

IR & AR WEEKLY ALERTS

ASIA
MENA
EDITION

ISSUE

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13TH MARCH 2026

Yesterday's headlines,
tomorrow's disclosures:
**What Investor Relations
and Annual Reporting
teams must consider
doing this week.**

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IR & AR Weekly Alerts – Asia and MENA Edition | Week Ending 13 March 2026

Coverage: India, Singapore and MENA (UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar; secondary scan Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait)

Time window: 08 February 2026 to 13 March 2026

1) EXECUTIVE FRAMING

The dominant theme this cycle is not headline-grabbing policy change but tightening of disclosure infrastructure around authenticity, investor servicing, digital channels, AML governance, and market-access architecture. In India, SEBI has moved on transmission simplification, social-media identity discipline, and green debt assurance architecture. In Singapore, MAS has advanced supervisory expectations on transition planning and third-

party risk management. In MENA, the DFSA has pushed rulebook amendments, AML implementation clarification, and crypto-token implementation support, while Saudi Arabia's CMA has opened a consultation on listing subsidiaries of Main Market issuers, a development with direct consequences for group structure, governance, minority-protection framing, and equity-story architecture. (sebi.gov.in)

2) INDIA

India 1: SEBI consults on simplifying transmission documentation and revising simplified-documentation thresholds

What happened:

SEBI published a consultation paper on 12 March 2026 on simplification of documentation requirements for transmission of securities and revision in threshold limits for simplified documentation. (sebi.gov.in)

Why it matters to issuers and IR:

Transmission is often treated as an RTA back-office matter, but for listed issuers it directly affects investor servicing quality, grievance ageing, succession-related friction, and the defensibility of shareholder-helpdesk disclosures. If thresholds and document pathways are simplified, issuers will need to update website guidance, shareholder communication templates, and internal escalation scripts so that disclosures match actual servicing practice. This is especially relevant for retail-heavy registers and for Annual Report language around investor facilitation and stakeholder responsiveness. (sebi.gov.in)

Action for CFO / Company Secretary / IR:

- Ask the RTA for an impact note mapping the current transmission workflow against the consultation direction.
- Refresh website FAQs and investor-service scripts so they can be updated quickly if the proposals are finalised.
- Review whether your Governance or Shareholder Information sections overstate ease of servicing relative to current documentation reality.

India 2: SEBI requires clearer identity disclosure by regulated entities and their agents on social media platforms

What happened:

SEBI issued a circular dated 26 February 2026 titled "Ease of Doing Investment (EoDI) - Disclosure of registered name and registration number by SEBI regulated entities and their agents on Social Media Platforms (SMPs)." [\[sebi.gov.in\]](https://sebi.gov.in)

Why it matters to issuers and IR:

Although this circular is directed at SEBI-regulated entities and agents, the underlying regulatory signal is broader: investor-facing

digital communication must be traceable, authentic, and attributable. For issuers, that raises the practical bar on channel-authenticity controls, especially where IR teams use LinkedIn, X, YouTube, WhatsApp circulation, agency-managed handles, or paid campaign intermediaries. It also strengthens the case for visible issuer verification architecture across investor presentations, analyst-call invitations, and AGM communications. [\[sebi.gov.in\]](https://sebi.gov.in)

Action for CFO / Company Secretary / IR:

- Create a single internal register of all official investor-facing handles, owners, and approval authorities.
- Ensure external agencies and consultants use legally correct issuer identifiers and approved disclosure language.
- Add a short authenticity note to sensitive investor communications directing stakeholders to official channels only.

India 3: SEBI revises norms for independent third-party reviewer or certifier for green debt securities

What happened:

SEBI issued a circular on 27 February 2026 revising norms for appointment of an



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independent third-party reviewer or certifier for green debt securities. (sebi.gov.in)

Why it matters to issuers and IR:

For issuers considering green bonds or already using sustainable debt as part of their capital-raising narrative, external review quality is central to credibility. Revised reviewer-certifier norms affect how treasury, sustainability, legal, and IR teams position the instrument, defend use-of-proceeds claims, and align debt documentation with ESG sections of the Annual Report. This is not merely a debt-capital-markets issue; it sits at the intersection of financing credibility and sustainability disclosure discipline. (sebi.gov.in)

Action for CFO / Company Secretary / IR

- Re-check approved reviewer panels and engagement letters for any planned green debt transaction.
- Align sustainability claims in decks and reports with what the external reviewer can actually support.
- Keep a documented evidence trail linking framework, reviewer scope, allocation reporting, and impact claims.

3) SINGAPORE

Singapore 1: MAS issues guidelines on transition planning as part of environmental risk supervision

What happened:

MAS announced on 05 March 2026 that it had issued three Guidelines on Environmental Risk Management, including guidance on transition planning. (mas.gov.sg)

Why it matters to issuers and IR

For Singapore-listed or Singapore-regulated financial groups, transition planning is no longer an optional sustainability narrative. It is becoming a supervisory expectation tied to governance, risk management, and evidencing of implementation. Even for non-financial issuers with Singapore entities, the practical spillover is clear: investors will increasingly distinguish between broad climate ambition and board-owned transition planning with measurable governance, financing logic, and execution controls. (mas.gov.sg)

Action for CFO / Company Secretary / IR

- Test whether your climate narrative is backed by an actual transition plan, governance owner, and decision pathway.

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- Align Sustainability, Risk, and Capital Allocation sections so they do not describe transition in contradictory ways.
- Prepare management Q&A on plan ownership, milestones, and what is strategy versus what is commitment.

Singapore 1: MAS consults on proposed Guidelines on Third-Party Risk Management

What happened:

MAS published a consultation paper on 06 March 2026 on proposed Guidelines on Third-Party Risk Management, setting out supervisory expectations for third-party arrangements across the life cycle. The consultation page describes risk assessment, due diligence, contracting, and ongoing monitoring as core stages. ([mas.gov.sg](https://www.mas.gov.sg))

Why it matters to issuers and IR

This matters well beyond regulated outsourcing teams. For issuers, third-party dependencies now reach investor websites, registrars, cloud platforms, disclosure production vendors, cyber tools, shareholder analytics, and sustainability data providers. Once regulators frame third-party risk as lifecycle governance, weak vendor oversight can quickly become a board-

governance and disclosure-controls issue. That is especially important where annual-report production and market disclosure are operationally outsourced. ([mas.gov.sg](https://www.mas.gov.sg))

Action for CFO / Company Secretary / IR

- Build a disclosure-critical vendor map covering registrars, IR websites, webcast providers, ESG data vendors, and design-production partners.
- Check whether contracts include escalation, audit-right, resilience, and incident-notification provisions.
- Update risk-language in governance materials so outsourced execution is described as controlled oversight, not passive dependence.

4) MENA

UAE (DIFC) 1: DFSA issues March 2026 legislative amendments with staged effective dates

What happened

On 05 March 2026, the DFSA issued its Notice of Amendments to Legislation March 2026. It stated that AML and Fees Module rule-making

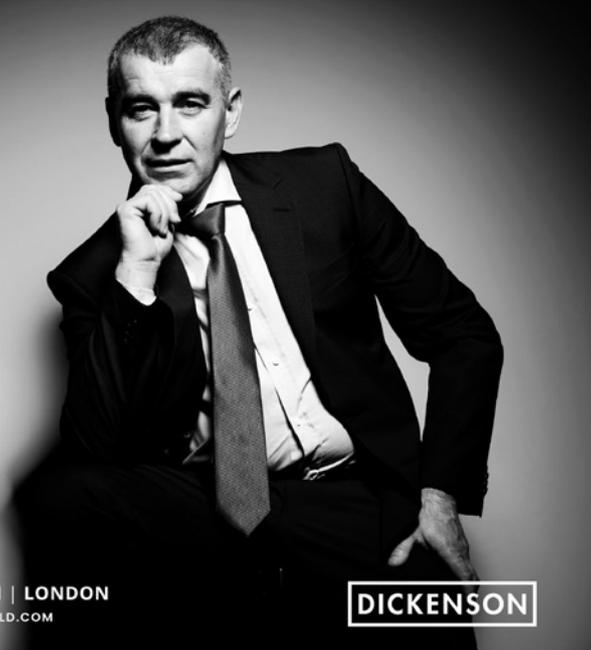
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instruments will come into force on 01 April 2026, and a Prudential module instrument will come into force on 01 July 2026. (dfs.ae)

Why it matters to issuers and IR

For DIFC-linked groups, this is the kind of “miscellaneous-looking” rulebook activity that later drives real disclosure change. Effective-dated amendments affect compliance calendars, governance sign-offs, board reporting, fee assumptions, and the practical wording used in risk, controls, and regulated-entity descriptions. For listed groups using DIFC entities for treasury, advisory, asset management, or holding structures, these are reporting-calendar items now, not merely legal footnotes. (dfs.ae)

Action for CFO / Company Secretary / IR

- Obtain a short legal memo mapping the 01 April 2026 and 01 July 2026 changes to your group structure.
- Update FY2025–26 governance and risk drafting instructions for any DIFC-regulated entity references.
- Check whether fee, prudential, or AML references in investor materials will need refresh before year-end sign-off.

UAE (DIFC) 2: DFSA AML and Glossary amendments come into force, with FAQs on governance, onboarding, outsourcing and internal audit

What happened

The DFSA announced on 02 March 2026 that its updated AML and Glossary Modules had come into force that day. The regulator said the amendments align the DIFC regime with new UAE federal AML legislation, and it published FAQs covering governance, risk assessments, digital onboarding, outsourcing, and internal audit expectations. (dfs.ae)

Why it matters to issuers and IR

This is a substantive governance signal. AML now sits even more clearly inside board oversight, process evidence, and operational control architecture. For financial issuers and diversified groups with regulated DIFC entities, Annual Report language on compliance culture, onboarding controls, outsourcing supervision, and internal audit cannot remain generic. Investors increasingly read AML and conduct architecture as proxies for governance maturity. (dfs.ae)



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Action for CFO / Company Secretary / IR

- Reconcile governance disclosures with actual AML operating ownership, especially for onboarding and outsourcing oversight.
- Ensure board committees receive a concise implementation update, not just a legal summary.
- Refresh risk and compliance narratives so they reflect the post-02 March 2026 regime rather than legacy wording.

UAE (DIFC) 3: DFSA publishes crypto-token FAQs to support implementation of the updated framework

What happened

On 12 February 2026, the DFSA published FAQs to support implementation of its updated Crypto Token framework, which had come into force on 12 January 2026. The FAQs address when authorisation is required, suitability assessments and ongoing monitoring, treatment of fiat crypto tokens, fund exposure to crypto tokens, and application across business models. ([dfsa.ae](https://www.dfsa.ae))

Why it matters to issuers and IR

For listed groups with any digital-asset adjacency, the regulator has moved from

framework design to implementation detail. That shift usually increases scrutiny of suitability, monitoring, and business-model boundaries. Issuers should therefore ensure that any references to tokenisation, virtual assets, digital treasury pilots, or fintech partnerships are framed with control language, not promotional shorthand. ([dfsa.ae](https://www.dfsa.ae))

Action for CFO / Company Secretary / IR

- Map any digital-asset touchpoint in the group to a named control owner and governing policy.
- Review investor materials for loose terminology around tokenisation or crypto exposure.
- Ensure board and risk-committee papers distinguish experimental activity from regulated deployment.

Saudi Arabia 1: CMA consults on a mechanism for listing subsidiaries of Main Market listed companies subject to shareholder approval

What happened

The CMA announced on 24 February 2026 a public consultation on the mechanism for listing subsidiaries of Main Market listed companies, subject to shareholders' approval. ([cma.org.sa](https://www.cma.org.sa))

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Why it matters to issuers and IR

This is strategically important for groups considering value-unlock, partial monetisation, business separation, or dual-equity storytelling. A formal mechanism for listing subsidiaries can reshape how issuers think about capital allocation, minority protection, related-party narratives, intra-group governance, and investor communications around strategic separation. For boards, this also raises the need for clearer articulation of why an asset sits better within a parent versus as a separately listed subsidiary. (cma.org.sa)

Action for CFO / Company Secretary / IR

- Identify whether any business vertical in your group could plausibly fit a future subsidiary-listing pathway.
- Stress-test board materials and equity-story language on group structure, control rationale, and minority-shareholder treatment.
- Consider whether to submit consultation feedback if your group is an eventual candidate for such a structure.

WATCHLIST

- **SEBI consultation follow-up on transmission of securities documentation:** Watch the comment process and any final circular, because it can require immediate updates to shareholder-service workflows and public FAQs. (sebi.gov.in)
- **MAS consultation on Third-Party Risk Management:** This will be important for issuers whose disclosure and reporting pipelines depend materially on outsourced providers. (mas.gov.sg)
- **Saudi Exchange Eid Al-Fitr trading schedule:** The Saudi Exchange states trading will discontinue at the end of 16 March 2026 and resume on 24 March 2026, which should be built into results, announcement, and investor-engagement planning. (saudiexchange.sa)

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