SRA LEGAL
WEEKLY JUDGMENT DIGEST

Supreme Court of India and Indian High Courts

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Executive Summary

This edition selects ten practice-relevant developments: six final or operative outcomes, one reference to a larger Bench, two supervisory or monitoring orders, and one notice-stage matter. The leading themes are constitutional safeguards at arrest, prolonged-trial bail, specialised commercial-court jurisdiction, domestic contractual continuity despite foreign sanctions, disciplined tax classification, and limits on price-control methodology.

THE WEEK'S PRACTICE SIGNAL

Procedural status matters as much as the headline. A final judgment may be cited for its ratio; a reference order identifies an unsettled conflict; an interim monitoring direction regulates the next stage; and notice merely invites a response. Each entry below is expressly labelled.

Judgments at a Glance

COURT / STATUS	MATTER	LEADING POINT
SC | Final	Jaskaran Jeet Singh Deol	Written grounds of arrest in a language understood are mandatory; breach invalidates arrest.
SC | Reference	I.S.D.S. v Khemka Food Products	Conflict over whether notified civil judges may hear trademark commercial suits goes to a larger Bench.
SC | Supervisory	Ashish Mishra trial	UP must identify a senior prosecutor; Allahabad HC asked to examine allegations about trial management.
SC | Monitoring	NTA examination reform	Union to place progress on implementation of the Nandan Nilekani committee's recommendations.
SC | Notice	Pranit More FIR-clubbing plea	Responses sought on consolidation of multiple FIRs; merits remain undecided.
Delhi HC | Final	Jagtar Singh Johal bail	Eight-year custody and slow evidence supported bail across seven NIA prosecutions.
Delhi HC | Final	Nayara Energy v SAP India	Software services ordered restored despite suspension linked to EU sanctions.
Bombay HC | Final	Sharma Heavy Lifter	Crane hire without transfer of effective control is a service, not a deemed sale.
Bombay HC | Final	Pharmed v Union of India	NPPA could not borrow another formulation's ceiling price without statutory calculation.
Karnataka HC | Final	Ritwik S. Sharma	Criminal case over an offensive social-media post quashed after warning; ruling remains fact-specific.

Supreme Court of India

1. Jaskaran Jeet Singh Deol v State of Punjab

Status: FINAL JUDGMENT | 21 September 2026
Bench: Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Atul S. Chandurkar

Issue

Whether an arrest remains constitutionally valid when the arrested person is not furnished written grounds of arrest in a language that the person understands.

PRINCIPAL HOLDING / DEVELOPMENT

The Court held that written grounds of arrest, communicated in a language understood by the arrested person, are mandatory under Article 22(1). Non-compliance renders the arrest unconstitutional and requires immediate release. It also framed safeguards for any re-arrest, including superior-officer scrutiny, reassignment of investigation, departmental inquiry and prior permission of the Magistrate.

Practical significance

Defence counsel should demand the written grounds and verify language, timing and acknowledgment. Investigating agencies should treat the requirement as a substantive constitutional condition, not a curable paperwork defect. Magistrates must examine compliance before authorising custody.

Key provisions / principles

Article 22(1) of the Constitution; grounds of arrest; personal liberty; judicial scrutiny of remand; compensation for unconstitutional arrest.

Source: Indian Express, 22 September 2026

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2. I.S.D.S. Private Limited & Anr. v M/s Khemka Food Products Pvt. Ltd. & Anr.

Status: REFERENCE ORDER; SUIT STAYED | 21 September 2026
Bench: Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K. Vinod Chandran | Civil appeal arising from SLP(C) No. 6793/2026

Issue

Whether Section 134 of the Trade Marks Act, which bars institution in a court inferior to a District Court, is displaced when a State notification under the Commercial Courts Act designates a Civil Judge (Senior Division) as a Commercial Court.

PRINCIPAL HOLDING / DEVELOPMENT

Finding an apparent conflict in existing Supreme Court authority, the Bench referred the question to a larger Bench through the Chief Justice of India. Commercial Suit No. 11/2023 pending before the Civil Judge (Senior Division)-I, Jamshedpur was stayed in the meantime. No final jurisdictional rule was laid down.

Practical significance

Trademark plaintiffs should verify the forum against both the Trade Marks Act and the relevant State commercial-court notification. Pending matters in similarly constituted courts may face transfer, stay or maintainability objections until the larger Bench resolves the conflict.

Key provisions / principles

Section 134, Trade Marks Act, 1999; Sections 3 and 6, Commercial Courts Act, 2015; special-court jurisdiction; precedential conflict; reference to a larger Bench.

Source: Signed Supreme Court order (mirror), 21 September 2026

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3. Ashish Mishra @ Monu v State of Uttar Pradesh

Status: SUPERVISORY / INTERIM ORDER | 22 September 2026
Bench: Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohana

Issue

What immediate steps were necessary to ensure effective prosecution and institutional review in the pending Lakhimpur Kheri trial.

PRINCIPAL HOLDING / DEVELOPMENT

The Court directed Uttar Pradesh to identify a senior and experienced public prosecutor and file an affidavit within two weeks. It also requested the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court to examine allegations concerning the trial judge and furnish a sealed report. The directions are supervisory; they are not findings that the allegations are established.

Practical significance

In high-sensitivity criminal trials, parties should distinguish case-management directions from merits findings. The order reinforces the Court's focus on prosecutorial competence, trial integrity and a documented institutional response.

Key provisions / principles

Fair-trial administration; prosecutorial independence and competence; judicial supervision; sealed institutional report; presumption against treating allegations as proved.

Source: Bar & Bench Hindi, 22 September 2026

4. National Testing Agency examination-reform proceedings

Status: MONITORING / INTERLOCUTORY ORDER | 18 September 2026
Bench: Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe

Issue

Whether implementation of systemic examination reforms recommended by the Nandan Nilekani committee was progressing with adequate coordination and accountability.

PRINCIPAL HOLDING / DEVELOPMENT

The Court sought a progress affidavit within two weeks from the Joint Secretary coordinating the reform exercise. The Bench also indicated close institutional oversight, including possible inspection of the NTA's operational systems. The proceeding remains pending and does not represent a final ruling on the reforms.

Practical significance

Examination authorities should maintain a verifiable implementation trail covering technology, security, governance and incident response. Stakeholders should rely on the eventual written directions and progress filings rather than isolated oral observations.

Key provisions / principles

Court-monitored institutional reform; examination integrity; administrative accountability; progress affidavits; distinction between oral observations and operative directions.

Source: Bar & Bench Hindi, 18 September 2026

5. Pranit More's plea to consolidate multiple FIRs

Status: NOTICE-STAGE MATTER | 22 September 2026
Bench: Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohana

Issue

Whether multiple FIRs arising from the same allegedly objectionable public remark should be clubbed and transferred to one investigating jurisdiction.

PRINCIPAL HOLDING / DEVELOPMENT

The Court issued notice to the Union of India and the States of Maharashtra and Haryana on the prayer to club the FIRs. This is only a notice-stage development: no view was expressed on guilt, the legality of the speech, or whether consolidation must ultimately be granted.

Practical significance

When several FIRs arise from the same speech or transaction, counsel should chart the complainants, offences, territorial links and factual overlap. The notice does not stay or determine the prosecutions unless the operative order expressly says so.

Key provisions / principles

Article 32; multiple FIRs from the same transaction; territorial jurisdiction; consolidation or transfer; notice-stage discipline.

Source: Indian Express, 22 September 2026

High Courts

6. Jagtar Singh Johal — bail in seven NIA prosecutions

Status: FINAL BAIL ORDERS | 18 September 2026
Delhi High Court | Bench: Justices Navin Chawla and Ravinder Dudeja

Issue

Whether continued detention remained justified after more than eight years in custody where the trials had progressed slowly and substantial evidence remained to be recorded.

PRINCIPAL HOLDING / DEVELOPMENT

The Division Bench granted bail in seven NIA cases. It considered the prolonged incarceration, the pace of trial — only 40 of 123 witnesses had been examined — and a 2025 acquittal in a similar prosecution as material circumstances. Conditions included surrender of passport and restrictions designed to secure attendance.

Practical significance

The orders reinforce that stringent statutory bail regimes do not erase constitutional scrutiny of indefinite pre-trial detention. Defence applications should present a precise custody chronology, witness progress and reasons why delay is not attributable to the accused.

Key provisions / principles

Article 21; right to speedy trial; prolonged incarceration; UAPA bail principles; attendance and travel safeguards.

Source: Indian Express, 18 September 2026

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7. Nayara Energy's proceedings against SAP India

Status: FINAL JUDGMENT | 21 September 2026
Delhi High Court | Justice Vikas Mahajan

Issue

Whether SAP India could continue suspending enterprise software services to Nayara Energy after European Union sanctions affecting the energy company.

PRINCIPAL HOLDING / DEVELOPMENT

The Court directed SAP India to restore full and uninterrupted software services to Nayara Energy and declined a request to keep the judgment in abeyance for two weeks. The reported ruling gives immediate operational effect to the domestic contractual remedy despite the foreign-sanctions context.

Practical significance

Technology and regulated-industry contracts should address sanctions, change in law, business continuity, data access, transition assistance and emergency relief. Where enterprise software supports critical operations, interruption risk should be mapped before a dispute arises.

Key provisions / principles

Contractual performance; foreign sanctions and domestic obligations; interim and final injunctive relief; business continuity; critical enterprise systems.

Source: Economic Times, 22 September 2026

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8. M/s Sharma Heavy Lifter v State of Maharashtra & Anr.

Status: FINAL JUDGMENT | 22 September 2026
Bombay High Court | Justices Suman Shyam and Advait M. Sethna | 2026:BHC-OS:20829-DB

Issue

Whether hiring cranes amounted to a taxable transfer of the right to use goods under the Maharashtra Value Added Tax Act when ownership and effective control remained with the supplier.

PRINCIPAL HOLDING / DEVELOPMENT

The Court held that the transaction was a service, not a deemed sale, because the supplier retained ownership and effective control of the cranes. It quashed the contrary tribunal determination together with consequential interest and penalty.

Practical significance

Equipment-hire contracts should clearly record who selects and controls operators, bears maintenance and insurance obligations, moves the equipment and controls deployment. Tax character follows the real transfer of possession and effective control, not the label used by the parties.

Key provisions / principles

Section 2(24)(b)(iv), Maharashtra Value Added Tax Act; deemed sale; transfer of right to use goods; effective control; service-versus-sale classification.

Source: Bombay High Court judgment, 22 September 2026

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9. M/s Pharmed Limited & Anr. v Union of India & Ors.

Status: FINAL JUDGMENT | 22 September 2026
Bombay High Court | Justices Manish Pitale and Shreeram V. Shirsat | 2026:BHC-OS:20781-DB

Issue

Whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority could apply the ceiling price of another formulation to Cartigen Forte without carrying out the calculation prescribed by the applicable price-control order.

PRINCIPAL HOLDING / DEVELOPMENT

The Court held that the NPPA could not substitute another formulation's ceiling price without undertaking the statutory calculation under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. It quashed the challenged 2007 notification insofar as it applied to Cartigen Forte, set aside the 2009 notification and displaced the resulting recovery demand reported at approximately ₹13.41 crore.

Practical significance

Price-control action must be traceable to the governing formula, verified market data and the correct formulation. Regulated entities should audit each step of the computation and challenge demands that rest on analogy instead of the prescribed method.

Key provisions / principles

Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995; NPPA pricing power; statutory methodology; pharmaceutical formulation; judicial review of recovery demand.

Source: Bombay High Court judgment, 22 September 2026

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10. Ritwik S. Sharma v State of Karnataka

Status: FINAL QUASHING ORDER | 18 September 2026
Karnataka High Court | Justice Suraj Govindaraj

Issue

Whether a criminal prosecution arising from an offensive social-media post should continue against an NRI student after considering the nature of the post, the petitioner's circumstances and future consequences.

PRINCIPAL HOLDING / DEVELOPMENT

The Court quashed the proceedings after administering a warning and considering the serious career impact of continuing the case. The order is fact-specific and should not be read as a general immunity for abusive, threatening or unlawful online speech.

Practical significance

For social-media prosecutions, identify the exact words, statutory ingredients, authorship, intent, reach and subsequent conduct. Courts may weigh proportionality and future consequences, but the outcome will turn on the charged offence and the particular record.

Key provisions / principles

Criminal-proceeding quashing; proportionality; online speech; mens rea; individualised assessment of consequences.

Source: Bar & Bench Hindi, 18 September 2026

Editorial Use Notes

For drafting and oral submissions, obtain the signed order and verify the cause title, case number, coram, operative paragraphs and subsequent history. Cite final holdings as authority; describe reference, interim, monitoring and notice-stage matters only for their actual procedural effect.

Practitioner Action Matrix

DEVELOPMENT	IMMEDIATE FILE ACTION
Arrest and remand	Obtain written grounds, check language and timing, preserve acknowledgment, and place the Article 22 objection before the Magistrate.
Trademark commercial suit	Re-check pecuniary and territorial forum notifications; identify any maintainability objection while the larger-Bench reference is pending.
Long-custody bail	Prepare a dated custody chart, witness-progress table, adjournment attribution and realistic estimate of time needed to conclude evidence.
Technology continuity	Audit sanctions, change-in-law, suspension, data-access, transition and emergency-relief clauses in enterprise software contracts.
Equipment hire and tax	Document operator control, maintenance, insurance, deployment and possession to show the transaction's true legal character.
Regulated pricing	Reconstruct the authority's statutory formula step by step and test the market data, comparator formulation and recovery computation.

A settlement-driven disposal is a distinct category because it may close a commercially important dispute without deciding the legal issue. No settlement-driven disposal was included among this edition's selected

leading matters.

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A focused weekly reference for advocates, company secretaries, chartered accountants, insolvency professionals and corporate decision-makers.

USE IN PRACTICE: apply the status labels before citing; verify the signed order and operative paragraphs; then convert the practical-significance note into the next evidence, contract, compliance or litigation step for the file.