durian-industry-urged-to-tap-gi-protection-to-boost-global-value>



GOVERNMENT PROPOSES PROTECTION FOR METAVERSE DESIGNS, VIRTUAL PRODUCTS UNDER DESIGNS ACT

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has proposed bringing metaverse-based and other virtual designs within the scope of India's design protection law under amendments to the Designs Act, 2000.

The proposal forms part of a concept note issued by the department on Friday and placed in the public domain for stakeholder consultation. DPIIT has invited comments within 30 days

Link:- <https://www.livelawbiz.com/regulatory/ipr/dpiit-designs-act-amendment-proposal-metaverse-based-designs-520601>



LAW DIGEST

'VAPORIN' DOESN'T INFRINGE 'VICKS VAPORUB' MARK: MADRAS HIGH COURT DISMISSES P&G'S PLEA

The Madras High Court has rejected Procter & Gamble's attempt to cancel the trademarks "VAPORIN" and "VAPORIN COLD RUB," holding that the marks are validly registered in favour of IPI India and are not deceptively similar to P&G's well-known product "VICKS VAPORUB". A Single-Judge Bench of Justice N. Senthilkumar, in an order dated January 6, 2026, dismissed a batch of trademark rectification pleas filed by P&G seeking removal of IPI's registrations on the ground of deceptive similarity.

Link:- <https://www.livelawbiz.com/ipr/madras-high-court-ipr-trademark-procter-gambles-plea-to-cancel-vaporin-refused-520418>



'KHADI' IS A WELL-KNOWN MARK: DELHI HIGH COURT TEMPORARILY INJUNCTS USE OF 'KHADI VEDA' BY COSMETICS FIRM

The Delhi High Court has temporarily restrained an Ahmedabad-based cosmetic goods manufacturer, Enduring Body Care LLP, and its associated entities from using the mark "KHADI VEDA" or any other deceptively similar variant of "KHADI" for any goods or services. The Court held that the use of the disputed mark prima facie infringed the registered and well-known 'KHADI' trademarks of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

Link:- <https://www.livelawbiz.com/ipr/delhi-high-court-ipr-trademark-khadi-veda-temporarily-injuncted-over-similarity-with-khadi-520093>



LAW DIGEST

'A TO Z' IS GENERIC FOR MULTIVITAMINS, CANNOT BE MONOPOLISED: DELHI HIGH COURT

Holding that “A TO Z” is generic and descriptive for nutraceutical products, the Delhi High Court has lifted an interim injunction against Prevego Healthcare. The Court ruled that Alkem Laboratories cannot claim exclusive rights over the letters “A” and “Z” in relation to multivitamin supplements. In a judgment delivered on January 17, 2026, Justice Tejas Karia allowed Prevego's application seeking vacation of the injunction and dismissed Alkem's plea for interim relief in a suit alleging trademark infringement, copyright infringement, and passing off.



Link:- <https://www.livelawbiz.com/ipr/delhi-high-court-ipr-trademark-a-to-z-generic-no-exclusivity-denies-relief-to-pharma-company-519712>

CITIGROUP NAMES NEW LEADERS WITH CORPORATE BANKING FOCUS, MEMO SHOWS

Jan 27 (Reuters) - Citigroup (C.N), opens new tab on Tuesday announced a series of leadership changes across its corporate and investment banking divisions as CEO Jane Fraser steps up efforts to sharpen the bank's competitiveness against Wall Street rivals. Veterans of the industry Jason ReKate and John Chirico will take on the roles of global chairs for corporate and investment banking, respectively, according to a memo seen by Reuters.

Link:- https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/citigroup-names-new-leaders-with-corporate-banking-focus-memo-shows-2026-01-27/?utm_source=chatgpt.com



LAW DIGEST

UPDATE ON OUR ORGANIZATION

I want to let you know that we're making additional organizational changes across Amazon that will impact some of our teammates. I recognize this is difficult news, which is why I'm sharing what's happening and why.

As I shared in October, we've been working to strengthen our organization by reducing layers, increasing ownership, and removing bureaucracy. While many teams finalized their organizational changes in October, other teams did not complete that work until now.

Link: <https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/company-news/amazon-layoffs-corporate-jan-2026>



STOCKS RISE TO RECORD ON EARNINGS OPTIMISM, DOLLAR HITS FOUR-YEAR LOW

NEW YORK, Jan 27 (Reuters) - Global stocks rose for a fifth straight session on Tuesday, reaching an intraday record as the pace of the U.S. earnings season picked up, while the dollar sank to its lowest level in nearly four years ahead of a policy announcement from the Federal Reserve.

On Wall Street, the S&P 500 and Nasdaq were higher, with the benchmark S&P index registering a record close, as investors gauged a flurry of major earnings releases, including results from airplane maker Boeing (BA.N), opens new tab and shipping company United Parcel Service (UPS.N), opens new tab, which said it would cut up to 30,000 jobs in operational roles this year.

Link: https://www.reuters.com/world/china/global-markets-wrapup-1-2026-01-27/?utm_source=chatgpt.com



LAW DIGEST

NIO INC. PROVIDES JANUARY 2026 DELIVERY UPDATE

SHANGHAI, Feb. 01, 2026 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- NIO Inc. (NYSE: NIO; HKEX: 9866; SGX: NIO) (“NIO” or the “Company”), a pioneer and a leading company in the global smart electric vehicle market, today announced its January 2026 delivery results. The Company delivered 27,182 vehicles in January 2026, representing an increase of 96.1% year-over-year. The deliveries consisted of 20,894 vehicles from the Company’s premium smart electric vehicle brand NIO, 3,481 vehicles from the Company’s family-oriented smart electric vehicle brand ONVO, and 2,807 vehicles from the Company’s small smart high-end electric car brand FIREFLY. Cumulative deliveries reached 1,024,774 as of January 31, 2026.



Link:- https://ir.nio.com/news-releases/news-release-details/nio-inc-provides-january-2026-delivery-update?utm_source=chatgpt.com

JANUARY 2026'S TOP GROWTH COMPANIES WITH STRONG INSIDER OWNERSHIP

As the S&P 500 reaches new heights and the tech-heavy Nasdaq experiences a robust rally, investors are keenly observing growth companies with strong insider ownership, particularly in a market that showcases both optimism and volatility. In such an environment, stocks with high insider ownership can be appealing as they often indicate confidence from those who know the company best, aligning their interests closely with shareholders.

Link:- https://finance.yahoo.com/news/january-2026s-top-growth-companies-113533216.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com



LAW DIGEST

BUSINESS LEADERS PRESS AHEAD IN 2026 DESPITE UNEVEN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK - WEEKLY ROUNDUP: 20 JANUARY

Business leaders in the US are entering 2026 with a more measured view of the economy, but remain broadly confident in their own prospects, according to the latest Business Leaders Outlook survey from J.P. Morgan Commercial Banking. US national economic optimism has rebounded to 39%, up from a midyear low of 32%, although it remains well below the five-year high reached last year. By contrast, global economic optimism among respondents stands at 28%, broadly in line with the 15-year average of 26%. The survey suggests sentiment has stabilised after notable volatility earlier in 2025, which business leaders associate with new tariffs and policy changes, as well as interest rate cuts introduced as the US labour market cooled.



Link:- https://ctmfile.com/story/business-leaders-press-ahead-in-2026-despite-uneven-economic-outlook-weekly-roundup-20-january?utm_source=chatgpt.com

S&P 500 MARKS CLOSING RECORD AS CORPORATE EARNINGS ROLL IN; MEDICARE RATES HIT INSURERS

Jan 27 (Reuters) - The S&P 500 barely managed a record closing high on Tuesday, its fifth straight day of gains with investor optimism ahead of megacap earnings reports being countered by a mixed reception to the latest earnings reports and a massive selloff in health insurer stocks.

Link:- https://www.reuters.com/business/sp-nasdaq-futures-rise-going-into-mega-week-earnings-medicare-rates-hit-insurers-2026-01-27/?utm_source=chatgpt.com



LAW DIGEST

BUSINESS NEWS: UK JOB LOSSES AND ECONOMIC TRENDS (JAN 21)

The UK lost around 43,000 jobs in December, equivalent to nearly 1,400 a day, marking the largest monthly fall since November 2020. Business leaders at Davos linked the deterioration to higher taxes and regulatory pressure, while the Government defended its approach. The data reinforces signs of a cooling labour market already visible in slowing wage growth.

Link: https://cpa.co.uk/business-news-21-january-2026/?utm_source=chatgpt.com



PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY

Since late 2025, Warner Bros. Discovery (WBD) has drawn multiple acquisition offers from several entertainment companies. On October 21, 2025, WBD announced it would consider a "broad range of alternative options" to its previous plans of splitting the company in two. Netflix, Paramount Skydance, and Comcast had all submitted bids by November 20, 2025. After a second round of bidding, Netflix was widely seen as the frontrunner by December 4, 2025. In response, Paramount Skydance questioned whether WBD was truly serving its shareholders' best interests.

Link: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proposed_acquisition_of_Warner_Bros._Discovery?utm_source=chatgpt.com





India becomes BRICS Chair in 2026

India has officially taken over the **BRICS chairmanship for the year 2026**, with the leadership handed to New Delhi on **1 January 2026**, succeeding **Brazil**. This marks India's turn as chair of the BRICS grouping - which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa - and positions it to host the **18th BRICS Summit** and lead the bloc's agenda throughout the year. India's BRICS presidency will focus on its priorities and initiatives for cooperation among emerging economies.

Source: <https://tvbrics.com/en/news/india-officially-becomes-brics-chair/>



BRICS Summits: Expanding Economic Cooperation and Global Influence

BRICS summits are annual meetings focused on enhancing cooperation in trade, finance, technology, and global governance reform. Key priorities include promoting local currency trade, alternative payment systems, MSME collaboration, and industrial development through initiatives like the BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies (BCIC), while expanding influence under the BRICS Plus framework.

Source: <https://www.civildaily.com/story/brics-summits/>



BRICS laying first tracks for new global payment system

BRICS nations are developing a payment system linking their digital currencies to enable faster cross-border trade and reduce dependence on the U.S. dollar and SWIFT by allowing settlements directly in local currencies, while payment-netting and currency swap arrangements would help improve efficiency and gradually build an alternative payment channel that strengthens financial resilience during global disruptions.

Source: <https://asiatimes.com/2026/01/brics-laying-first-tracks-for-new-global-payment-system/>

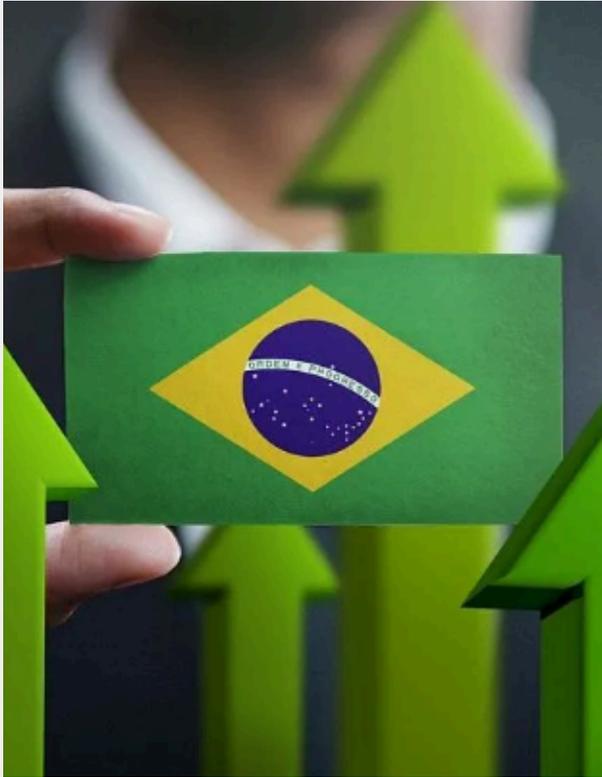


Exclusive: India's central bank proposes linking BRICS' digital currencies, sources say

India's Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed linking BRICS nations' digital currencies to make cross-border payments faster and improve payment connectivity, with discussions expected ahead of the 2026 BRICS summit, though technical and regulatory coordination will be needed for implementation.

Source:

<https://www.reuters.com/world/india/indias-central-bank-proposes-linking-brics-digital-currencies-sources-say-2026-01-19/>



Brazil Records US \$3.8 Billion Trade Surplus in Early January

According to a TV BRICS news release, Brazil posted a trade surplus of approximately US \$3.8 billion in the first three weeks of January 2026, driven by strong export growth across key sectors. The positive balance highlights Brazil's robust external sector performance at the start of the year, contributing to broader economic stability and reinforcing its role as a major trading economy among BRICS countries.

Source:<https://tvbrics.com/en/news/brazil-records-us-3-8-billion-trade-surplus/>

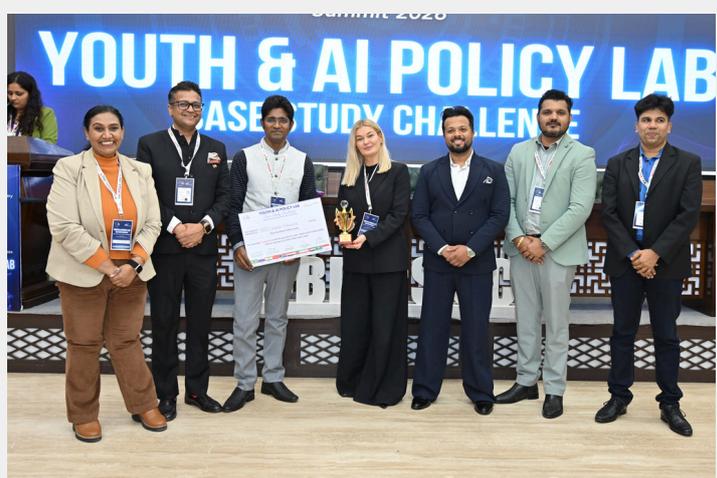
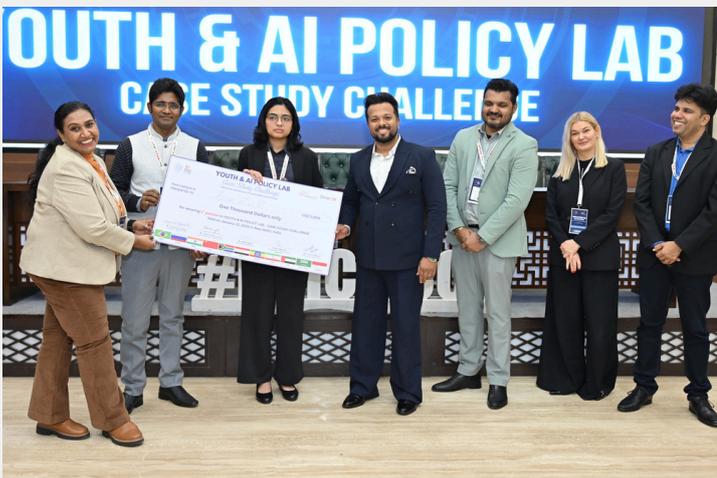


Zimbabwe Accelerates BRICS Membership Bid to Strengthen Economic Integration and Reduce Dollar Dependence

Zimbabwe is fast-tracking its bid to join BRICS. Foreign Affairs Minister Amon Murwira confirmed formal engagement with all current members. President Mnangagwa aims to boost trade, investment, technology access, and economic stability, while reducing reliance on the U.S. dollar and strengthening ties with emerging economies.

Source:<https://africa.businessinsider.com/local/lifestyle/trumps-hardline-policies-may-be-driving-another-african-country-fast-toward-brics/73hm3sh>







BRICS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

BRICS CCI HEAD OFFICE

**A-2/8, FIRST FLOOR
AFRICA AVENUE ROAD
SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE, NEW
DELHI - 110029**

Email id: info@bricscci.com